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## Évariste Galois

The Making of a Mathematical Icon

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How did Évariste Galois, who died at the tender age of 21, become so famous that an algebraic theory bears his name?

Évariste Galois was killed in a duel in 1832, but before being hailed for group theory, he was celebrated by the pro-republic French of the time, who gave the young man twice imprisoned for his politics a posthumous reputation as a tragic genius misunderstood by his contemporaries was born. At the crossroads of social history and the history of mathematics, Caroline Ehrhardt delves into both the individual and his academic context, questioning mathematical practices, especially in the scholastic environment where Galois was trained. How was math taught? What were the exam subjects at the École polytechnique, where Galois was an unsuccessful candidate before falling back on the École normale?

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