

Today in Math History...

-29 October 1675

Gottfried Leibniz first used the integral sign as well as the “*d*” for differential. He also constructed what he called the “*triangulum characteristicum*,” which had been used before him by Pascal and Barrow.

The integral sign is the symbol \int used to denote an integral $\int f(x)dx$. The symbol was invented by Leibniz and chosen to be a stylized script “S” to stand for “summation.”

*The characteristic triangle is the triangle with infinitesimal sides dx , dy and ds . This “*triangulum characteristicum*” has been used in the 17th century by Pascal, Barrow and Leibniz, while developing infinitesimal mathematics.*