Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz- Chronology

1646- b. in Leipzig, son of a philosophy professor. Brilliant student- fluent in Latin by age 12

1661- admitted to U. Leipzig, age 14. Bachelor’s degree in 1663.


1667- awarded doctorate (law) at Nurnberg- declines offer of position at the University. Meets Johann Christian v. Boineburg, first minister to the Elector of Mainz- moves to Frankfurt as Boineburg’s secretary.

1670- Councilor of Justice to the Mainz Elector.

1671- New Physical Hypothesis (movement depends on the action of a spirit)

1672- sent to Paris to try to sell his ‘Egypt plan’, unsuccessfully. Studies math and physics under Huygens.

1673- travels to England with the Egypt Plan and an incomplete calculating machine. Elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

1673-1676- develops his version of differential and integral calculus

1676- appointed librarian and court councilor at Hanover

1679- work on binary arithmetic (published 1701)

1684- New Methods on Maxima and Minima published

1690s- works on dynamics; results in the treatise Dynamica

1700- appointed first president of the Brandenburg Society of Science (later Berlin Academy)

1710-Théodicée (Philosophy: problem of evil in a world created by a good God)

1714-Monadologia (Philosophy)

1716-dies in Hanover; according to [Dunham, p.190], ‘only a trusted servant attended his funeral’.

(main source: http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/%7Ehistory/Biographies/Leibniz.html)