

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

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G. J. Matthey

Vital Statistics



- Born, 1646, Leipzig
- Died, 1716, Hanover
- Single
- Served at the court of the Brunswick family in Hanover
- Travelled extensively through Europe

Important Events

- 1661, entered University of Leipzig as a pre-law student
- 1663, earned bachelor's degree at Leipzig
- 1666
 - Earned doctor of law degree from University of Altdorf
 - Declined offer of professorship
 - Joined the court of the elector of Mainz
- 1672, sent to Paris on a diplomatic mission

Important Events (cont.)

- 1673
 - Visited London on court business
 - Made a member of the Royal Society
 - Transferred to service of Duke of Brunswick
- 1675, met with Spinoza
- 1676, settled in Hanover
- 1679, assigned to write family history of the house of Hanover
- 1685-6, correspondence with Arnauld

Important Events (cont.)

- 1687-90, travelled extensively in Germany and Italy seeking materials for the history
- 1690, became librarian of the ducal library at Wolfenbüttel
- 1695, published *A New System of Nature*
- 1700, founded the Prussian Academy of Sciences, of which he was elected president
- 1705, controversy with Newton's followers over precedence of invention of the calculus

Important Events (cont.)

- 1704, wrote *New Essays Concerning Human Understanding*, published in 1765
- 1710, published *Theodicy*
- 1712-14, visited Vienna, where he was awarded high honors
- 1714, not invited to England when his patron became King George I
- 1715-16, correspondence with Samuel Clarke

Important Events (cont.)

- 1717, died due to complications of open sores on his legs and kidney stones