STREAMS OF CIVILIZATION TIMELINE

Before beginning to use the timeline, we would encourage you to read this introduction as well as the brief introduction on the timeline itself. These introductions explain the purpose of the timeline and how it is organized, and suggest how it may be used in teaching.

Purpose of the Timeline

This timeline is a supplement to the Christian Liberty *Streams of Civilization* textbooks, volumes one and two. While there are a number of timelines available today, we believe that this timeline offers three advantages.

- 1. First and foremost, this timeline has been consciously developed from a Christian perspective. History is far more than the mere study of past events. At its center is God who directs it according to His will—according to His purposes in Christ (Eph. 3:11). The meaning of history revolves around an understanding of man's response to God. It is the story of man's covenant faithfulness—and covenant unfaithfulness—to God as he responds to his task of subduing the earth. As such, history deals with all aspects of human life. Therefore, significant weight is given to biblical and church history. There has been an attempt to bring Christian personalities and themes to the fore whenever possible.
- 2. Secondly, while many timelines concentrate on the significant events of history, they pay only scant attention to important personalities. However, the *Streams of Civilization Timeline* focuses on the people who make history, and seeks to give a capsule summary of their significance from a Christian point of view. This timeline describes the impact such persons have had on world history.

3. Thirdly, students will find that the *Streams of Civilization Timeline* has an interdisciplinary approach, focusing on more than just one or two aspects of history. It examines those who have played a leading role in the important political, scientific, intellectual, religious, and artistic trends in history. And it does not neglect the central role of biblical and church history in the development of history.

By combining the interdisciplinary approach and the personality orientation of this timeline, students will be able to see the relationship between different people in various fields of endeavor and how they have influenced each other and historical movements. It will enable students to see at a glance the important people who are contemporary to one another.

This timeline will introduce the student to many of the ideas that have developed throughout history and how these ideas have influenced people throughout the ages. By use of the timeline, the student will come to understand that nothing develops in a vacuum; today's ideas are based on the thoughts and actions of those who have come before us.

Organization of the Timeline

As you examine the timeline, please take some time to understand how it is organized. You should start by looking at the back of the timeline cover. You will notice a small scale facsimile of the layout of the entire timeline. We have divided the timeline pages into three groups, each with their own color scheme: ancient history, medieval history, and modern history. Each time line page is divided into 50-year intervals—except for the final set of pages, which are divided into 25-year intervals.

As you look at the pages, you should notice that the pages are topical within each time period. The ancient and medieval history sections are divided into pairs of General History and Biblical/Church History pages. The General History pages deal with important cultural and political figures of history. Biblical History addresses the prophets and leaders of the people of Israel. Church History continues the story of God's covenant

people with an examination of influential church leaders, theologians, and heretics.

You will notice that the modern history section is quite different. Instead of pairs of pages, they are grouped in sets of four pages. Church History remains the same, but General History has been replaced with Political History, Arts and Sciences History, and Intellectual History. Political History covers important national leaders; Arts and Sciences History deals with important contributors to the areas of literature, science and technology, art, and music; and Intellectual History reviews those who have played an important role in philosophy and the social sciences.

Teaching Tips

Students should use the timeline in conjunction with a world history text. The timeline complements the *Streams of Civilization* world history series published by Christian Liberty Press, but other materials may be used as well.

As students progress through their study of history, they should use the appropriate sections of the timeline to supplement their study. They should compare names found in their textbook with those found on the timeline. The timeline may provide additional information about the important individuals or enable the student to summarize the key significance of a particular person. Students should not only learn about the people who played an important role during particular periods of time, they should compare and contrast these persons with what happened in other disciplines, and compare this with those who came before and after. Often, they can also learn about important contemporaries of those they have been studying.

Students might also find it helpful to use the timeline with their other subjects. The timeline can help students integrate world history with their study of science, for example. They might review the names of individuals they encounters in a literature text. By examining the timeline, they can learn about the relationships between the people who impacted a particular area

of study. And as they use particular timeline sections they should seek to draw connections between people and movements that may lead to further investigation.

Taking Care of Your Timeline

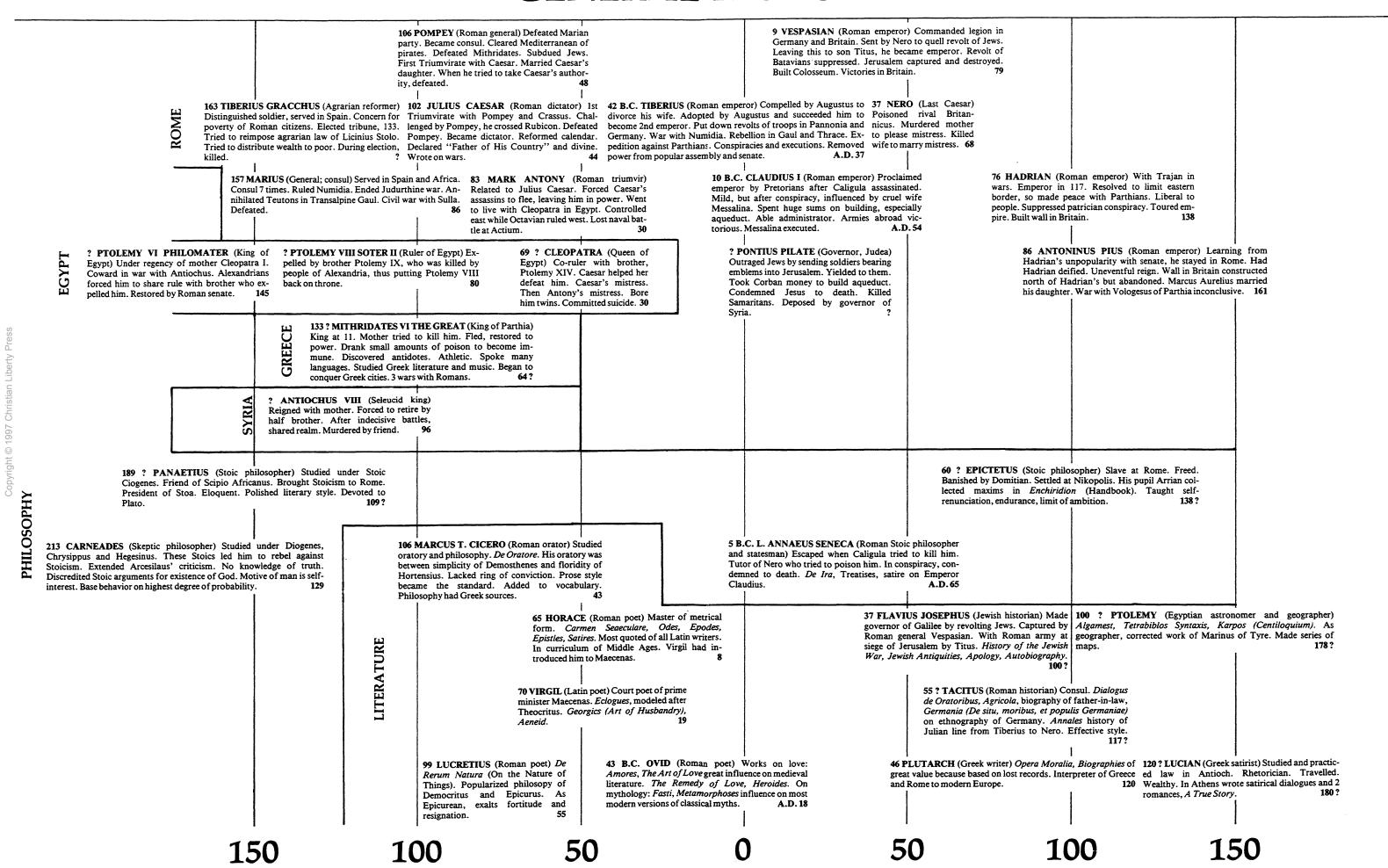
Under normal usage, the best way to keep the timeline in good condition is to keep it folded in its plastic pouch. As needed, individual sheets should be removed by students or instructors for limited use and then returned to the pouch when no longer needed. This will reduce the likelihood that the timeline sheets will become damaged, discolored, or misplaced.

If you desire to keep all or some of the timeline pages out for an extended period of time, we would suggest that you protect them by having them laminated. If the sheets are laminated, however, you must bear in mind that they will no longer fit in the plastic pouch provided by Christian Liberty Press. You will then need to acquire your own larger container for the timeline from an office or art supply store.

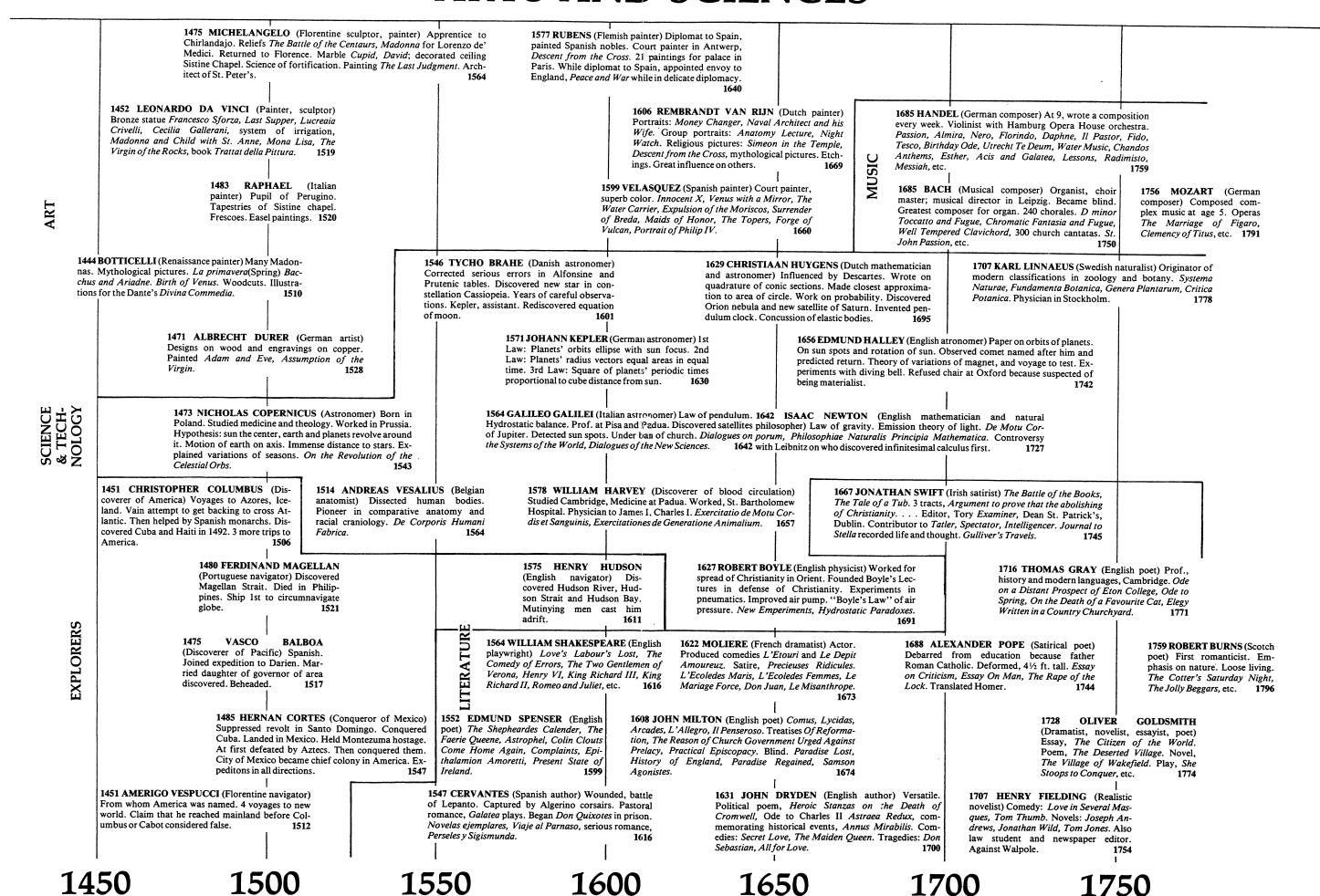
We trust that you will find this timeline helpful to the study of world history, and that students will gain a greater degree of appreciation for the providential direction of God in history as they study the history of mankind. We would like to thank Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company for allowing us to reprint and revise this timeline which was originally published in 1982.

Harry Buis, the author, was born in New Jersey and studied at Hope College and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He did graduate studies at Oberlin College. He was a pastor in the Reformed Church in America at Cleveland and Zeeland, Michigan. He also taught at Hope College. He is the author of *The Doctrine of Eternal Punishment* (1957), and *Historic Protestantism and Predestination* (1958).

GENERAL HISTORY



ARTS AND SCIENCES



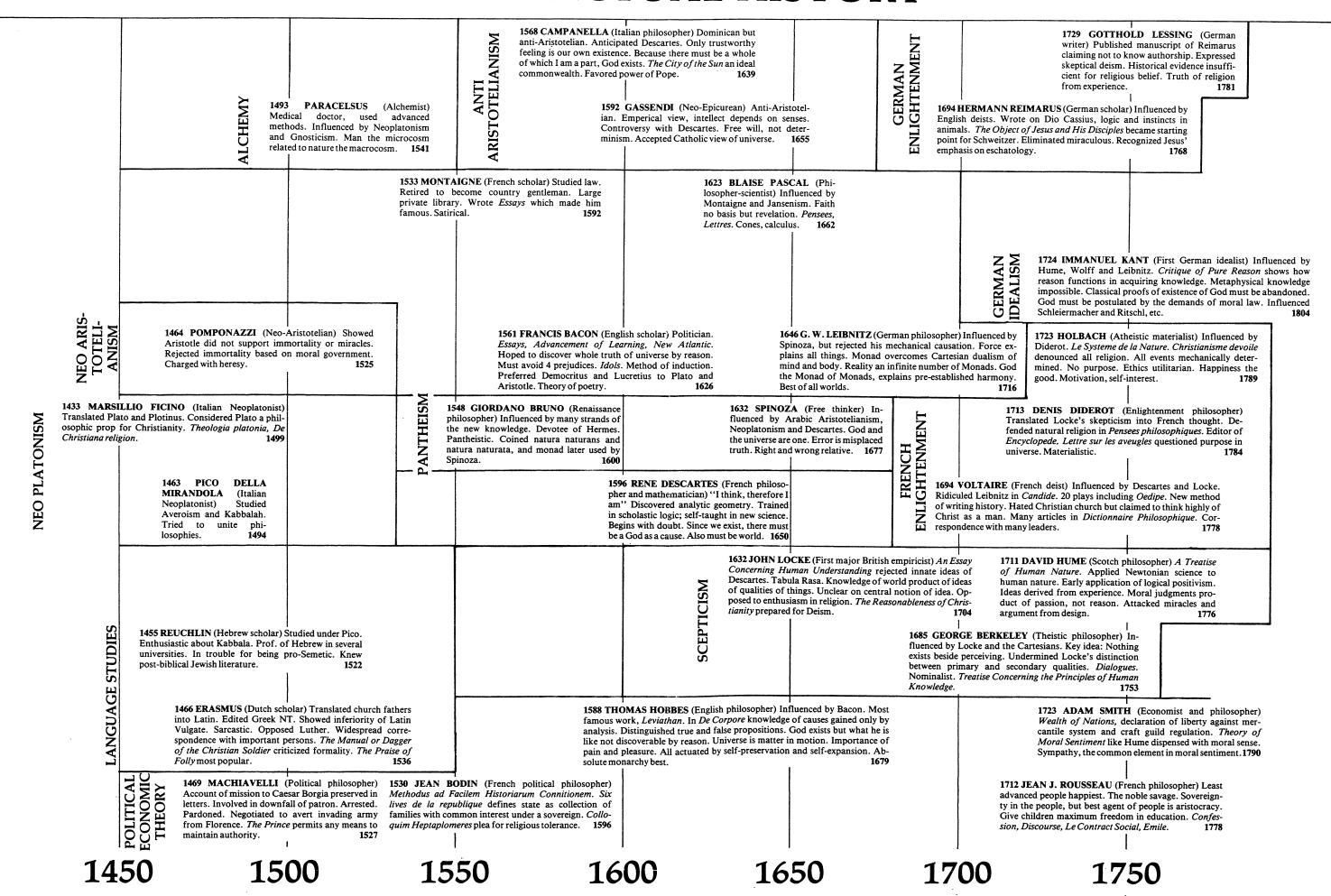
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INTELLECTUAL HISTORY



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