



David Hume

Philosophy 22
Fall, 2009
G. J. Matthey

Vital Statistics



- Born, 1711,
Edinburgh
- Died, 1776,
Edinburgh
- Single
- Librarian
- Personal secretary
- Under-Secretary of
State

Important Events

- 1723, entered Edinburgh University as a law student
- 1726, abandoned law studies in favor of independent study
- 1734, moved to France
- 1737, returned to England
- 1739, anonymously published Books I and II of *A Treatise of Human Nature*
- 1740, anonymously published Book III of the *Treatise*

Important Events (cont.)

- 1741-2, published *Essays*
- 1744, turned down for Chair of Ethics and Pneumatical Philosophy at University of Edinburgh; instead took a position as tutor of the Marquess of Annandale
- 1746, became secretary to General St. Clair, travelling to Vienna and Turin
- 1748, published *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*

Important Events (cont.)

- 1751, published *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*; turned down for Chair of Logic, University of Glasgow
- 1752, took position as Librarian to the Edinburgh Faculty of Advocates
- 1754, library board removed “indecent books” he had ordered
- 1756, attempt made to excommunicate him
- 1754-64, published *History of Great Britain*

Important Events (cont.)

- 1757, published *Four Dissertations*, expunging essays on suicide and immortality
- 1763, appointed Private Secretary to Lord Hertford, ambassador to France
- 1767, became Under-Secretary of State, Northern Department, moving to London
- 1769, moved to his final home in Edinburgh
- 1776, died probably of chronic ulcerative colitis or intestinal cancer