

Baruch (Benedictus) de Spinoza

Philosophy 22N
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G. J. Matthey

Vital Statistics



- Born, 1632, Amsterdam
- Died, 1677
- Single
- School-teacher
- Lens-grinder
- Led a solitary life

Important Events

- Circa 1639-49, attended the Talmud Torah school in Amsterdam
- 1649, dropped out of school to help in his family's importing business
- 1652, studied Latin, natural philosophy, and Cartesian philosophy
- 1656, excommunicated from the Sephardic Jewish community for "monstrous deeds" and "abominable heresies," temporarily expelled from Amsterdam

Important Events (cont.)

- Circa 1660, wrote *Short Treatise on God, Man and His Well-Being*
- 1662, probably finished *On the Emendation of the Intellect*
- 1663, published *Descartes' Principles of Philosophy and Metaphysical Thoughts*
- 1670, anonymously published *Theological-Political Treatise*, condemned by Church Council of Amsterdam as “forged in Hell by a renegade Jew and the Devil”

Important Events (cont.)

- 1672, initiated a diplomatic mission to the French army, nearly killed by a mob as a spy
- 1673, turned down offer of Professorship of Philosophy at the University of Heidelberg
- 1674, *Theological-Political Treatise* banned in the Netherlands
- 1675, met with Leibniz, completed *Ethics*
- 1677, dies of “phthisis,” a lung disease probably caused by inhalation of glass dust

Important Events (cont.)

- 1677, *Ethics* published posthumously, along with
 - *Letters*
 - *Political Treatise*
 - *Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect*
 - *Grammatical Compendium of the Hebrew Language*