

**Leibnitz (or Leibniz), Baron Gottfried Wilhelm von.**

(1646-1716.) Born at Leipzig, where his father was professor of ethics, he was educated at Leipzig and Jena Universities. He received a doctorate in law, but had become deeply read in scholasticism and logic. For a period he had also studied Bacon, Hobbes, Kepler, Galilei, Gassendi, and, to some extent, Descartes; and was for a time converted to the mathematico-mechanical conception of nature. Under the patronage of Baron Boineburg he prepared for a political life, became assistant to Lasser in the preparation of a reformed code of Roman law, and member of the Court of Appeals in Mainz (1670). He visited London, met Newton, Boyle, and others, and became Fellow of the Royal Society. In Paris he was intimate with Cassini and Huyghens. In 1676 he accepted a position in the court of the Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, and (1678) was made counsellor and member of the supreme court. Called to Berlin in 1698 by Princess Sophia Charlotte, he established the Scientific Society, which has since become Berlin University.

**Lemma** [Gr. *λήμμα*, gain, an assumption, premise]: Ger. *Hilfssatz*, *Lehnsatz*; Fr. *lemme*; Ital. *lemma*. A theorem which interrupts the course of development of a mathematical theory, but which is inserted to supply a premise for one of the theorems.

This use of the word seems to go back to Euclid, at least; and even Aristotle uses the word—not a common one with him—in connection with geometry, in the first chapter of the *Topics*. With Aristotle, however, it means a premise; and with the Stoics, more particularly, the major premise of a syllogism.

**Lèse-majesty** [Fr., also written 'leze-majesty': Ger. *Majestätsbeleidigung*, *Hochverrat*; Fr. *lèse-majesté*; Ital. *lesa maestà*]. The crime of direct attack on the state, or on its sovereign, his family, or his chief officers of government.

Formerly in Europe this crime was also regarded as comprehending offences committed directly against God, such as sacrilege, blasphemy, or apostasy; being thus termed *lèse-majesté divine* (Merlin's *Répertoire de Jurisprudence*, sub verbo). Of *lèse-majesté humaine* there were several degrees, the offence being pushed so far in France as to include embezzlement by public officials and unlawful assemblies. The crime of HIGH TREASON (q. v.) was known by this name in England

in the time of Glanvil (12th century). The Roman law named this offence *maiestatis crimen*, or more fully 'crimen laesae, immunitae, diminutae, minutae, maiestatis,' Dig., xlviii. 4, *ad Legem Iuliam Maiestatis*; Smith's *Dict. of Greek and Roman Antiq.* (*maiestas*); Heineccius, *Antiq. Rom. Syntagma*, iv. § 46 f.

**Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim.** (1729-81.) Educated at the Fürstenschule in Meissen, and at Leipzig, in philology and theology. After 1748 he spent some time as journalist in Berlin. Went to Wittenberg (1752) to complete his studies; returned to Berlin (1753) to resume his work as journalist and critic. After two years spent in Leipzig, he returned once more (1758) to Berlin. In 1760 he became secretary to General von Tauenzien in Breslau, during the Seven Years' War; 1767, official playwright and artistic director of the Hamburg theatre; 1770, librarian of the ducal library at Wolfenbüttel.

**Lewes, George Henry.** (1817-78.) An English Positivist, born in London. In youth a business clerk, he began the study of medicine, but abandoned it for philosophy and psychology. Spent two years in Germany, returning to London in 1840, and devoting himself to literature. He was literary editor of *The Leader* (1849-54), and founded the *Fortnightly Review*.

**Liability** (in law) [Fr. *lier*, from Lat. *legare*, to bind]: Ger. *Haftbarkeit*; Fr. *responsabilité*; Ital. *risponsabilità*. Such a relation by one to another as will or may support an action by the latter against the former.

The maker of a note, as soon as it is delivered, comes under a liability to the holder, which may support an action, and will, if the note be dishonoured when due. The *contingent liability* of the endorser of a note becomes an *absolute liability* when the note is dishonoured, and due demand and notice follow. Liability is viewed by Austin 'as a sanction' imposed by law as a penalty for disobedience of law. But an unintentional act of violence to another may impose an actionable liability, though there was no intent to disobey the law. Liability for an act whereby another is injured can be rested better on the natural obligation to act in contemplation of the natural tendency, under existing circumstances known or knowable, of the act to do harm (see Holmes on the *Common Law*, 79, 81, 162).

**Limited liability**: (1) a liability of shareholders in a business corporation or joint-stock

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