Ptolemy

Jasper
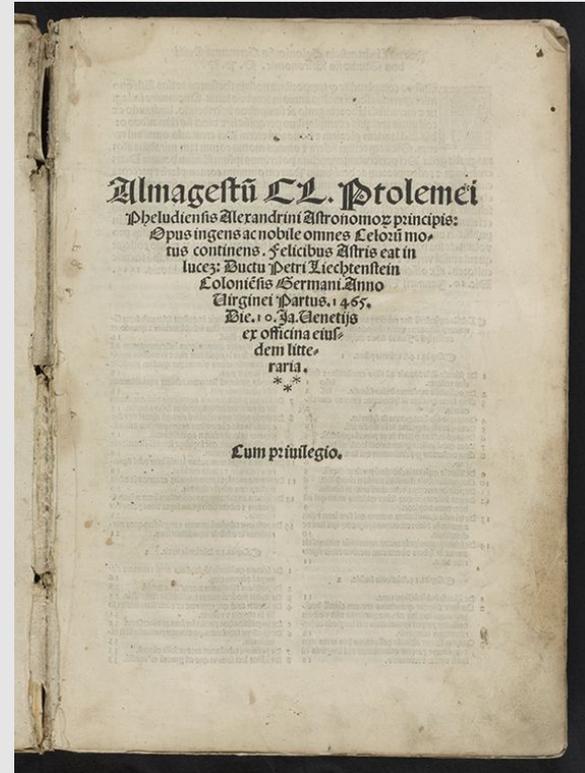
Life of Ptolemy

Not much is known about Ptolemy's personal life. There are some things that we can say surely happened however.

a. Ptolemy was likely born somewhere in Egypt at around 85 AD and died around 165 AD in Alexandria, Egypt, which is lower Egypt.
b. Ptolemy is of Greek descent, as his name was Claudius Ptolemaeus, which is Latin.
c. Ptolemy's first observation was made on the twenty sixth of March 127 AD and his last was made on the second of February 141 AD.
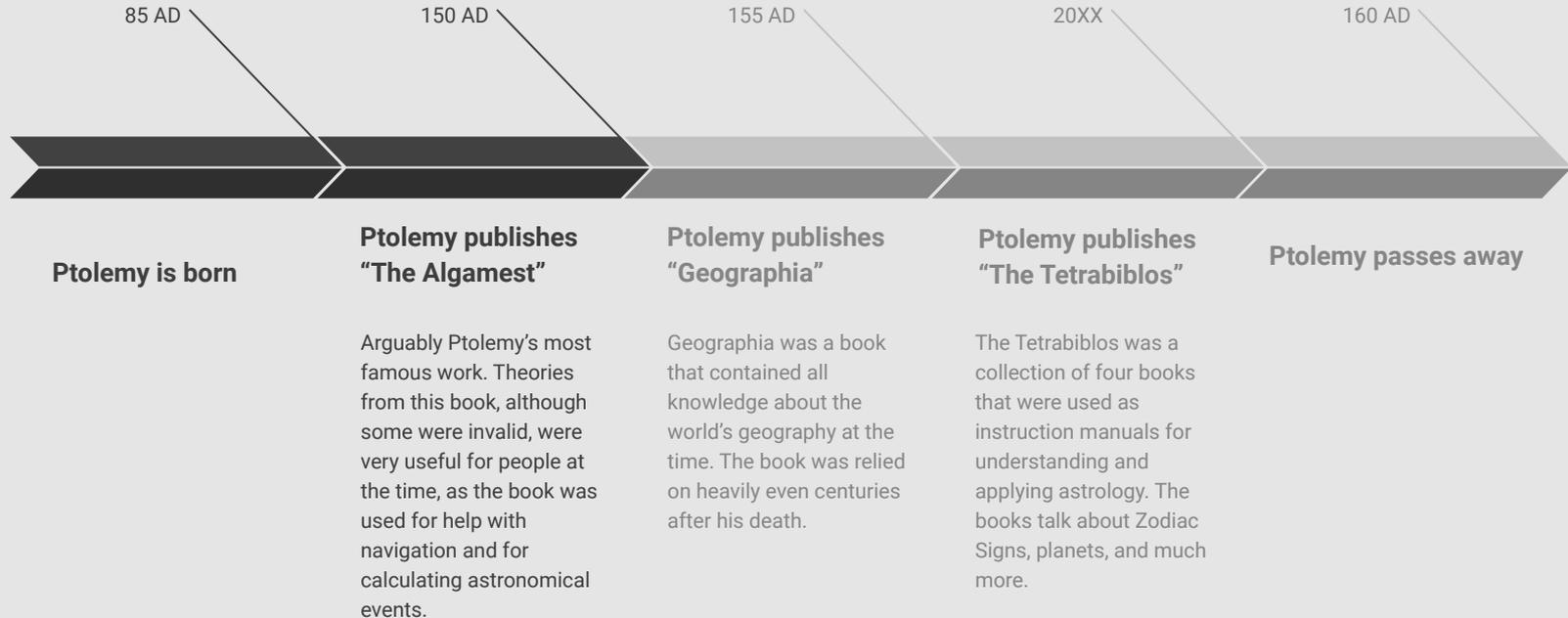
Mathematical Accomplishments

Ptolemy made the earliest surviving table of a trigonometric function, was the first to establish mathematically that an object and its mirror image must have equal angles to a mirror, and created the Algamest, which is his most well-known book. This book was the only book that had survived from the time that had presented star catalogues and astronomical techniques.

Significance of Ptolemy's Mathematical Contributions

Ptolemy created the Ptolemaic System, which a solar system model that had Earth in the center, was made by using mathematical calculations, such as using trigonometry and geometry. This Ptolemaic system would be the standard of how all people on Earth would view the solar system until around 1,500 years later when astronomers finally came to believe that the sun was at the center of our solar system.

Timeline

85 AD

150 AD

155 AD

20XX

160 AD

Ptolemy is born

Ptolemy publishes "The Algamest"

Ptolemy publishes "Geographia"

Ptolemy publishes "The Tetrabiblos"

Ptolemy passes away

Arguably Ptolemy's most famous work. Theories from this book, although some were invalid, were very useful for people at the time, as the book was used for help with navigation and for calculating astronomical events.

Geographia was a book that contained all knowledge about the world's geography at the time. The book was relied on heavily even centuries after his death.

The Tetrabiblos was a collection of four books that were used as instruction manuals for understanding and applying astrology. The books talk about Zodiac Signs, planets, and much more.

Sources

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