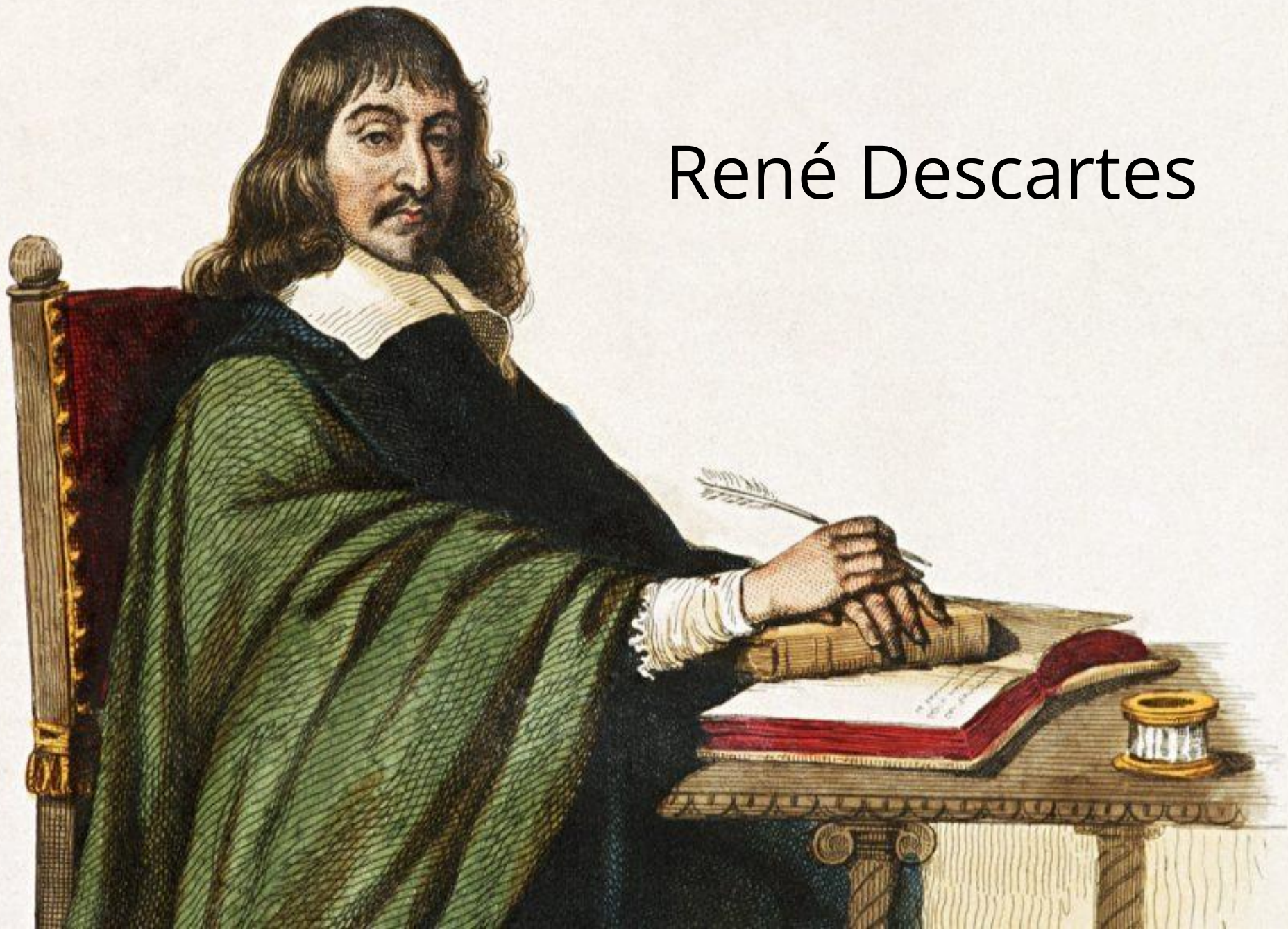


René Descartes



Rene Descartes was a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist. He was born on the 31st of March, 1596.

His mother died soon after giving birth to him.

Rene lived with his grandmother and with great-uncle.

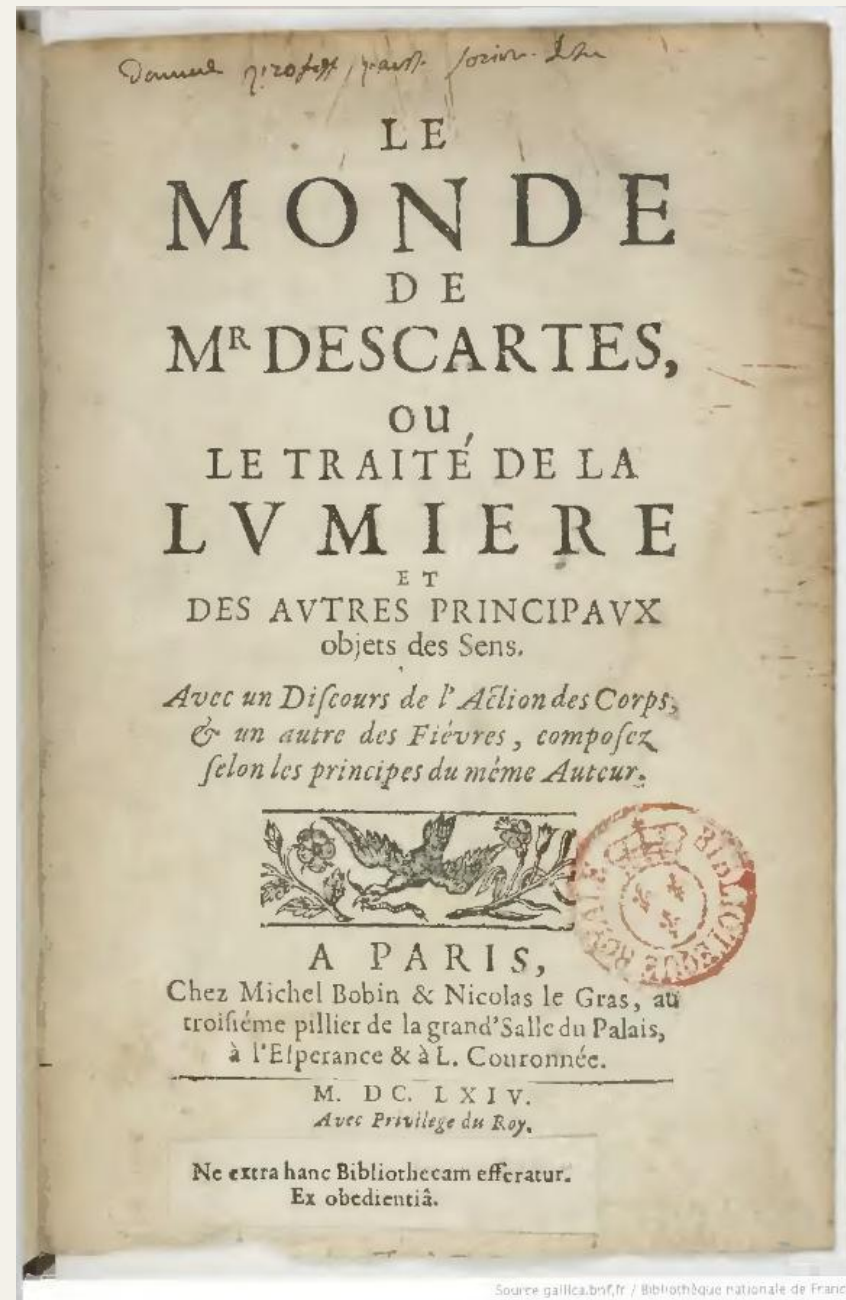
He received his primary education in Jesuit Collège Royal Henry-Le-Grand.



Working in Paris, he discovered the principle of virtual speeds.

In 1634, he finished his first book called «The World".

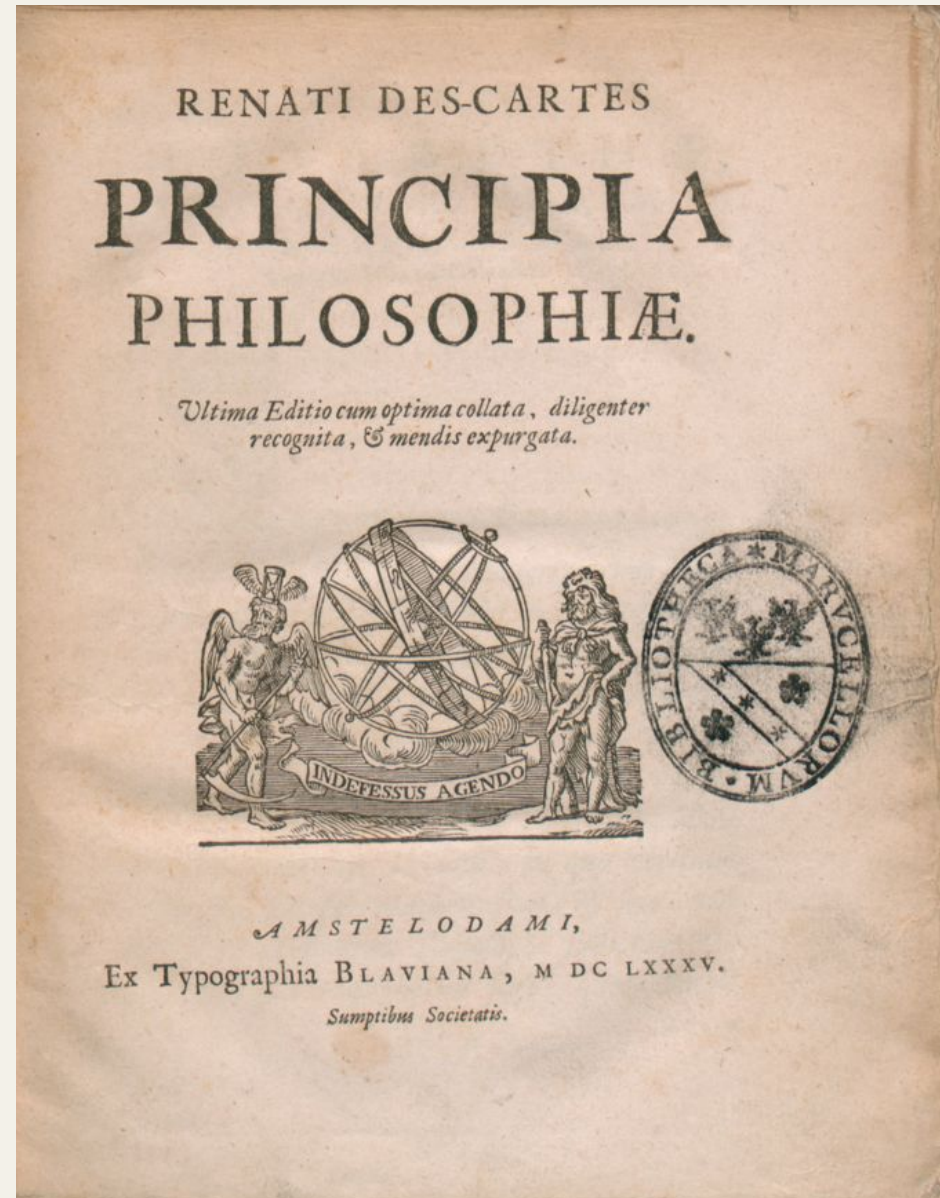
In 1635 Descartes's daughter Francine was born. She lived only 5 years.



The World

In the "Principles of philosophy" the main theses of Descartes are formulated:

- God created the world and the laws of nature, and then the universe acts as an independent mechanism
- Mathematics is a powerful and universal method of cognition of nature, a model for other Sciences.





RENATUS DESCARTES, NOBIL. GALL. PERRONI DOM. SUMMUS MATHEM. ET PHILOS.
*Talis erat vultu NATURÆ FILIUS: nam Assignansq; suis quavis miracula cause,
Qui Menti in Matris viscera pandit iter. Miraculum reliquam solus in orbe fuit.*

The philosophy of Descartes were dualistic (duality of ideal and material).

Descartes ' biggest discovery is the concept of reflex and the principle of reflex activity.

He denied that animals had reason or intelligence.

By 1649, Descartes had become one of Europe's most famous philosophers and scientists. That year, Queen Christina of Sweden invited Descartes to her court to organize a new scientific academy and tutor her in his ideas about love.



On the 1st of February he contracted pneumonia and died on the 11th of February, 1650. After his death, the main works of Descartes were included in the «Index of forbidden books».

