

Timeline of the Life of Aquinas

Compiled by Erik Norvelle (Version 2, revised 8/7/08)

Some information is derived from J. P. Torrell, *St. Thomas Aquinas*, vol. 1; numbers in [brackets] indicate the page number in Torrell.

Date	Aquinas	Age	Works	General History
1220		1		• Dominicans prohibit study of “pagan books”
1221		2		
1222		1		
1223		2		• Albert the Great enters the Dominican Order
1224		3		
1225	• Born in Roccasecca	0		• First translations of Averroes into Latin [192]
1226		1		
1227		2		
1228		3		
1229		4		
1230	• Goes to Montecassino as Oblate	5		• Dominicans have control of two chairs at Paris
1231		6		
1232		7		
1233		8		
1234		9		
1235		10		
1236		11		
1237		12		
1238		13		
1239	• Begins studies at Univ. of Naples	14		• John of St. Giles takes 2 nd chair in Paris
1240		15		
		16		• Condemnation of Dominicans for teaching doctrines derived from Patristic authors • Dominicans admonish their teachers to only teach “common and accepted doctrines”.
1241				• Albert arrives in Paris to study theology (approx)
1242		17		
1243	• Thomas's father dies	18		

Year	Location / Period	Age	Key Events	Historical Context
1244	1 st Paris Period	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becomes a Dominican Friar. Sent to Rome & Bologna Imprisoned at Roccasecca. 	
1245		20	Leaves Roccasecca to rejoin the Dominicans, sent to Paris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frederick II deposed Albert finishing book III of his <i>Commentary on the Sentences</i>, receives title of Magister
1246		21	Studies with Albert in Paris (Faculty of Arts, finishing his phil. studies, begins baccal. theol. studies) [20]	
1247	Cologne Period	22	Aquinas serves as secretary to Albert	(a.q.) Albert composes <i>De caelesti hierarchia</i> [22]
1248		23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins studies at Cologne under Albertus Magnus. Takes courses on <i>Divine Names</i>, <i>Nico. Ethics</i> <i>Super Isaiam</i> Retranscribes Albert's courses on Dionysius [21] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominicans found <i>studium generale</i> in Cologne, Albert in charge Albert begins period of writing his Aristotelian commentaries
1249		24		
1250		25		Frederick II dies
1251		26		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elias Brunet de Bergerac holds Dominican chair. Albert composes his commentaries on the <i>Physics</i> and <i>De caelo</i> (approx.)
1252		27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goes to Paris at suggestion of Albert, teaches as <i>Bachelor Sententiarum</i> <i>Scriptum super Sententias</i> <i>De ente et essentia</i> <i>De principiis naturae</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paris attempts to suppress Dominican chair Strike among professors 1252-1255: Arts faculty at Paris receives permission to teach the entirety of Aristotle's work
1253	2 nd Parisian Period	28		
1254		29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humbert of Romans, Master of the Order Albert steps down as director of <i>studium generale</i> in Cologne, becomes provincial of the German province of the Dominicans
1255		30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced to Master's studies Obtains Dominican chair in Theology 	
1256		31	Q. D. <i>De veritate</i>	
1257		32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admitted to consortium magistrorum, together with Bonaventure <i>Quodlibet VII-XI</i> <i>Super Boetium de Trinitatis</i> <i>Contra impugnantes</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albert writes his commentary on the <i>De anima</i> Albert steps down as provincial in Germany

1258		33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert writes his commentary on the <i>De animalibus</i>, his last Aristotelian commentary • William of Alton succeeds Aquinas in Chair of Theology
1259	With Papal Court	34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves Paris for Italy. • Participates in commission to promote studies, w/ Albert. [96] • Remains with Papal Court in Agnani • <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> begun. • Copies the Corpus of the <i>Parva naturalia</i> by Albert, which contains a table of Albert's commentary on the <i>Physics</i>.
1260		35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moerbeke's <i>Alexander on Meteorologia</i> • Albert becomes Bishop of Regensburg
1261		36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> finished
1262		37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Super Job</i>
1263		38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Catena aurea</i> (Matthew)
1264		39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contra errores Graecorum</i> • Pope inaugurates Feast of Corpus Christi
1265	Rome Period	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens House of Studies in Rome in Santa Sabina • <i>Summa theologica</i>, Prima Pars • <i>Catena aurea</i> (Mark, Luke, John) • <i>De potentia</i>
1266		41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sententia libri De anima</i>
1267	Pap. Crt.	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejoins Papal Court in Viterbo • <i>Compendium Theologiae</i> • Moerbeke's <i>Simplicius on Categories</i> • Moerbeke's <i>Themistius on De anima</i>
1268		43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moerbeke's <i>Ammonius on De interpretatione</i> • Moerbeke's <i>Philoponus on De anima</i>
1269		44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returns to Paris to reassume Chair in Theology • <i>In libros Physicorum</i> • <i>In De sensu et sensato</i> • Moerbeke's <i>Alexander on De sensu</i> published • Siger de Brabant's <i>In Tertium De anima</i> [195]
1270	3rd Paris Period	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Super Meteora</i> • <i>De unitate intellectus contra averroistas</i> [193] • <i>Tabula libri Ethicorum</i> (index of principal themes of the <i>Nic. Ethics</i> and Albert's commentary) • Moerbeke's <i>Analemma of Ptolemy</i>
1271		46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summa Theologia: Prima secundae</i> • <i>In libros Ethicorum</i> • <i>In libros Metaphysicorum?</i> • <i>Responsio de 43 articulis</i> • <i>Summa theologica: Secunda secundae</i> • <i>In libros Politicorum</i> [234] • Moerbeke's <i>Simplicius on the De caelo</i>
1272		47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves Paris for Florence, then Naples • Beginning of ST: Tertia pars • <i>In De caelo</i> • <i>In Analyticorum posteriorum</i>

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1273	• Has vision, putting an end to his writing	48	• <i>In De generatione et corruptione</i>
1274	• Aquinas dies en route to Lyons	49	• Siger de Brabant: <i>De anima intellectiva</i> [195]
1275		50	• Siger de Brabant: <i>Super De causis</i> [195]
1276			
1277			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condemnation of 1277 by Stephen Tempier • Albert receives a list of 15 condemned thesis, writes <i>De quindecim problematibus</i> • Albert comes to Paris to defend Thomas's memory