

Ekaterina Dashkova,  
Benjamin Franklin, and the  
Age of Enlightenment



1706  
Benjamin Franklin is born  
in Boston



1743  
Ekaterina Romanovna Vorontsova  
(Dashkova) is born in St. Petersburg

Timeline

- 1682 Philadelphia founded by William Penn

1703 St. Petersburg founded by Peter the Great

1706 Benjamin Franklin is born in Boston
- 1719 Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

1723 Franklin arrives in Philadelphia

1732 Franklin begins *Poor Richard's Almanack*
- 1735 Carolus Linnaeus, *System of Nature*

1743 Ekaterina Romanovna Vorontsova (Dashkova) is born in St. Petersburg

1743 Franklin founds American Philosophical Society



1752  
Franklin completes kite experiment

1743  
Franklin founds American Philosophical Society



1776  
Franklin goes to France to rally support for War of Independence against British

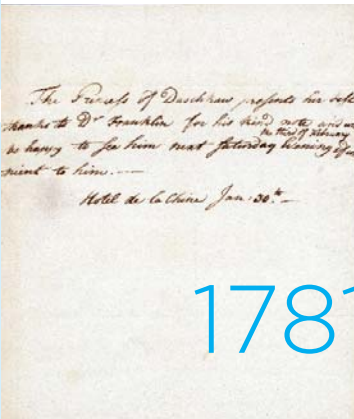


1762

Dashkova receives Star and Cross of the Order of St. Catherine for her role in coup that brought Catherine to power



CATHERINE THE GREAT



1781

Franklin and Dashkova meet in Paris



Dashkova lives in Western Europe

1776–1782



1783  
Dashkova is appointed director of Russia's Imperial academies

1787

Franklin heads Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery



1793

Dashkova directs scientific exploration of the flora, fauna, and peoples of Russia's vast empire



1789

Franklin nominates Dashkova as first female member of APS. Dashkova nominates Franklin as first American member of Russian Academy



- 1746 Franklin begins electrical experiments

1748 Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*

1751 Denis Diderot & Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, *Encyclopedia or a Rational Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts, and Trades*
- 1752 Franklin completes kite experiment

1753 Colleague of Russian scientist Mikhail V. Lomonosov killed by lightning in St. Petersburg when replicating Franklin's experiment
- 1759 Voltaire, *Candide, or Optimism*

1762 Dashkova helps Catherine the Great dethrone Peter III in *coup d'état*; receives Star and Cross of the Order of St. Catherine
- 1764 Franklin makes third trip to England; stays 11 years

1762 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile* and *The Social Contract*

1768 James Cook, first of three great voyages
- 1769–71 Dashkova travels in Enlightenment circles throughout Western Europe

1771 *Encyclopedia Britannica*, first edition completed

1771–72 Franklin begins *Autobiography*
- 1773 Boston Tea Party

1776–1782 Dashkova lives in Europe; educates her son in Edinburgh; becomes strong advocate of British systems of government and education
- 1776 Declaration of Independence

1776–85 Franklin lives in France and gains Louis XVI's support for American War of Independence

1781 Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*
- 1781 Franklin and Dashkova meet in Paris

1783 Dashkova is appointed director of Russian Academy of Sciences and Academy of the Russian Language
- 1786 Franklin publishes "The Morals of Chess"

1786 W. A. Mozart, *The Marriage of Figaro*

1787 Franklin heads Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery
- 1787 U.S. Constitution adopted

1789 Fall of the Bastille; beginning of French Revolution

1789–94 Dashkova edits and publishes first dictionary of the Russian language
- 1789 Franklin nominates Dashkova as first female member of APS

1789 Dashkova nominates Franklin as first American member of Russian Academy

1790 Franklin dies in Philadelphia
- 1791 Franklin's *Autobiography* is published

1791–92 Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man*

1791 Haitian Slave Revolution

1792 Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
- 1793 Jacques-Louis David, *The Death of Marat*

1793–94 Expedition led by Peter S. Pallas to the Crimea, sponsored by the Russian Academy of Sciences
- 1796 Dashkova is exiled after Catherine II's death

1804–06 Lewis and Clark expedition, sponsored in part by American Philosophical Society

1805 Dashkova finishes *Mon histoire*, her memoirs
- 1808 U.S. ban on importation of slaves

1810 Dashkova dies on her estate in Troitskoe