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**The following notes on people—mostly Descartes’s contemporaries—aim only to give the bare minimum needed to understand why each person figures in the Correspondence in the way he does: nationality, clerical or lay, Catholic or Protestant, position or profession, and so on. For more about those who participated in the Correspondence see CSMK, which is the basis for most of what follows.**

**Arnauld**, Antoine: French theologian and philosopher.

**Balzac**, Jean-Louis Guez de: French writer and patron of the arts.

**Bannius** (Johannes Albertus Ban): Catholic Archbishop of Harlem, musician and musical theorist.

**Beaugrand**, Jean de: French artist and mathematician.

**Beeckman**, Isaac: Dutch physician and scholar. Eventually academic head of the University of Utrecht.

**Brasset**, Henri: French diplomat, for some years the French diplomatic representative in The Hague.

**Brégy**, Vicomte de Flécelles: French diplomat. Arrived in Stockholm shortly after Descartes.

**Buitendijk**: Official of the University or Dordrecht.

**Carcavi**, Pierre de: French government official.

**Cavendish**, William: Marquess of Newcastle,

**Chandoux**, Sieur de: French physicist and chemist.

**Chanut**, Hector-Pierre: French diplomat who served his government at the Swedish court.

**Charlet**, Etienne: Jesuit priest and theologian. Taught at the College of la Flèche; Descartes was one of his pupils; later head of the Jesuits in Rome.

**Christina**, Queen of Sweden (1626-89): Lively and influential; also flighty and unpredictable; turned Catholic and abdicated at the age of 28.

**Ciermans**, Jean: Dutch Jesuit, professor of mathematics at Louvain.

**Clerselier**, Claude: French government official; edited/published several of Descartes’s works (including his correspondence) after Descartes’s death. Brother-in-law of Chanut.

**Colvius**, Andreas: Dutch Protestant minister and amateur scientist.

**Debeaune**, Florimond: French mathematician and student of astronomy.

**Delaunay**, the Abbé: Not identified for sure.

**Dinet**, Jacques: French Jesuit priest, taught Descartes in College; rose to a commanding position in the Society of Jesus in Paris.

**Emilius**, Anthony: Professor of history at the university of Utrecht.

**Ferrier**, Jean: French instrument maker.

**Freinshemius** (Johannes Freinsheim): German classical scholar, Queen Christina’s librarian at the time of Descartes’s visit to Stockholm.

**Fromondus** (Libert Froidmont): Belgian Protestant theologian.

**Gibieuf**, Guillaume: French Catholic priest and theologian; teacher at the Sorbonne.

**Gillot**. Jean: French. A pupil and then protégé of Descartes.

**Golius** (Jacob Gool): Dutch mathematician, professor of Mathematics at Leiden.

**Grandamy**, Jacques: French Jesuit priest, physicist, astronomer, and teacher of philosophy

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**Hardy**, Claude: French mathematician: reported to have known 35 oriental languages.

**Hogelande**, Cornelis van: Dutch physician.

**Huygens**, Constantijn: Dutch diplomat and amateur scientist; poet, composer, and musicologist; secretary to the Prince of Orange, sometimes having to accompany him into war zones.

**le Conte**, Antoine: Adviser to the French king, and friend of Chanut.

**Lull**, Raymond: 13th-14th century philosopher who wrote a manual purporting to provide a method for solving all problems.

**Mersenne**, Marin: Catholic priest, theologian, and physicist; a 'monk' because he belonged to the monastic order of Minims.

**Mesland**, Denis: Jesuit priest. For more, see first paragraph of Descartes's letter to him on page ??.

**Meyssonier**, Lazare: French physician.

**More**, Henry: English philosopher and poet.

**Morin**, Jean-Baptiste: French mathematician, physician, and astrologer.

**Mydorge**, Claude: French court official and amateur mathematician and scientist.

**Naudé**, Gabriel: French scholar, librarian, and physician.

**Noël**, Etienne: Jesuit priest and physicist.

**Pascal**, Blaise: French mathematician, physicist, polymath.

**Pascal**, Étienne: French mathematician, father of Blaise.

**Petit**, Pierre: French military engineer and amateur physicist.

**Plempius** (Vopiscus-Fortunatus Plem): Dutch physician and philosopher.

**Pollot**, Alphonse: French soldier and courtier, on the staff of the Prince of Orange.

**Raei**, Johannes de: Dutch philosopher; pupil of Regius.

**Regius** (Henri le Roy): Dutch physician and professor of medicine.

**Reneri** (Henri Regnier): French philosopher.

**Sainte-Croix**: This name seems to refer to André Jumeau, Prior of the monastery of Sainte-Croix and a mathematician.

**Scheiner**, Christophe: German Jesuit and astronomer.

**Schichardus** (Wilhelm Schickardt): German professor philosophy.

**Schooten**, Franciscus van: Dutch mathematician.

**Schurman**, Anne-Marie de: German-Dutch painter, engraver, scholar and poet; proficient in 14 languages.

**Silhon**, Jean de: French government official and amateur theologian.

**Stampoien**, Johan: Dutch mathematician.

**Thuillerie**, Gaspard Coignet de la: French ambassador to Sweden.

**van der Hoolck**, Gisbert: Mayor of Utrecht.

**Vanini**, Cesare: Ex-priest who flamboyantly proclaimed atheism; condemned and brutally executed in Toulouse in 1619.

**Vatier**, Antoine: French Jesuit priest and theologian.

**Vesalius**, Andreas: Influential 16th-century anatomist.

**Viète**, François: French mathematician, whose work helped pave the way for Descartes's analytic geometry.

**Ville-Bressieu**, Etienne de: French physicist, chemist, and engineer to the King of France.

**Villiers**, Christophe: French physician.

**Voetius** (Gisbert Voët): Dutch theologian and professor at the University of Utrecht.

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**Vorstius** (Adolph Vorster): Dutch physician, became professor of medicine at the University of Utrecht.

**Wassenaer**, Jacques: Dutch mathematician.

**White**, Thomas: English philosopher and controversialist.

**Wilhelm**, David le Leu de: Dutch banker, collector, aficionado of ideas; brother-in-law of Constantijn Huygens.