

CHRONOLOGY OF SCIENCE AND MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT SHELLEY

- **1745** Ewald Jürgen Georg von Kleist develops the first capacitor, the Leyden jar.
- **1750** Joseph Black describes latent heat.
- **1751** Benjamin Franklin demonstrates that lightning is electrical.
- **1761** Mikhail Lomonosov discovers the atmosphere of Venus.
- **1763** Thomas Bayes publishes the first version of Bayes's theorem, paving the way for Bayesian probability.
- **1771** Charles Messier publishes catalog of astronomical objects (Messier Objects), now known to include galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae.
- **1778** Antoine Lavoisier and Joseph Priestley discover oxygen, leading to the end of phlogiston theory.
- **1780** Luigi Galvani makes the legs of dead frogs twitch by connecting them to an electrical current, discovering what we call bioelectricity.
- **1781** William Herschel announces discovery of Uranus, expanding the known boundaries of the solar system for the first time in modern history.
- **1785** William Withering publishes the first definitive account of the use of foxglove (*digitalis*) for treating dropsy.
- **1787** Jacques Charles develops the law of ideal gas.
- **1789** Antoine Lavoisier develops the law of conservation of mass, a beginning of modern chemistry.
- **1796** Georges Cuvier establishes extinction as a fact.
- **1796** Edward Jenner provides an historical accounting of smallpox.
- **1797** Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin is born in London on August 30.
- **1797** Mary's mother dies at age thirty-eight, ten days after giving birth to Mary.
- **1800** Alessandro Volta discovers electrochemical series and invents the battery.
- **1800** William Herschel discovers infrared radiation.

- 1802 | Jean-Baptiste Lamarck defines teleological evolution.
- 1804 | Hanaoka Seishū conducts first operation using general anesthesia.
- 1805 | John Dalton explains atomic theory in chemistry.
- 1812 | Humphry Davy publishes *Elements of Chemical Philosophy*; knighted the same year.
- 1814 | Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley leave England to live together in France but return a month later when they run out of money.
- 1815 | Mary gives birth to a daughter prematurely, and the infant dies at six weeks of age.
- 1816 | A son, William, is born to Mary and Percy Shelley in January; Mary has visions of her novel, *Frankenstein*; Mary's half-sister commits suicide; Percy's first wife commits suicide by drowning; Mary and Percy wed at the end of the year.
- 1817 | Mary finishes writing *Frankenstein* and gives birth to daughter Clara.
- 1818 | *Frankenstein* is published in three volumes with no author identified, but the name "Shelley" appears on the spine of the book, and people think Percy wrote it; daughter Clara dies.
- 1819 | Son William dies; Mary finishes the novella *Mathilda*; Mary gives birth to son Percy Florence.
- 1820 | Hans Christian Ørsted discovers that a current passed through a wire will deflect the needle of a compass, thus establishing a deep relationship between electricity and magnetism (electromagnetism).
- 1822 | Mary almost dies from miscarriage; Percy drowns one month before he would have been thirty.
- 1823 | The second edition of *Frankenstein* is published.
- 1824 | Nicolas Carnot describes the Carnot cycle, the idealized heat engine.
- 1827 | Georg Ohm develops Ohm's law (electricity).
- 1827 | Amedeo Avogadro develops Avogadro's law (gas law).
- 1828 | Friedrich Wöhler synthesizes urea, destroying the theory of vitalism.
- 1830 | Nikolai Lobachevsky creates non-Euclidean geometry.
- 1831 | Michael Faraday discovers electromagnetic induction; Mary publishes a revised version of *Frankenstein*, with an additional introduction explaining how she conceived and wrote the work.
- 1851 | Mary Shelley dies in London at the age of fifty-three.

