

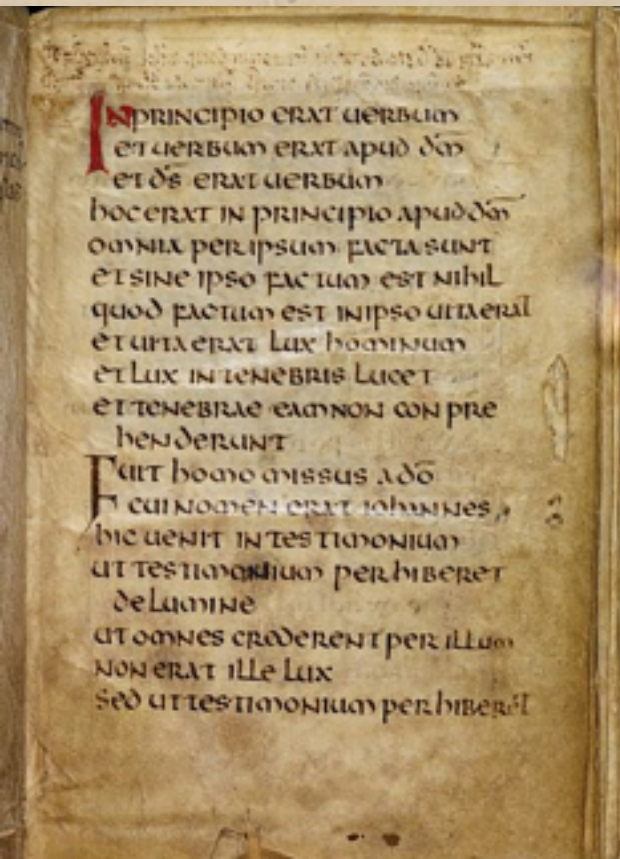


manuscript "revolution"

**the authority of the text
and a “missing revolution”?**

history of information

February 5, 2015



Carl Djerassi, 91, a Creator of the Birth Control Pill, Dies

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN JAN. 31, 2015



Carl Djerassi in 2013. He was often called the father of the pill, but was one of many scientists who pioneered the development.
Boris Roessler/European Pressphoto Agency

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Carl Djerassi, an eminent chemist who 63 years ago synthesized a hormone that changed the world by creating the key ingredient for the oral contraceptive known as “the pill,” died on Friday at his home in San Francisco. He was 91.

His son, Dale, said the cause was complications of liver and bone cancer.

Dr. Djerassi (pronounced jer-AH-see) arrived in America as World War II engulfed Europe, a 16-year-old Austrian Jewish refugee who, with his mother, lost their last \$20 to a swindling New York cabdriver. He wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, asking for assistance, and obtained a college scholarship. It was a little help that made a big difference.

in the news

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in the news

“At first, the team deemed it a breakthrough for fertility, not birth control.”



in the news

BLETCHLEY PARK: Alan Turing Banbury sheets being used as roof insulation in Hut 6 at Bletchley Park

By [jessica.duncan](#) | Posted: February 03, 2015



ANT	9	15	1	
DWI	3	17	2	
EQK	18	11	3	
HFE	18	8	4	
IFB	5	6	5	
MSZ	4	4	6	
NRX	15	14	7	
OCM	10	1	8	
PXH	6	17	9	
RTM	17	15	10	
VEI	22	20	11	
WJN	14	9	12	
YBC	25	15	13	
ZMI				

II	III	I	
IV	III	I	✓
V	III	I	✓

A	D	E	H	I	M	N	O	P	R	V	W	Y	Z
B	F	I	J	N	O	P	Q	S	W	X	Y	A	B
C	F	G	J	K	O	P	Q	R	T	X	Y	A	B
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it was ever thus

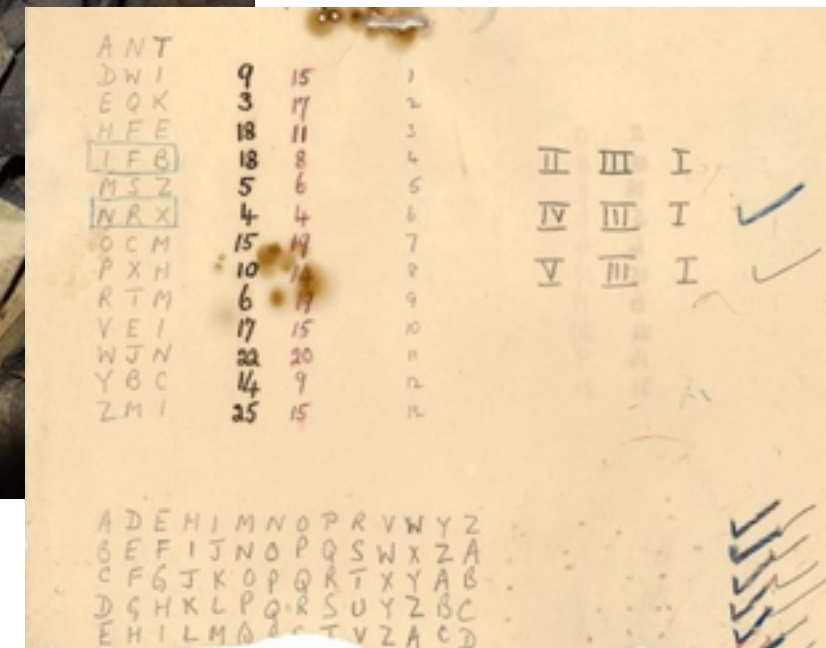
"a wealth of good manuscripts is still lying hid, ... concealed by neglect"

Erasmus, *Adages* 1506

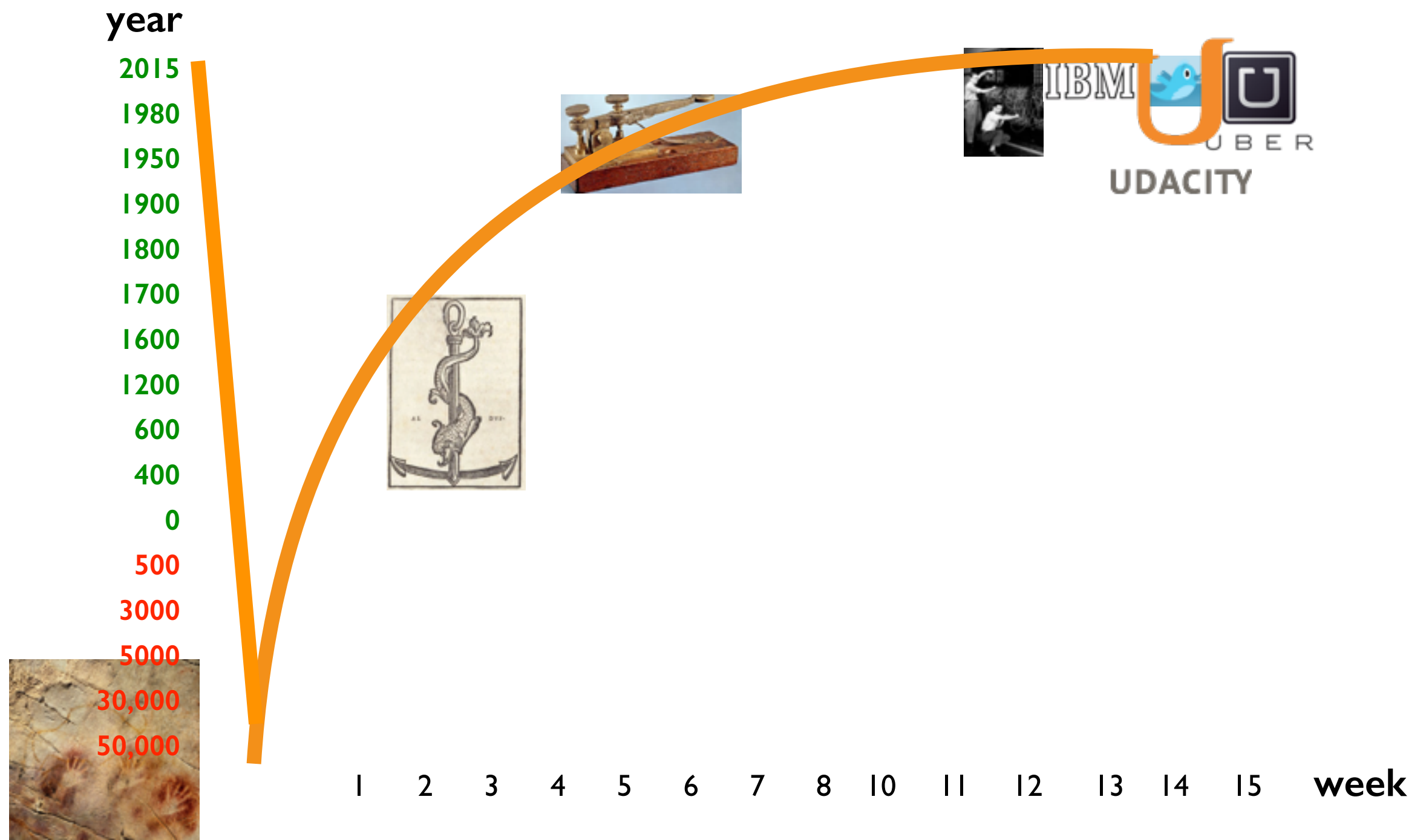
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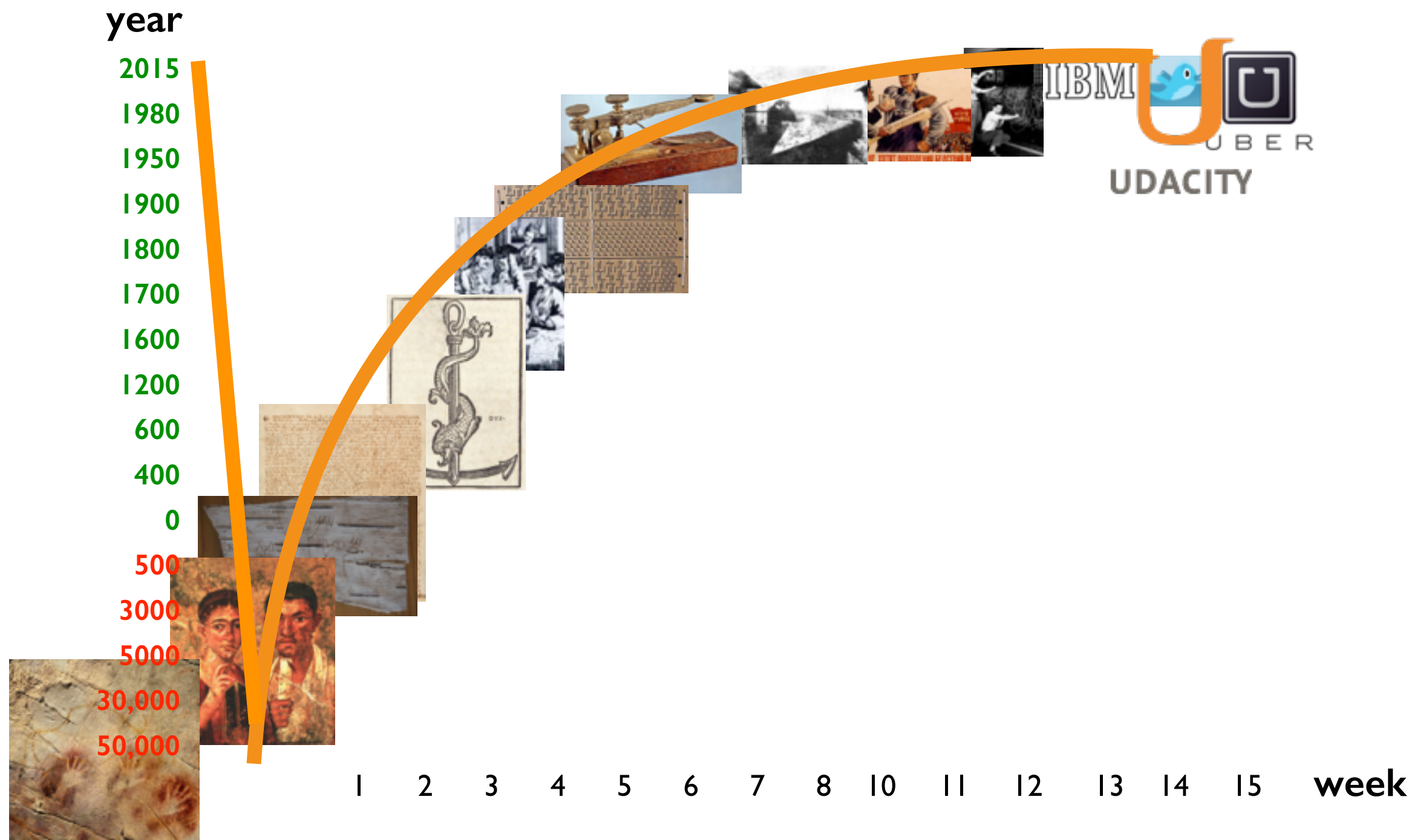
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all you need to know

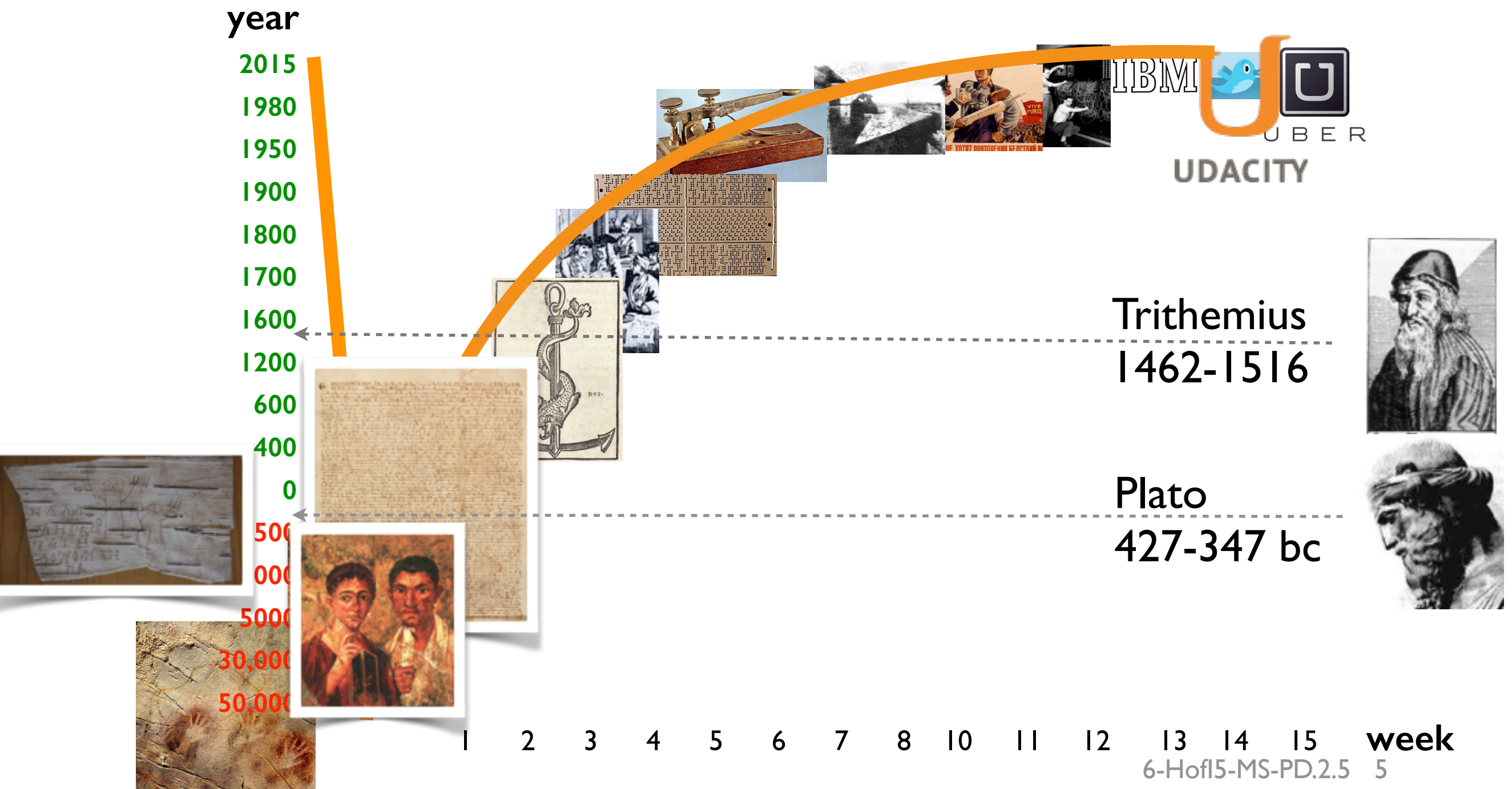


all you need to know



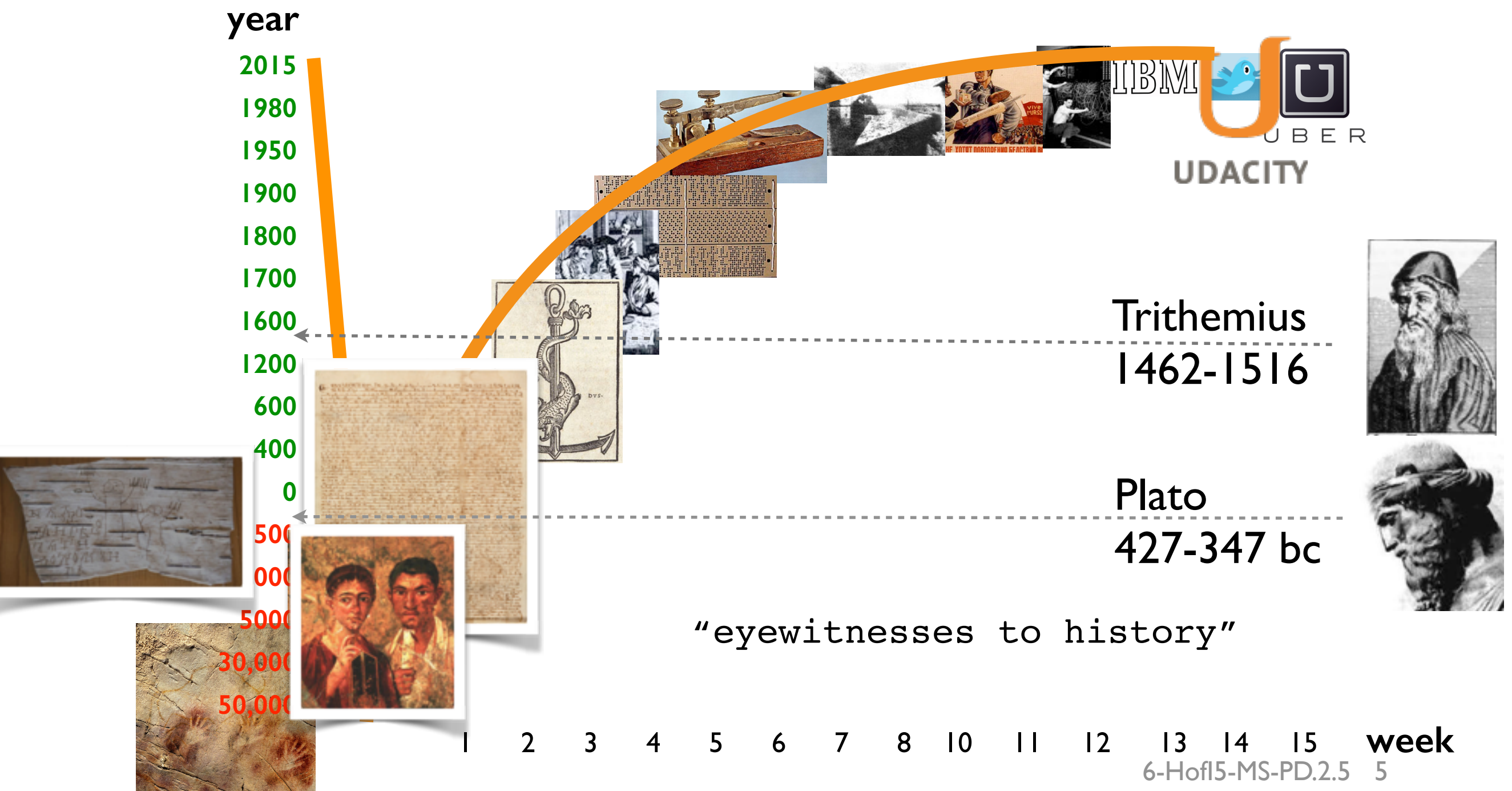


we know better





we know better



“By Plato’s time the written word had created a new environment that had begun to detribalize man.

Previously the greeks ... had memorized the poets.”

new technologies

how to think about determinism

what happened?

who/what was involved?

what did (or did not) come before?

what did (or did not) follow?

what did (or did not) contribute?

what happened elsewhere?

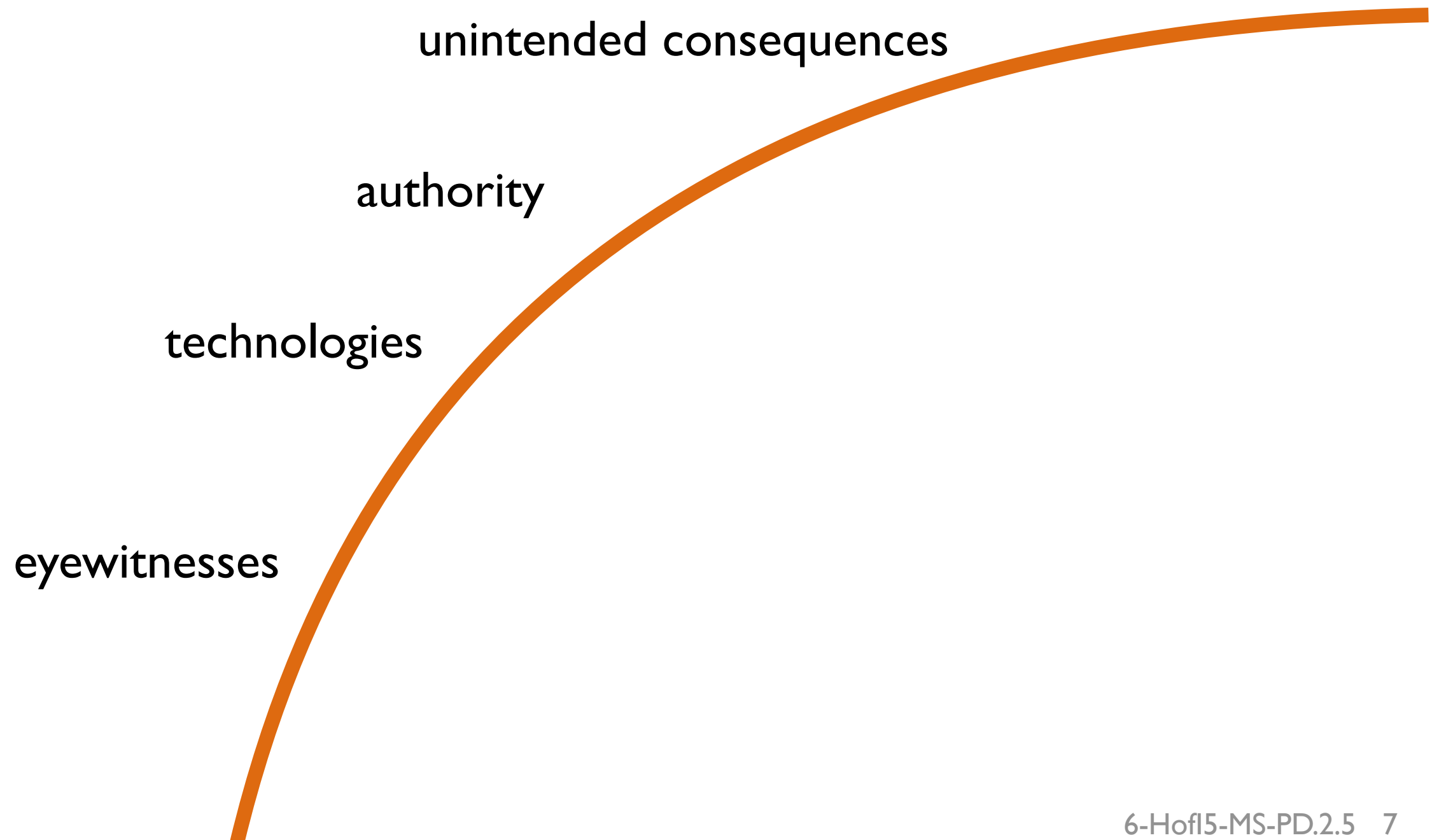
what's likely to be underestimated?

what was necessary, what sufficient?



who/what was involved?

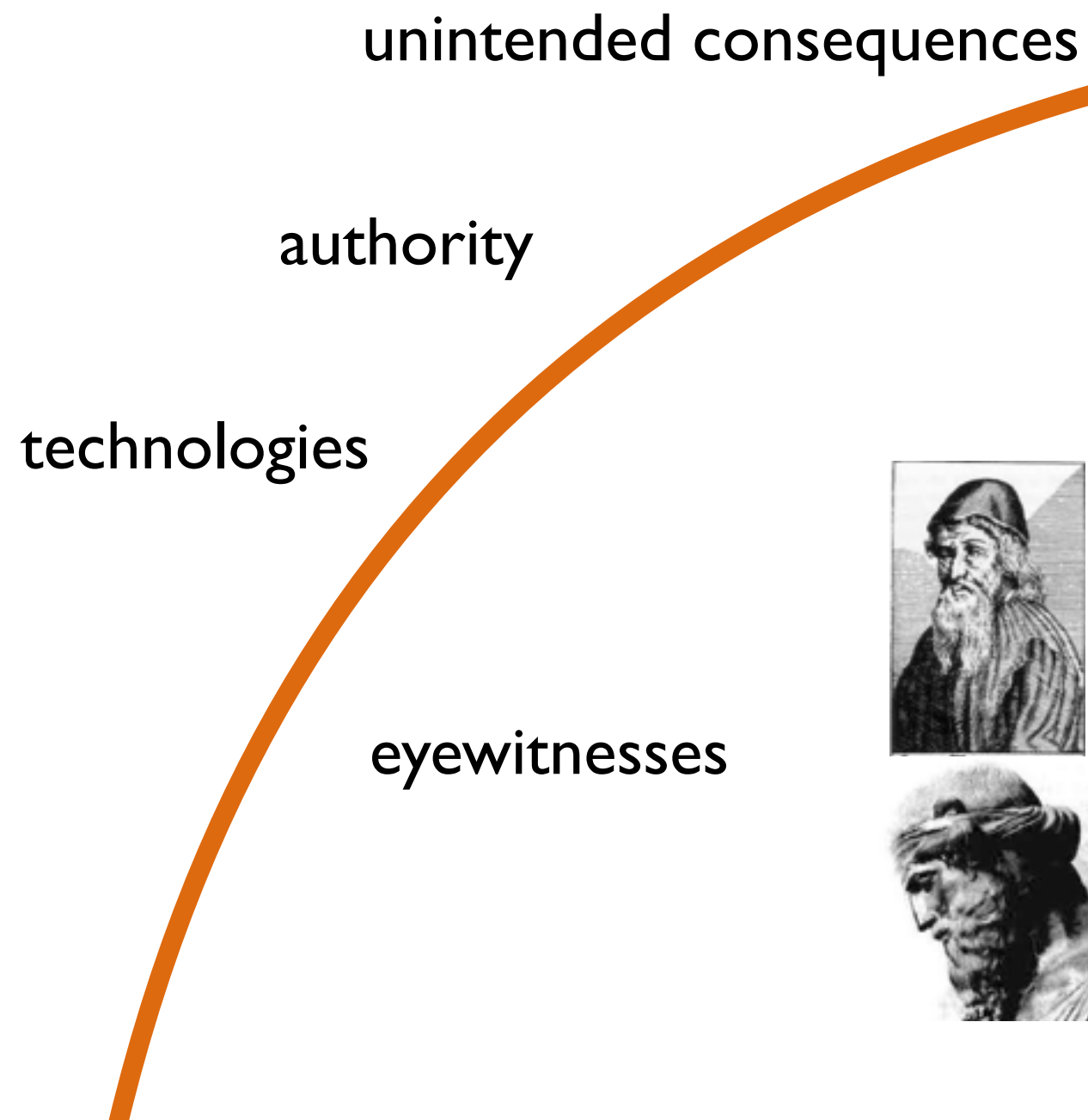
overview





who/what was involved?

overview





Plato's perspective

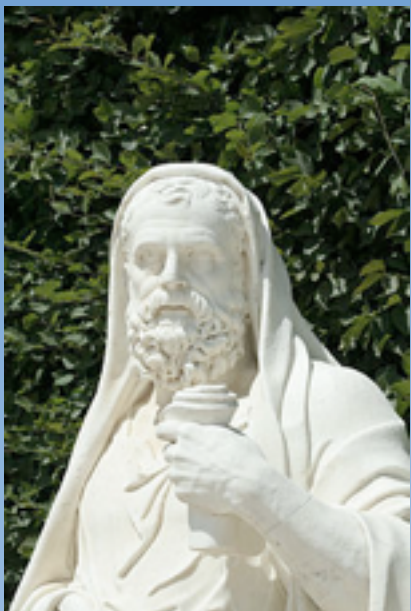


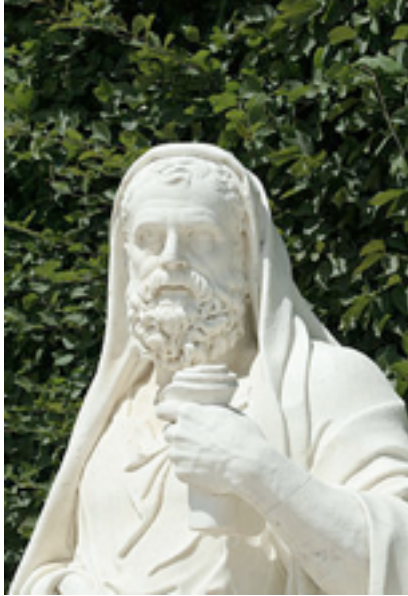
what "new technology"?-- writing

cast of characters

Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias

Thamus
Theuth
Thebes



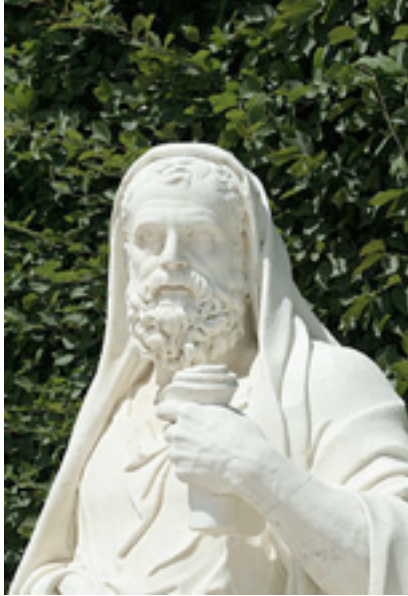


Socrates' nightmare

By Marianne Wolf

"Similarly poised between two modes of communication, one oral and one written, Socrates argued against the acquisition of literacy. His arguments are as prescient today as they were futile then."

standard view



READING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Socrates' nightmare

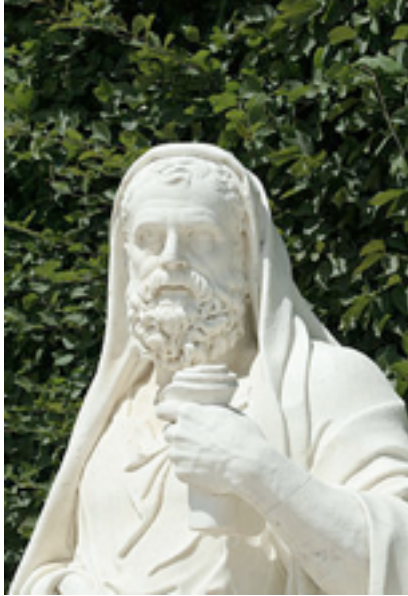
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The New York Times

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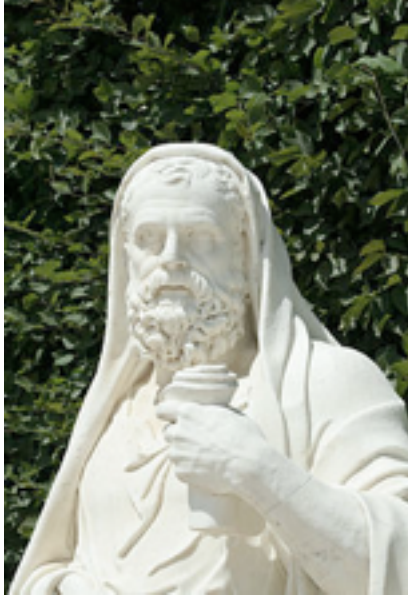
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"I am a lover of learning ... Men lead hungry animals by waving a branch or some vegetables before their noses, and it looks as if you will lead me all over Attica and anywhere else you please ... by waving the leaves of a speech [book] in front of me"



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"Plato ...had such a love of books that he bought three books ... at the price of 10,000 denarii. Aristotle ... acquired a few books for three Attic talents which amounts to 72,000 nummii."



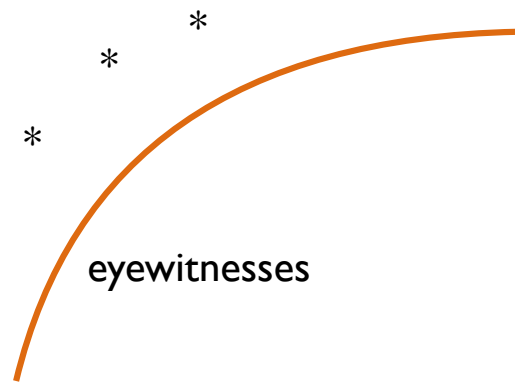
what good is writing?



Theuth: "An accomplishment ... which will improve both the wisdom and the memory of the Egyptians ..."

Thamus: "The discoverer of an art is not the best judge of the good or harm which will accrue to those who practice it."

"At first, the team deemed it a breakthrough for fertility, not birth control."



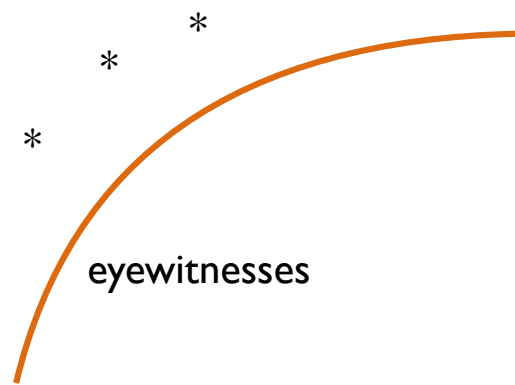
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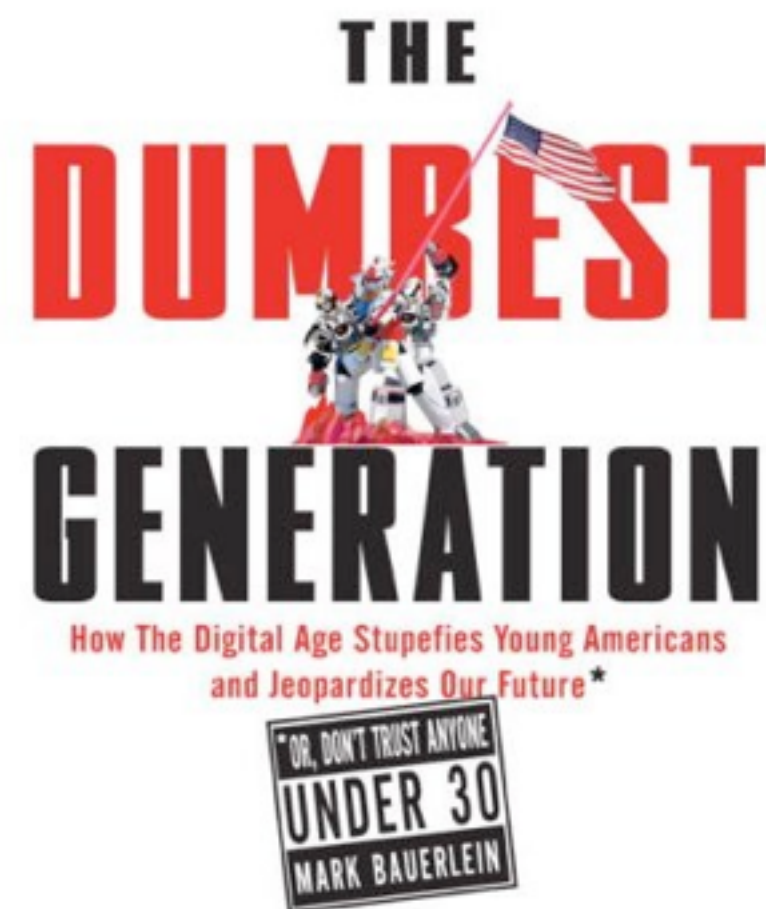
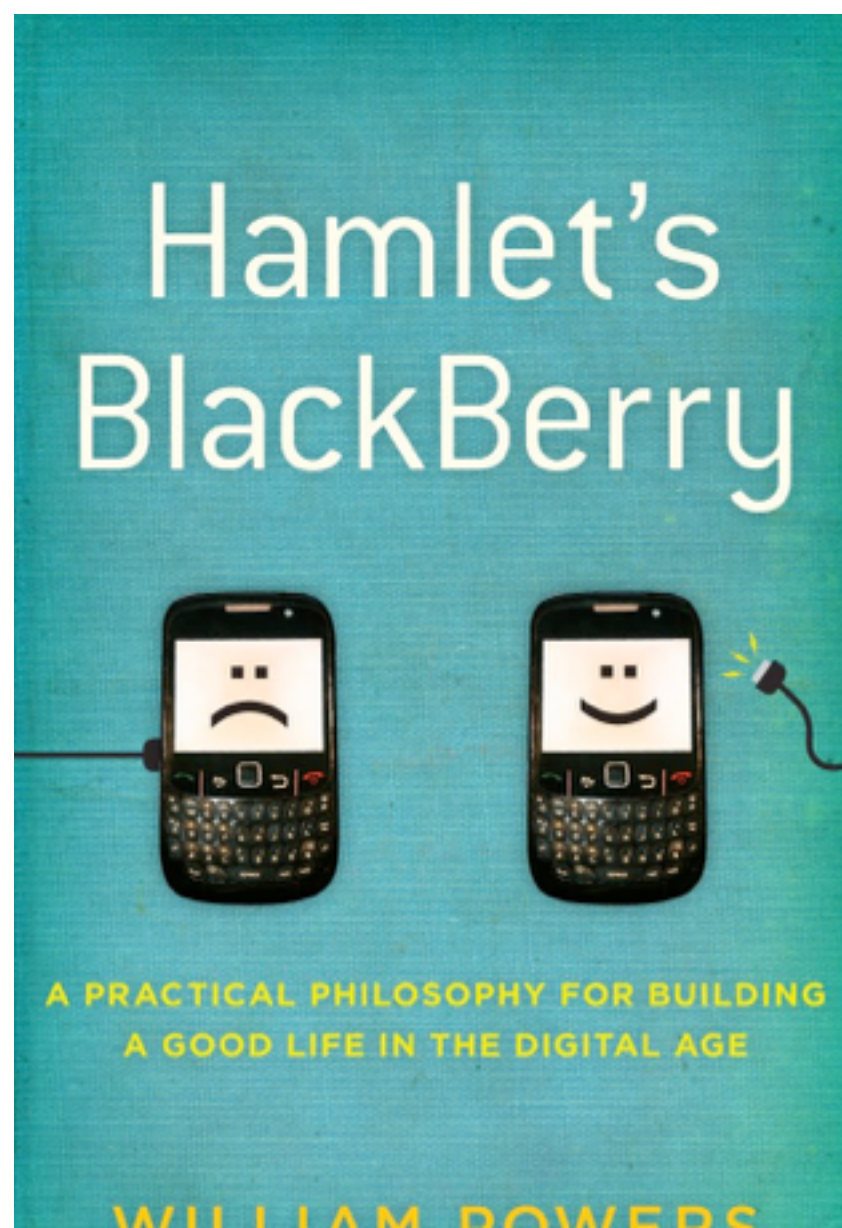
... Those who acquire it will cease to exercise their memory and become forgetful; they will rely on writing to bring things to their remembrance by external signs instead of on their own internal resources."



Thamus updated?

generational revolution once more

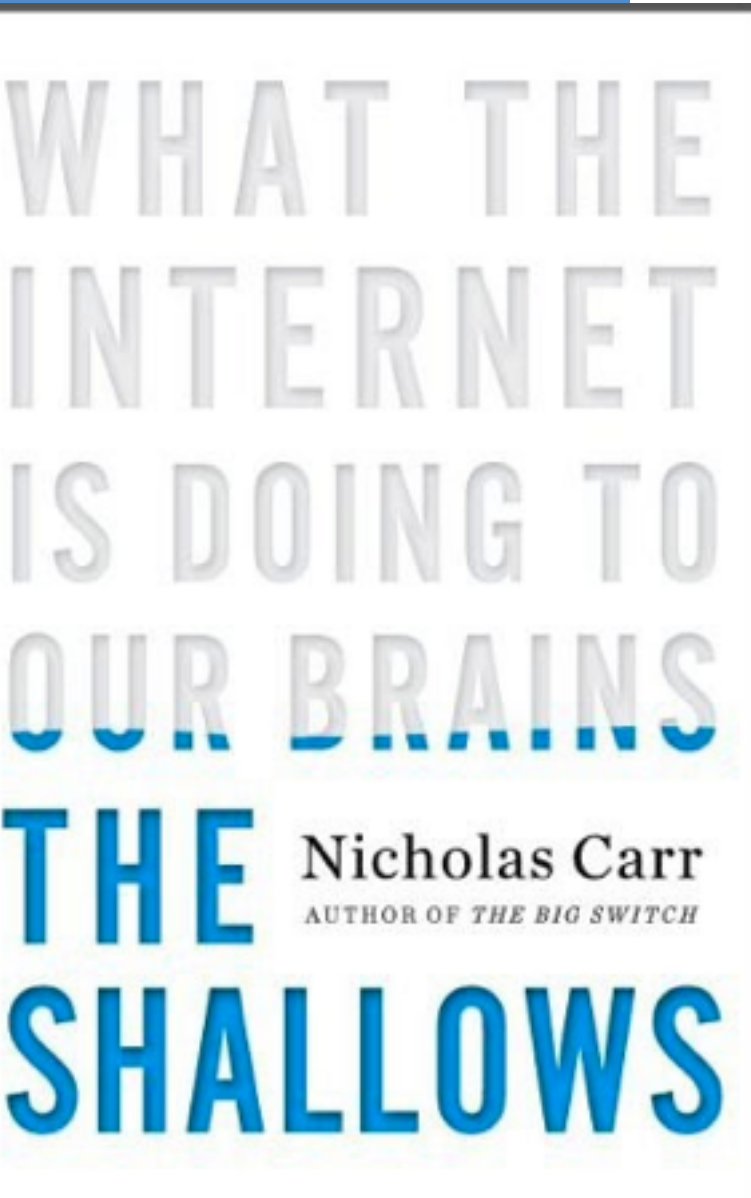
WHAT THE
INTERNET
IS DOING TO
OUR BRAINS
THE Nicholas Carr
AUTHOR OF *THE BIG SWITCH*
SHALLOWS





Thamus updated?

generational revolution once more



We have outsourced our brains to Google
Peter Bradshaw

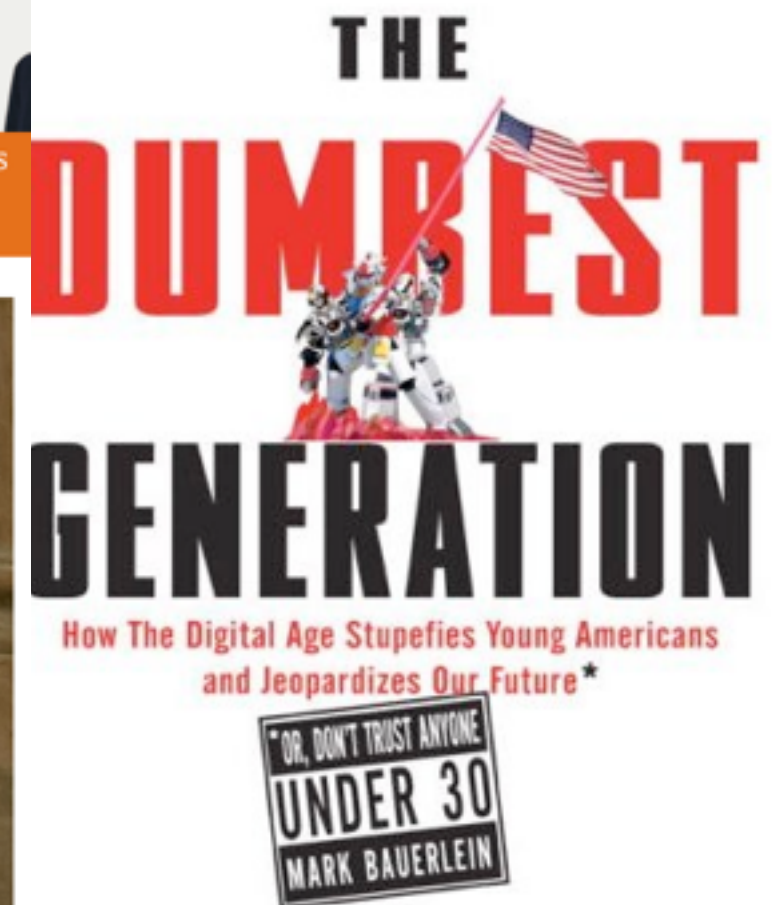
The more dependent we become on search engines, the less we can remember as we sleepwalk into an age of bewilderment



Like many people, I'm prone to taking out my smartphone at any and every opportunity. Photograph: Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images

@PeterBradshaw1

Wednesday 4 February 2015 14:23 GMT





Socratic concerns

Phaedrus





Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

sophists



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

sophists

writing



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

sophists

writing

wisdom



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

sophists

writing

wisdom

truth [and authority]



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

sophists

writing

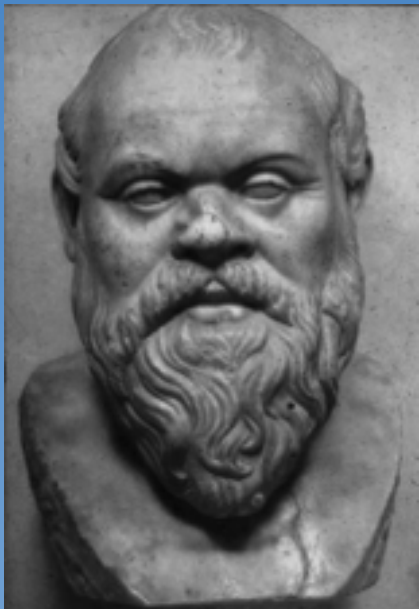
wisdom

truth [and authority]

dialectic

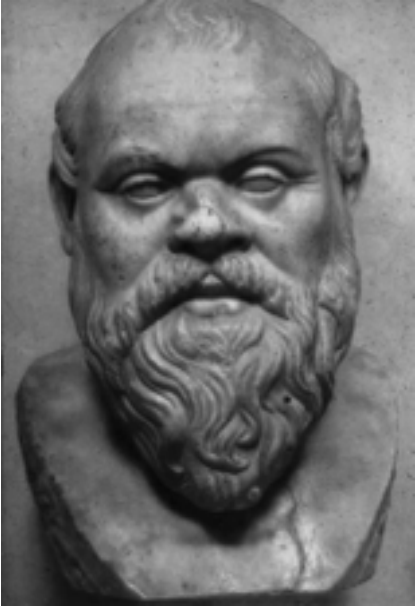


writing vs wisdom



"**Writing** circulates equally among those who understand the subject and those who have no business with it."

"for **wisdom**, your pupils will have the reputation for it without the reality; they will receive a quantity of information without proper instruction, and in consequence be thought very knowledgeable when they are for the most part quite ignorant."

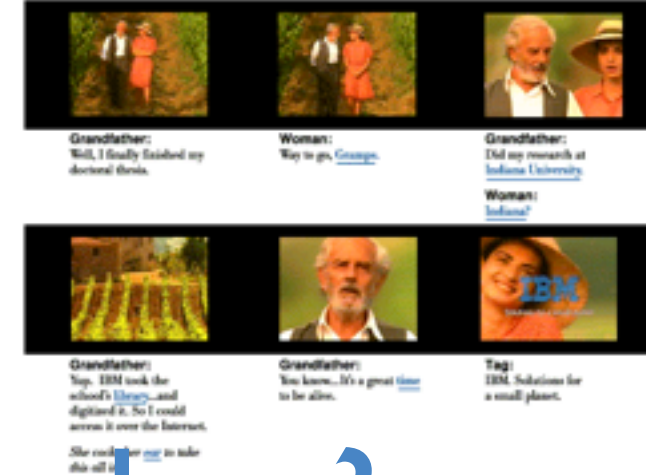


dialectic & truth

"**Writing** involves a similar disadvantage to painting ... if you ask [words] what they mean ... they simply return the same answer over and over ... writing cannot distinguish between suitable and unsuitable readers ...

"when a man employs the art of **dialectic**, and, fastening upon a suitable soul, plants and sows in it **truths** accompanied by knowledge ... such truths can defend themselves ..."

"**Written/graven** on the soul of the hearer"



remember?

"But though books are easily procured, yet, even in this age of information, there are thousands in the lower classes that cannot read. Besides, it is a well-known truth, that the same precepts **inculcated by a living instructor, adorned by a proper oratory, enforced by a serious and authoritative manner, produce a powerful effect**, not to be experienced in solitary retirement."

— Vicesimus Knox, *Essays Moral and Literary*, 1778



dialectics?

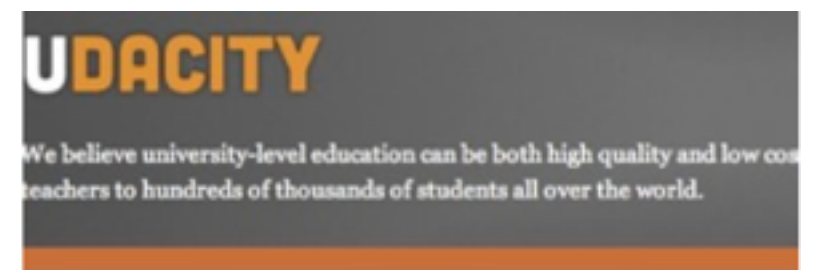


"The people's University of the Air will have a greater student body than all of our universities put together." --RCA, 1932



The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) with the mission of providing a world-class education to anyone, anywhere.

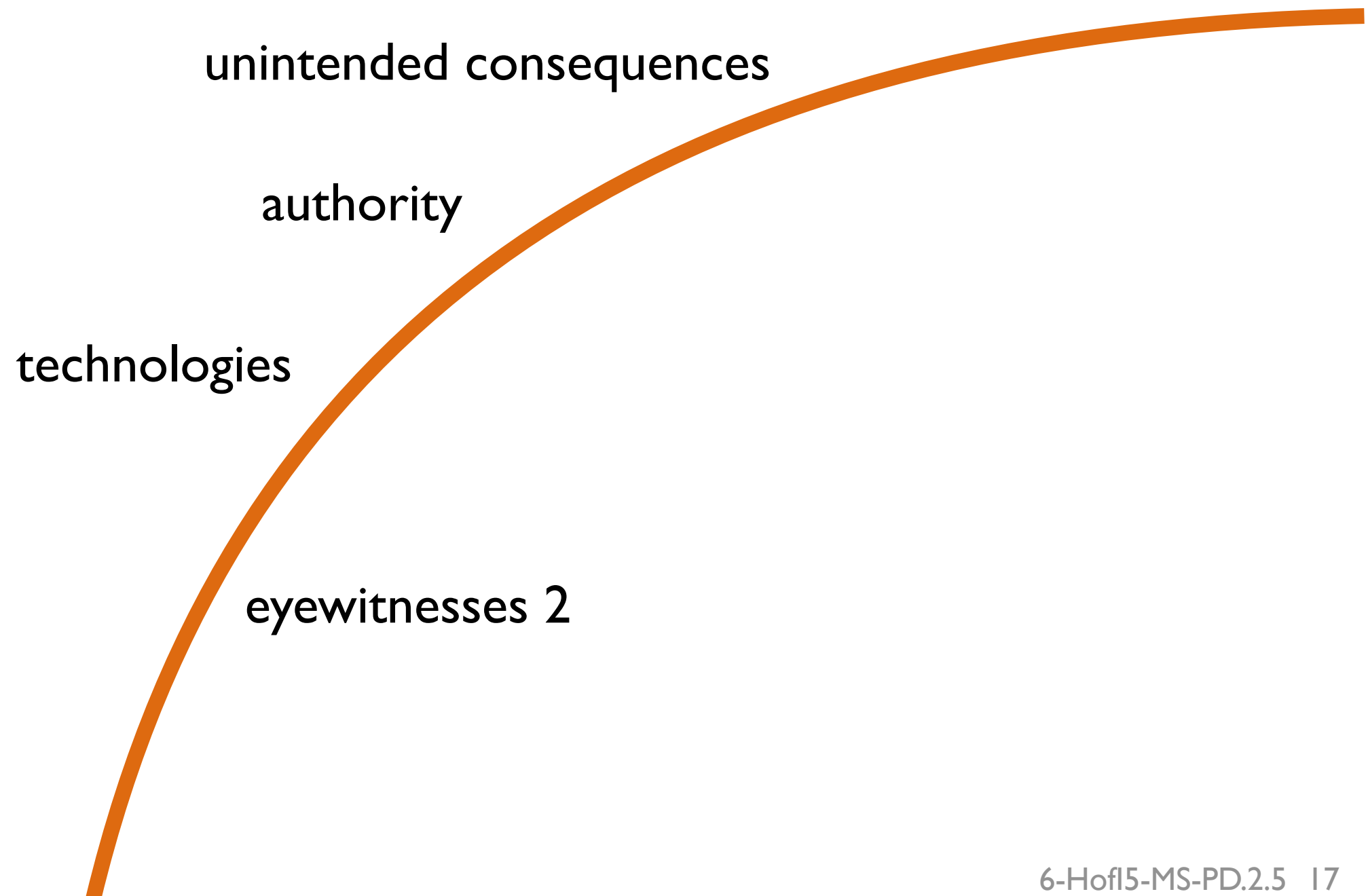
We are complementing Salman's ever-growing library with user-paced exercises—developed as an [open source project](#)—allowing the Khan Academy to become the free classroom for the World.



coming up 4/21:
social
implications



overview



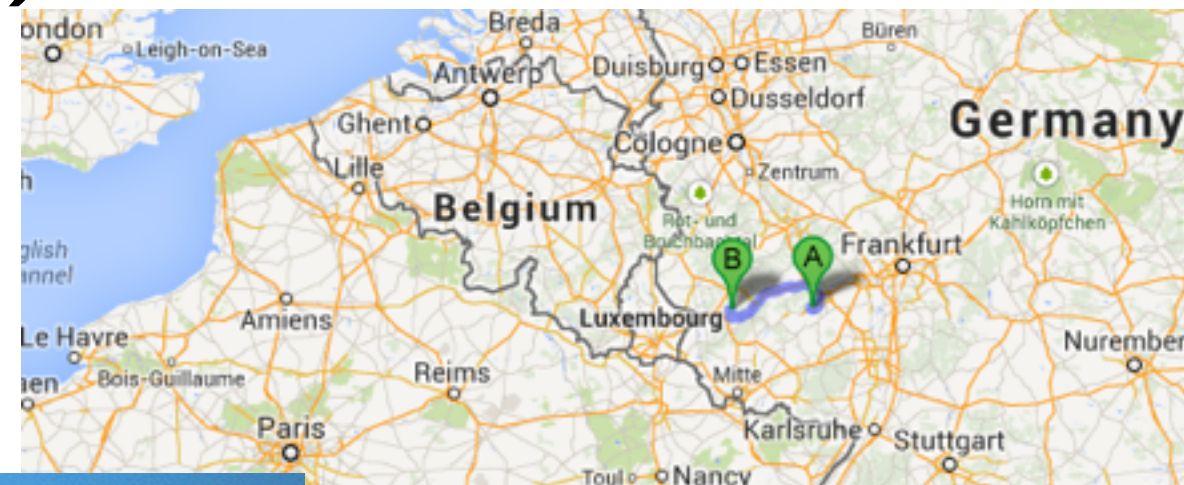


the set up



Trithemius (1462-1516)

native of Trittenheim (B)
Abbot of St Martin's,
Sponheim (A), 1483-1505





the standard view?

Trithemius didn't like print





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"It is my greatest pleasure to own and to know all books I ever saw or which I knew to have appeared in print ... To my regret ... money was always lacking ... for the satisfaction of my passion for books."





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1483: 48 books in monastery library





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1483: 48 books in monastery library

1505: 2,000





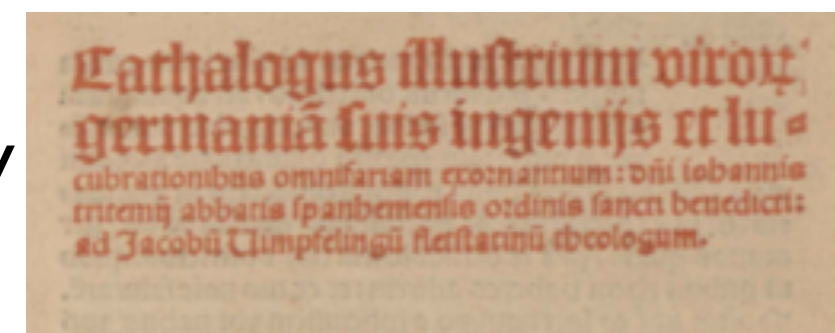
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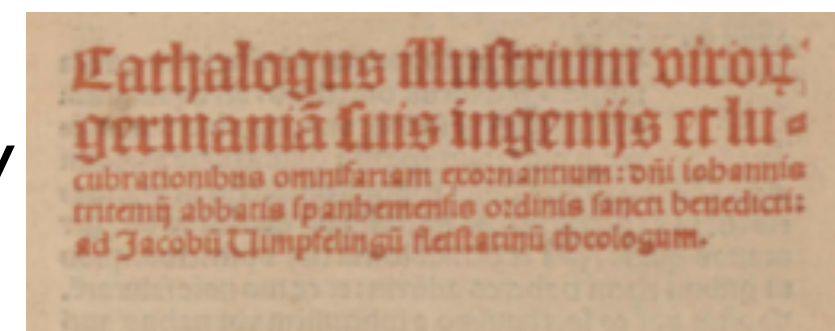
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Catalogus Illustrum Virorum Germaniae, 1495
"probably the first printed bibliography on secular subjects."



opposite views?

reading between the lines

contemplation, manual labor, preaching

vs

scribal practice - learning through *writing*

"The dedicated and sincere scribe ... will
not receive less than the preacher"





Socrates vs Trithemius?

opposite views?

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external battles

from monastery to university

"In the 700 years between the Fall of Rome and the 12th century, it was the monasteries which enjoyed an almost complete monopoly of book production and so of book culture.... from the end of the 12th century a profound transformation took place ... reflected in the founding of the universities and the development of learning."

–Febvre & Martin, *The Coming of the Book*, 1984



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[but

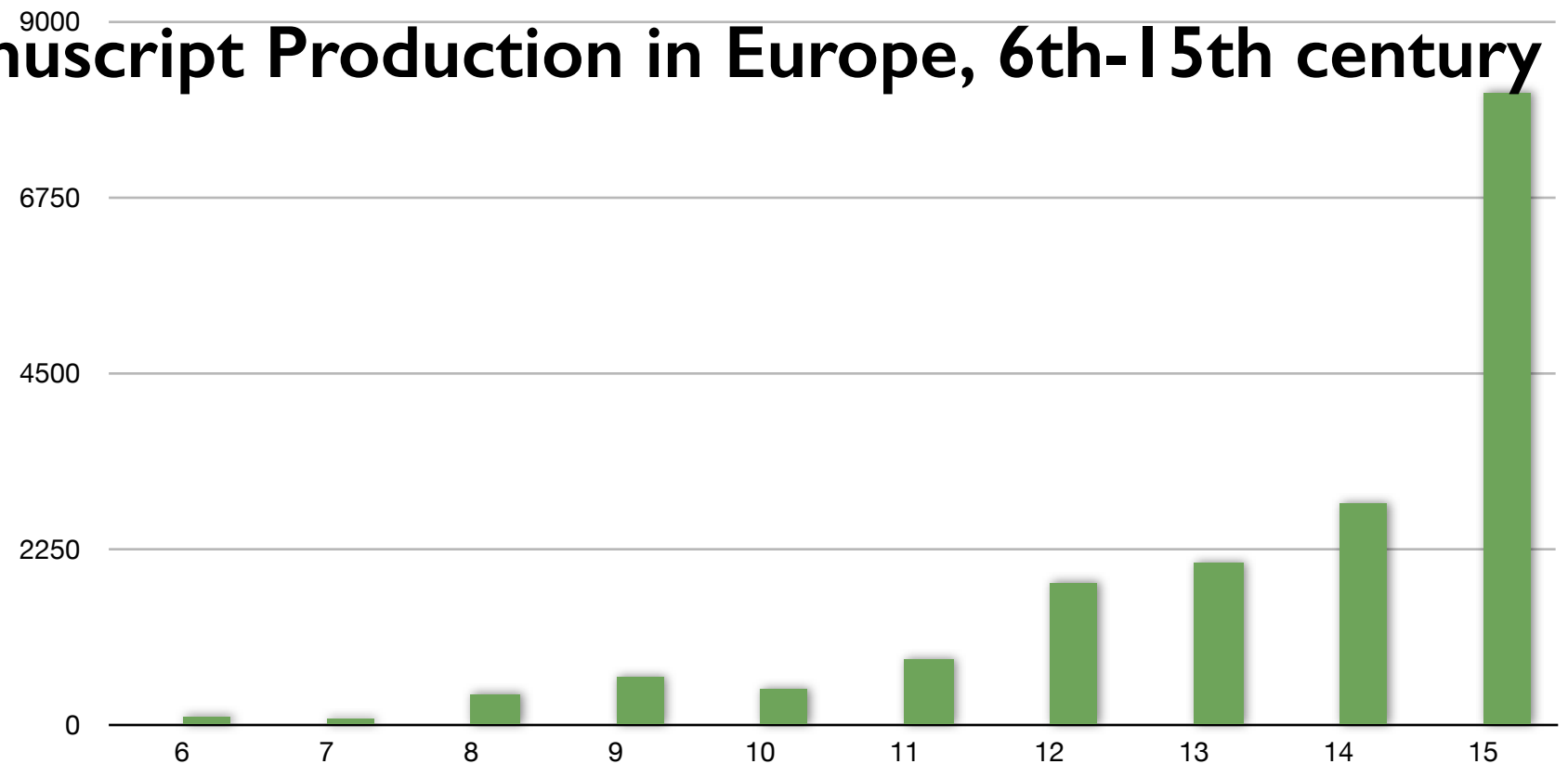
"We owe to the holdings amassed in ... monasteries most of what has survived of the writings in Latin and Greek"]



rising demand, but ...



Manuscript Production in Europe, 6th-15th century



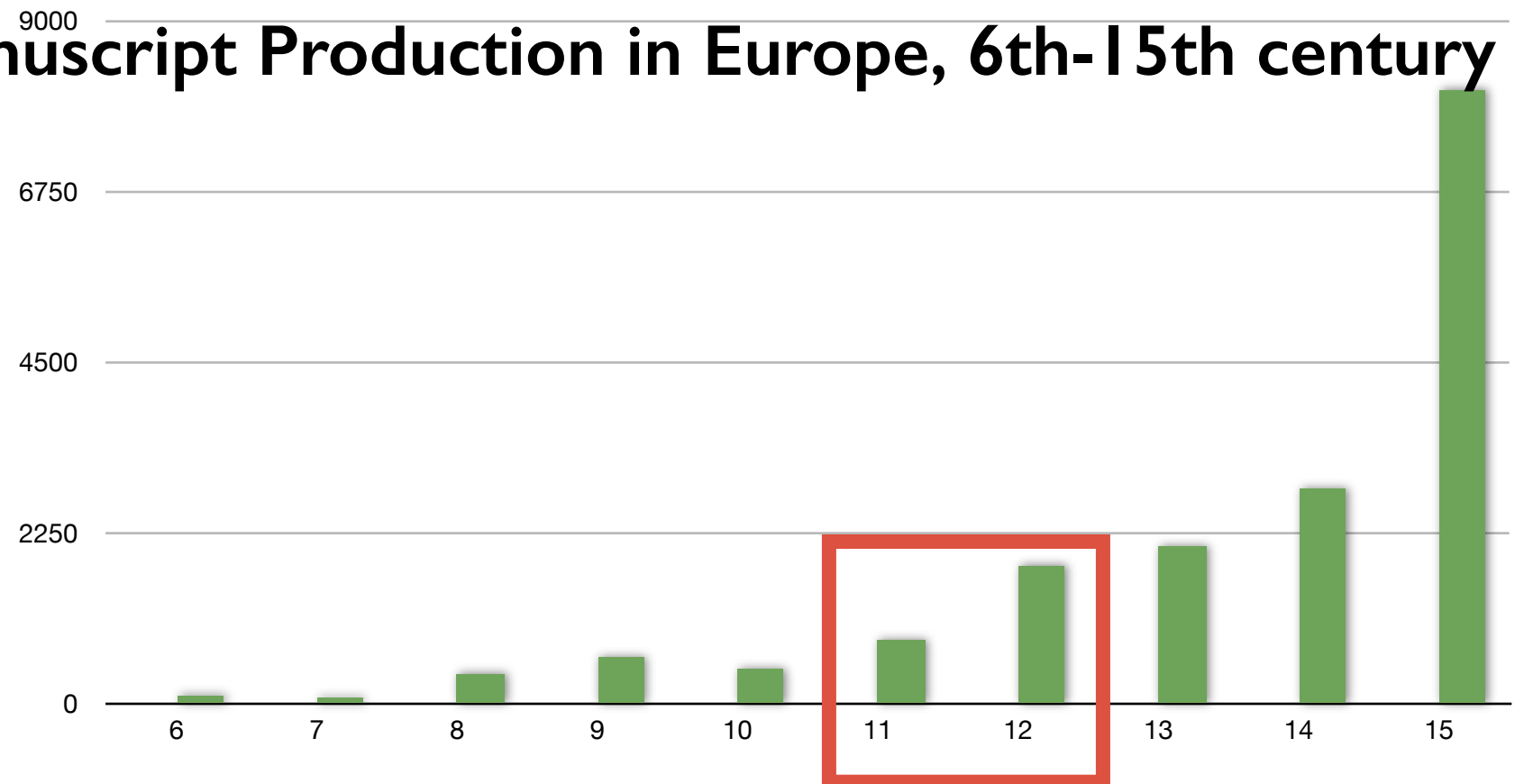
Buringh & van Zanden, "Charting the 'Rise of the West': Manuscripts and Printed Books in Europe" *Journal of Economic History* 2009



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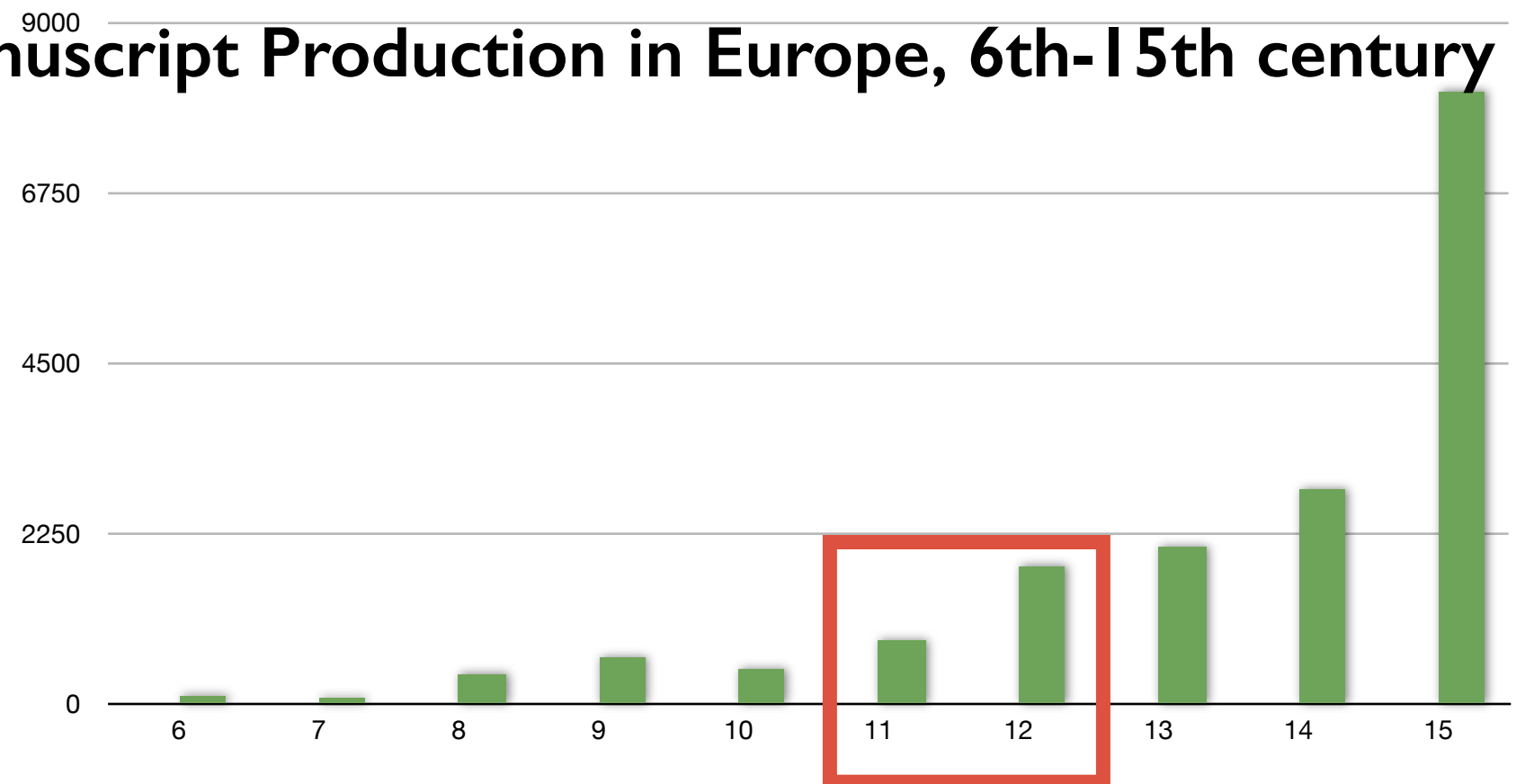


Monks "are so detested that it is considered bad luck if one crosses your path"
 — Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*, 1511

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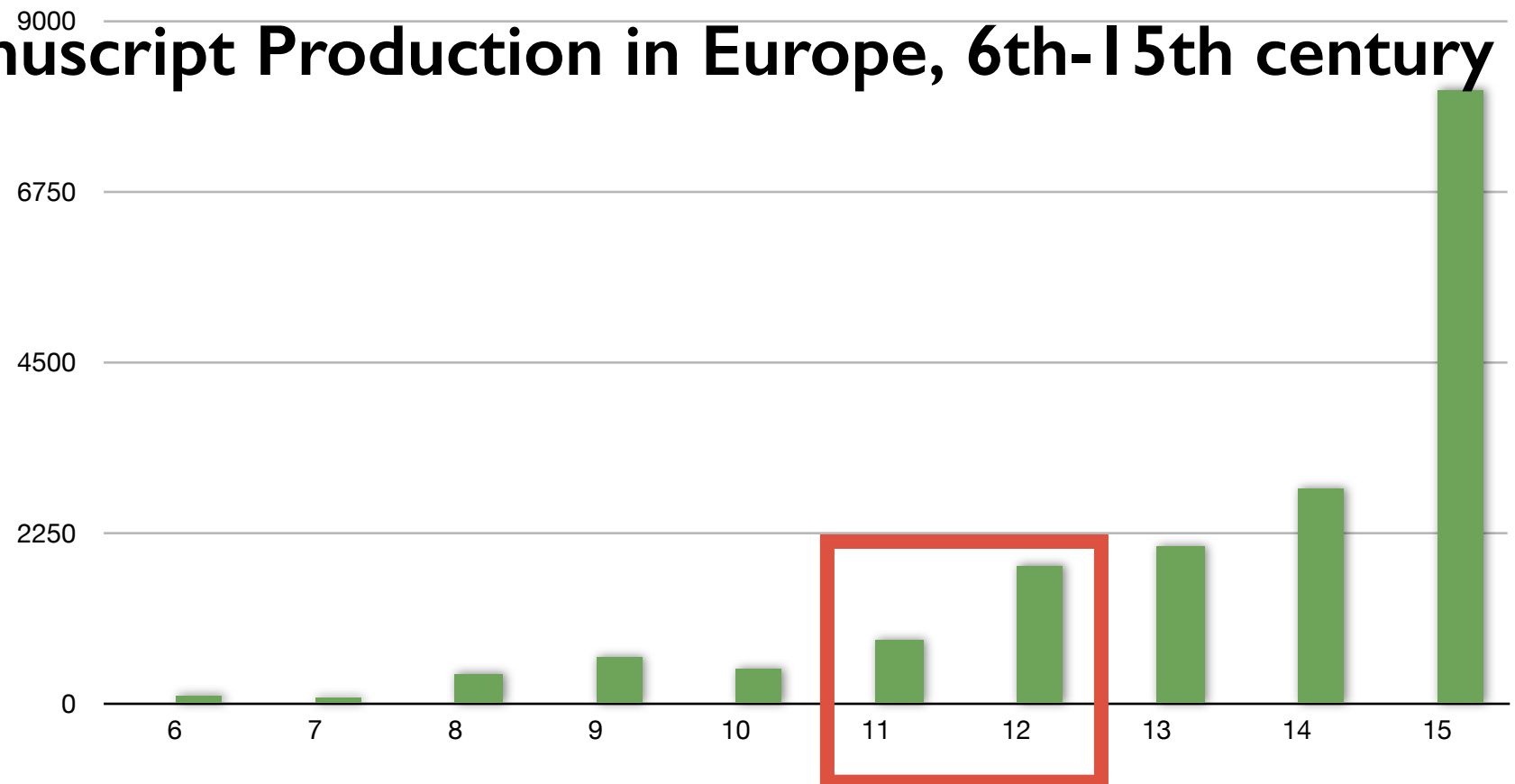


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"By 1200 most scribes were professionals instead of being monks"

— Michael Clanchy, *Parchment and Paper*, 2008



other concerns



a reasonable lament?

"The written word on parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last? The most you can expect of a book of paper to survive is two hundred years. Only time will tell."



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Fire at a Brooklyn Warehouse Puts Private Lives on Display



how long?

Happy Anniversary

magna carta?



Magna Carta
June 15, 1215





"No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land. ... To no one will We sell, to no one will We deny or delay, right or justice."

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or magna curta?

from
parchment v paper
to
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parchment v paper
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parchment v bits?

Library (Copy under Revision)		
Hardwicke Library		
702		48
MS		
[Magna Carta and Laws and Statutes of England]		
		14th C
Large decorated initials in blue and red, rubrication		
144 vellum leaves, ms on verso and recto. Full early blind-stamped calf. Rebacked		
C91.		



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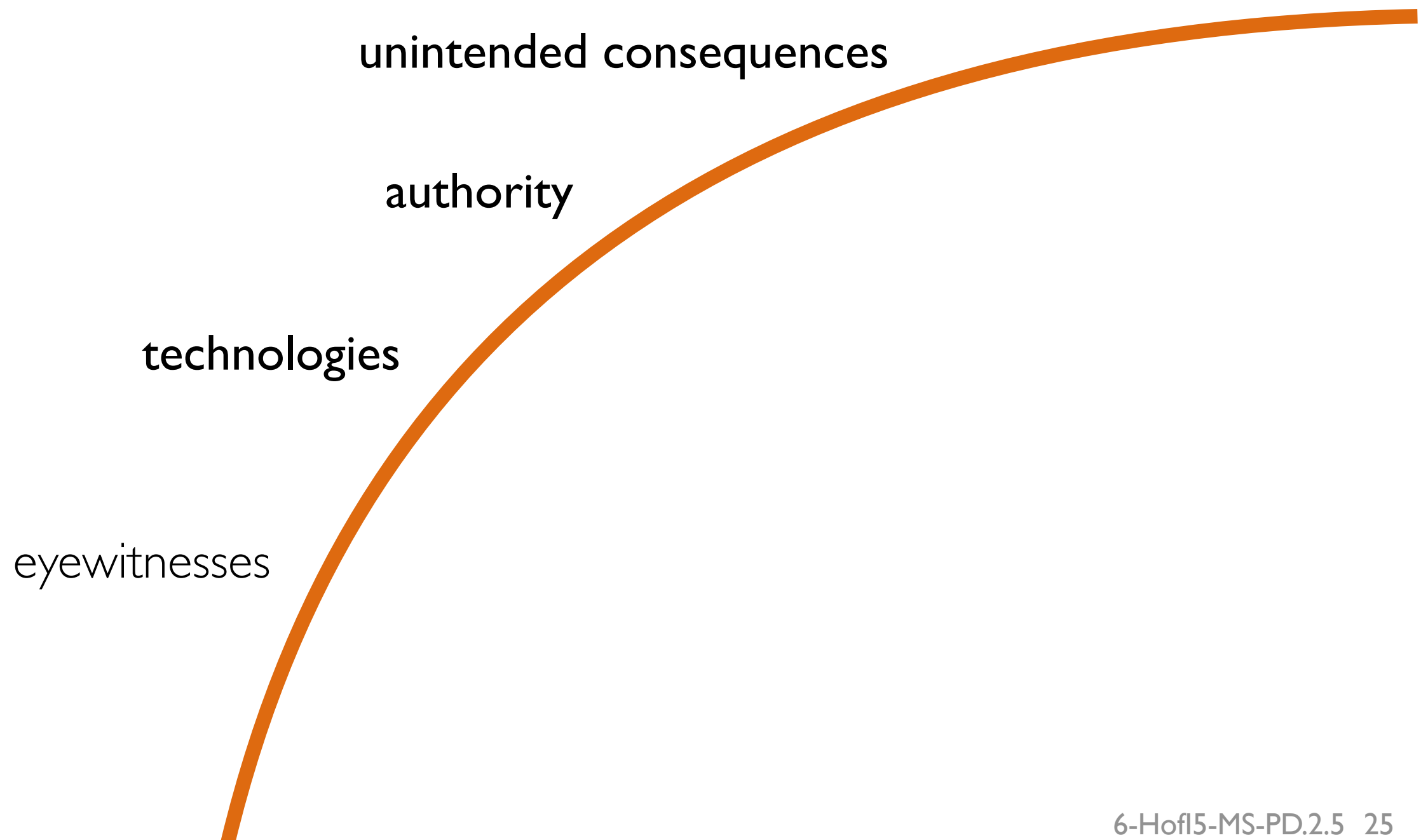
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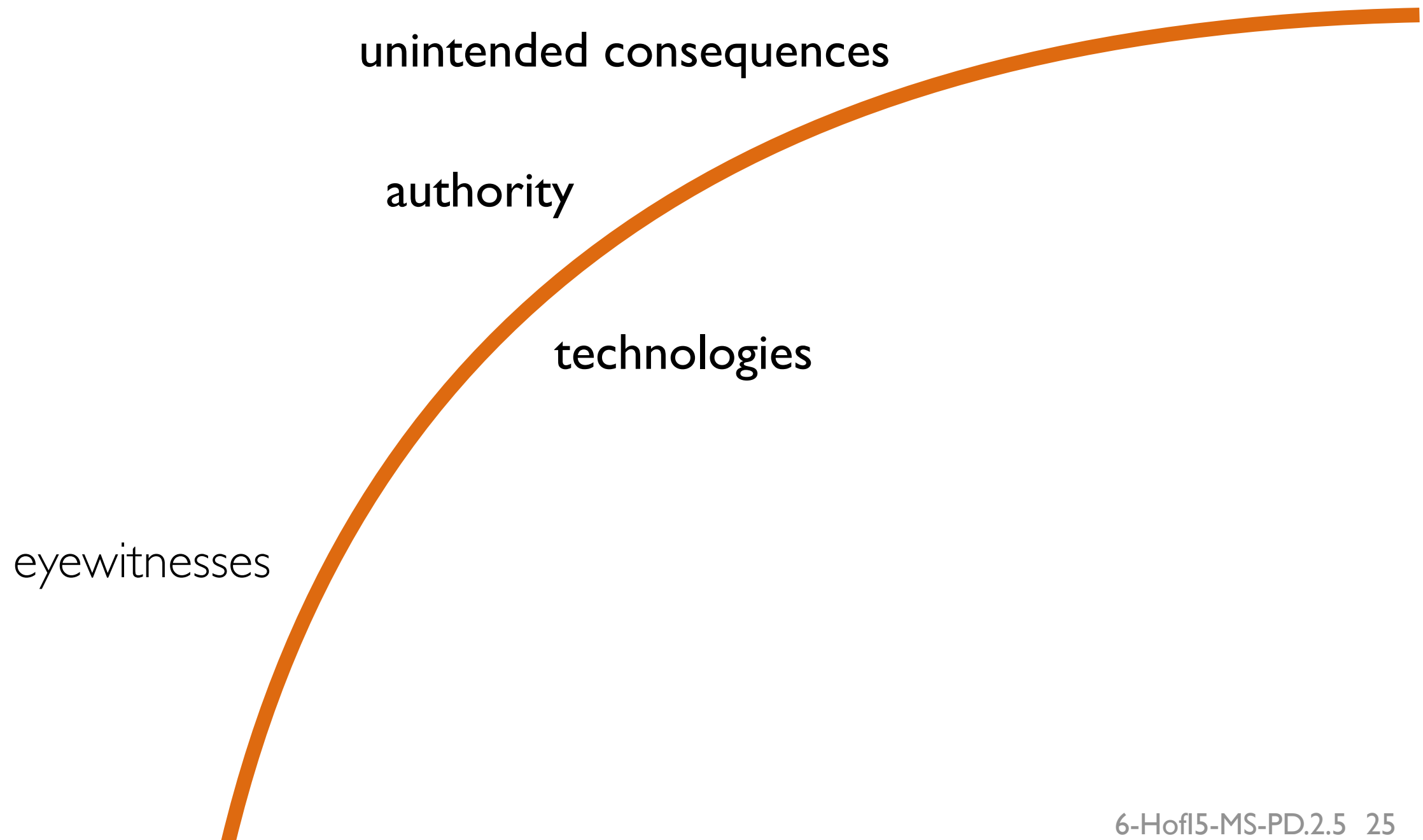


overview





overview





Bullae and tokens

Early cunieform

material matters

not just Havelock's alphabet?

stone

clay

wood

wax

parchment/vellum

papyrus

palm

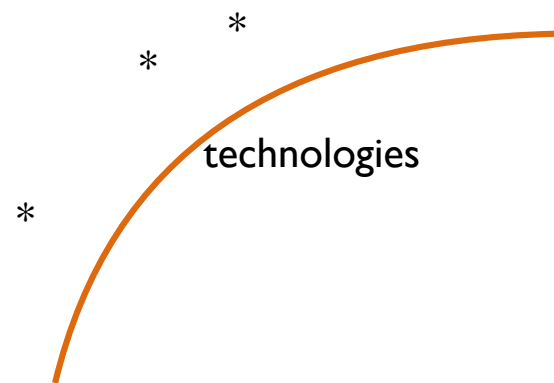
bamboo

silk

paper

ink





ink (and bark)

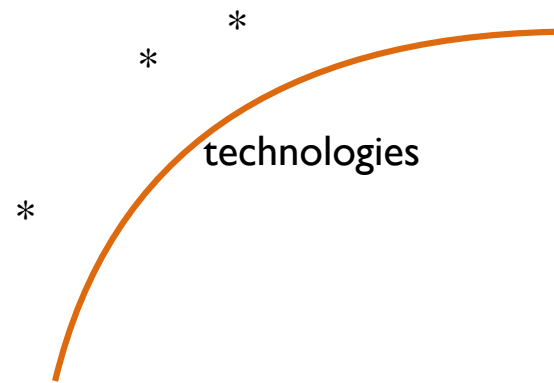
let's have a party

Claudia Severa to her Lepidina greetings. On 11 September, sister, for the day of the celebration of my birthday, I give you a warm invitation to make sure that you come to us, to make the day more enjoyable for me by your arrival, if you are present (?). Give my greetings to your Cerialis. My Aelius and my little son send him (?) their greetings. I shall expect you, sister. Farewell, my dearest soul, as I hope to prosper, and hail. To Sulpicia Lepidina, wife of Cerialis, from Severa."



Vindolanda
(Hadrian's Wall)
1-2 cent. CE





material changes

geographical determinism?

parchment at Pergamum

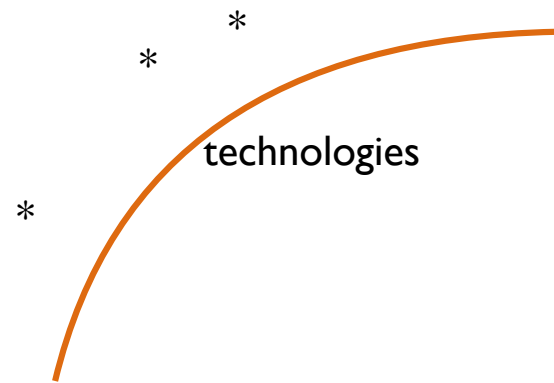
papyrus at Alexandria

palm in India (pattachitra)

bark

silk in China





material changes

geographical determinism?

parchment at Pergamum

papyrus at Alexandria

palm in India (pattachitra)

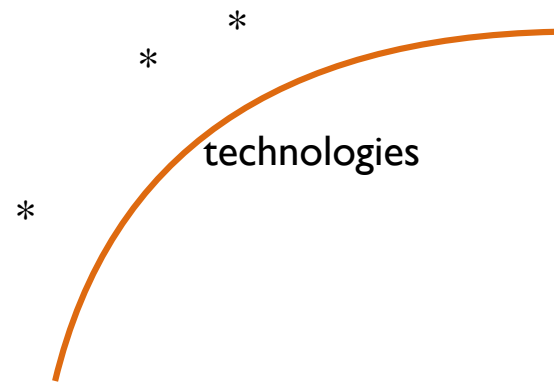
bark

silk in China

"the parchment alone in a fine Bible,
even allowing for the shorthand
script of the day, represented a flock
of perhaps three hundred sheep"

-- John North, *God's Clockmaker*, 2005





material changes

geographical determinism?

parchment at Pergamum

papyrus at Alexandria

palm in India (pattachitra)

bark

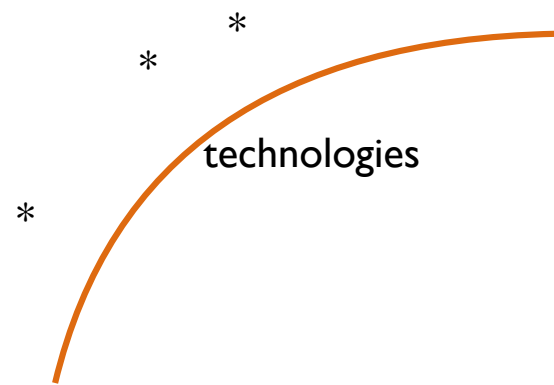
silk in China

"the parchment alone in a fine Bible,
even allowing for the shorthand
script of the day, represented a flock
of perhaps three hundred sheep"

paper

-- John North, *God's Clockmaker*, 2005





technological leaders?



Ts'ai Lun
62-121

paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century ce

India, 5th century

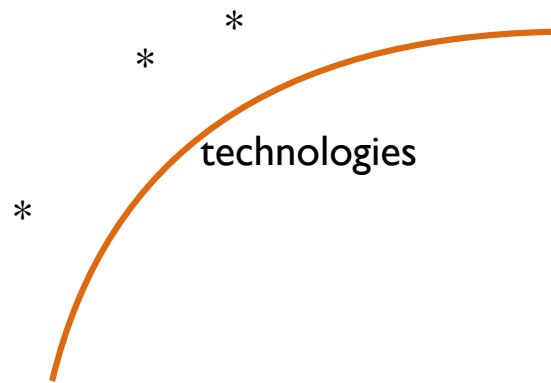
Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

-along the "Silk Road"



technological leaders?



Ts' ai Lun
62-121

paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century ce

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

-along the "Silk Road"

w. Europe:

Spain, 1056 [?]

Italy, 1255

France, 1348

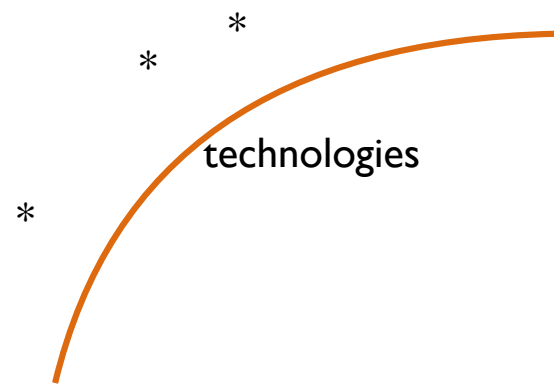
Germany, 1390

Switzerland, 1411

Britain, 1494

Russia, 1690

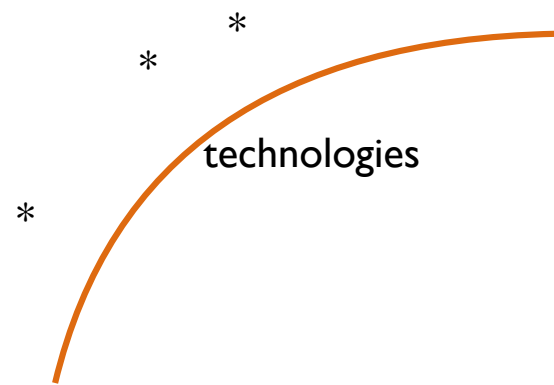
USA, 1690/1



“dark ages”

silk road dead end

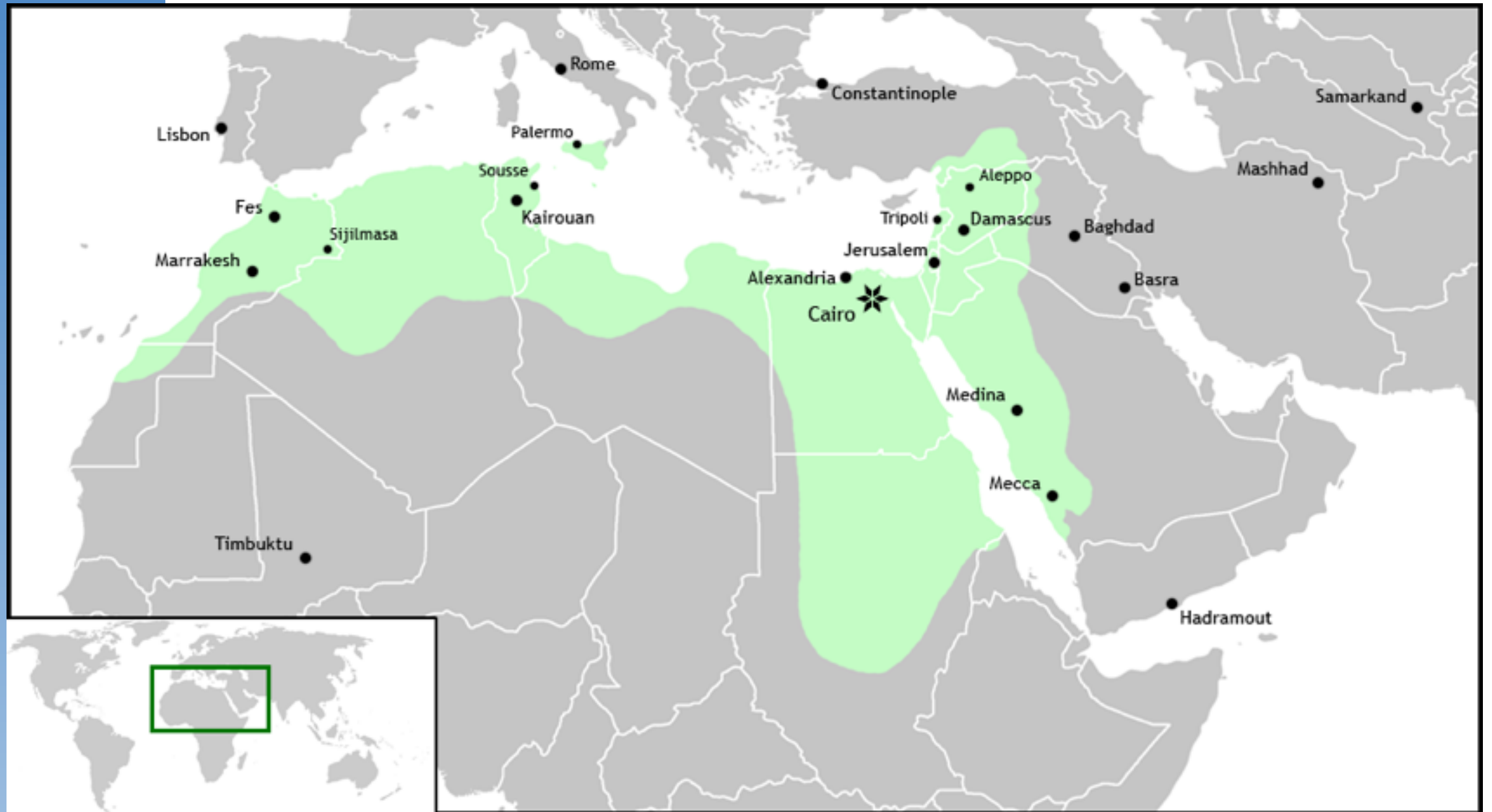


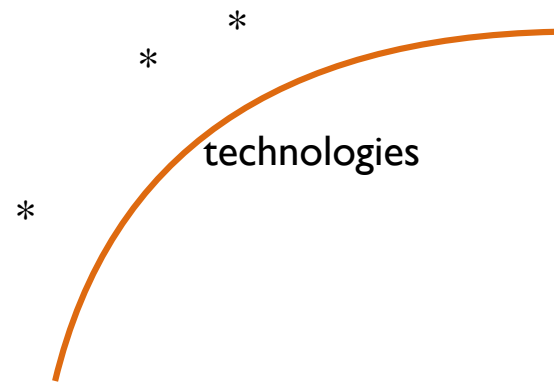


technologies

“dark ages”

silk road dead end





missing "revolution"?



rolled to flat

"the revolution between the second and fourth centuries that changed the very structure of the book by substituting the codex for the roll"

--Roger Chartier, *Forms and Meaning*, 1995

"Homerus ... Vergilius ... Cicero ... Titus Livy ... in membranus...quam brevis immensum cepit membrana"

—Martial (c38-103), *Epigrams*

"the pugillares"

--Knox





formal changes

parchment to paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

Western Europe, 11 century



formal changes

parchment to paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

Western Europe, 11 century

scroll to codex

Christians, 2d century

Islam, 8-9th century

Jews, 8-9th century

China, 9th (butterfly)

13th (thread binding)

Korea, ?12th century (sutra binding)

Japan 18th century



formal changes

parchment to paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

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Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

Western Europe, 11 century

scroll to codex

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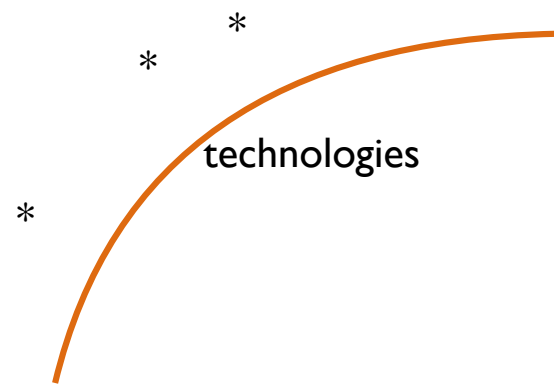
China, 9th (butterfly)

13th (thread binding)

Korea, ?12th century (sutra binding)

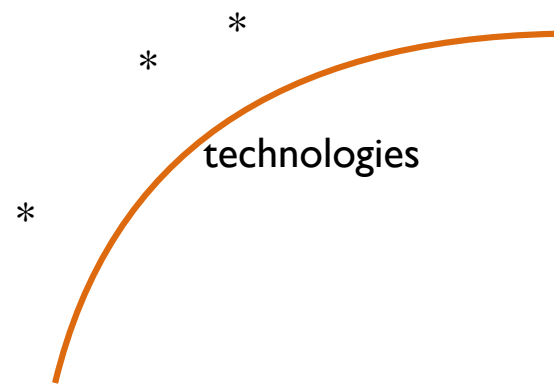
Japan 18th century

in reverse along the "Silk Road"?



codex - superior technology?

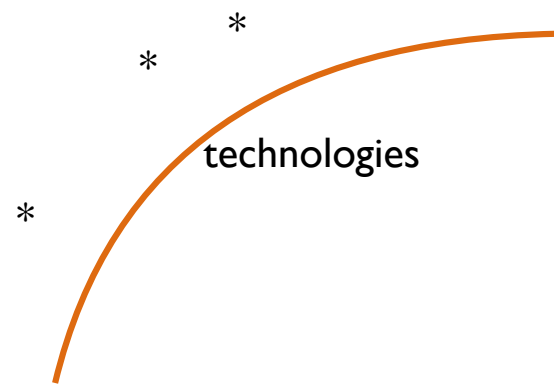




codex - superior technology?

order of importance?



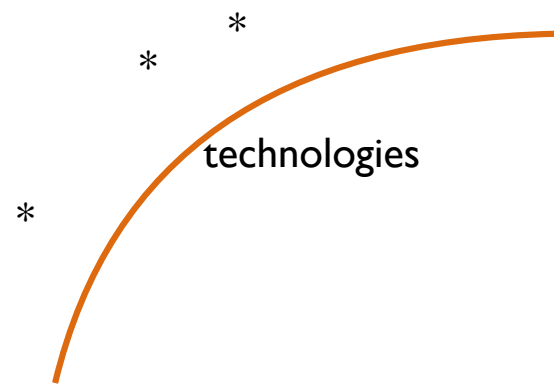


codex - superior technology?

order of importance?

pagination





codex - superior technology?

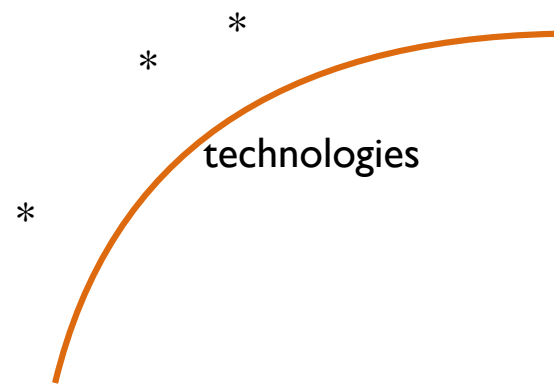


order of importance?

pagination

marginalia





codex

- superior technology?



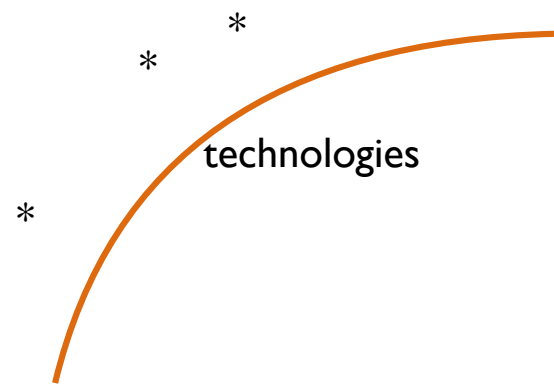
order of importance?

pagination

marginalia

footnotes





codex

- superior technology?



order of importance?

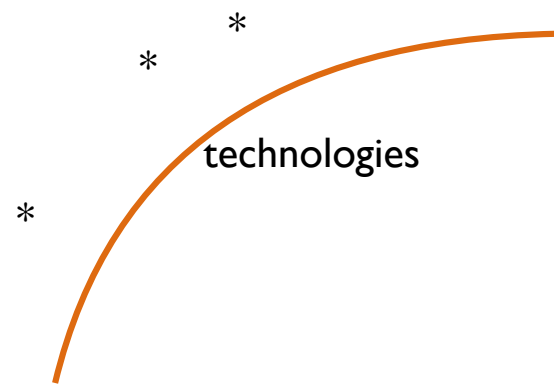
pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes





codex

- superior technology?



order of importance?

pagination

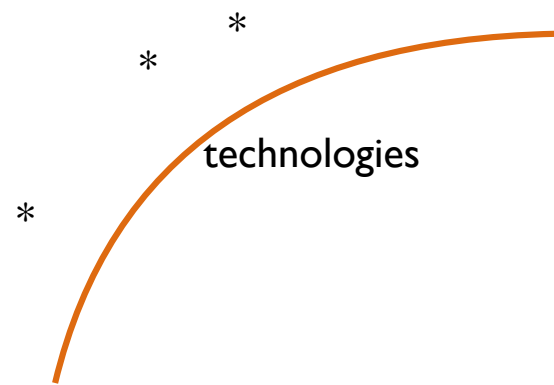
marginalia

footnotes

indexes

one handed





codex - superior technology?



order of importance?

pagination

marginalia

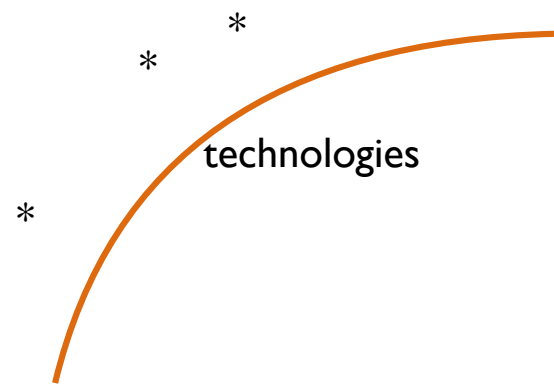
footnotes

indexes

one handed

two-sided





codex - superior technology?



order of importance?

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

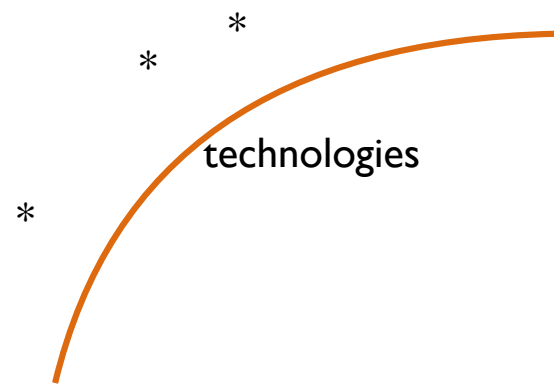
indexes

one handed

two-sided

random access





codex - superior technology?



order of importance?

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes

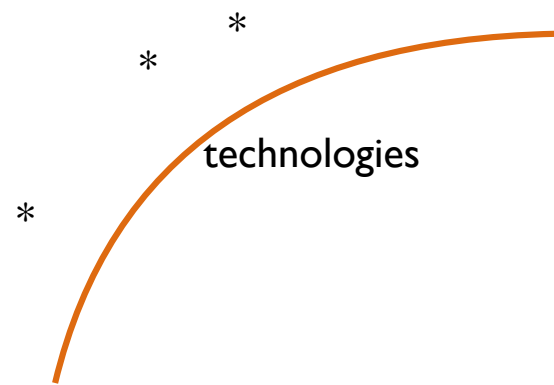
one handed

two-sided

random access

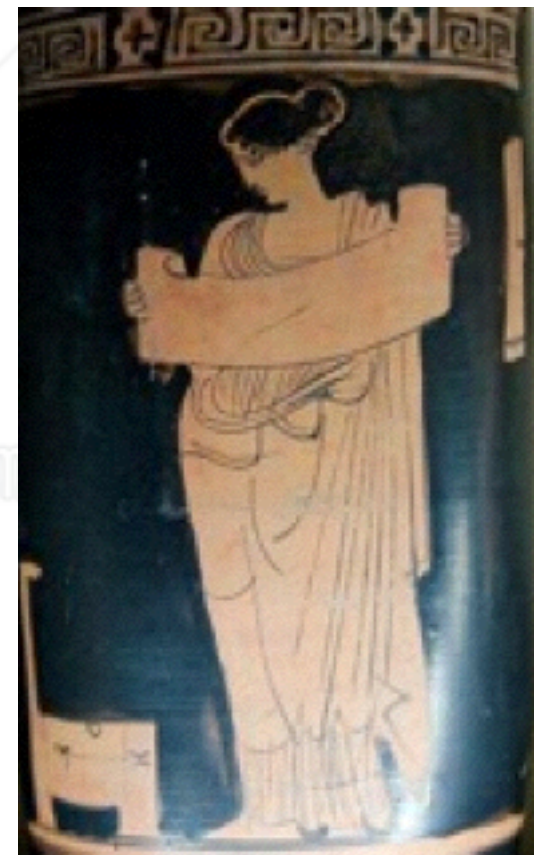


—Cavallo, "Du Volumen au Codex", 1997



trivializing the past?

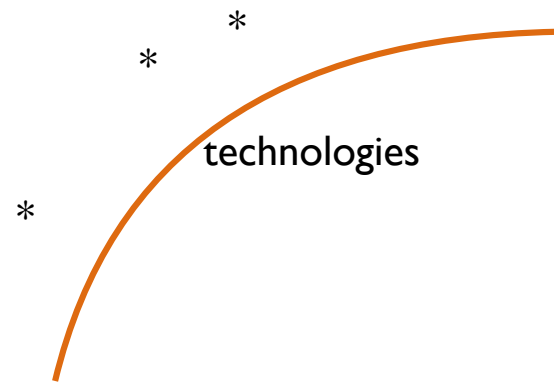
**handy
pages
divisions**
(incipits,
explicits,
colophons,
sillyboi)



Edwin Smith
Papyrus

c. 1600 ce

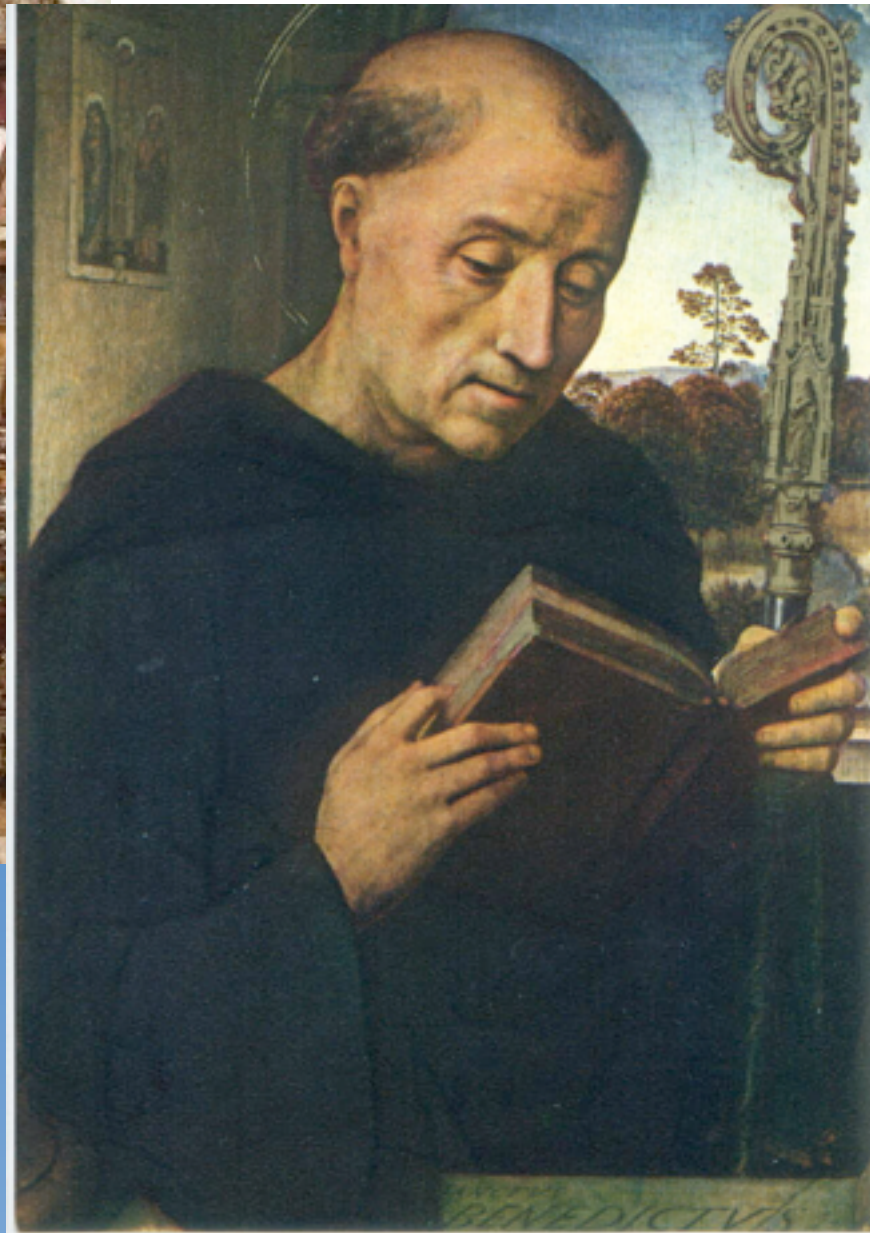
NY Academy of Medicine



technological triumph?

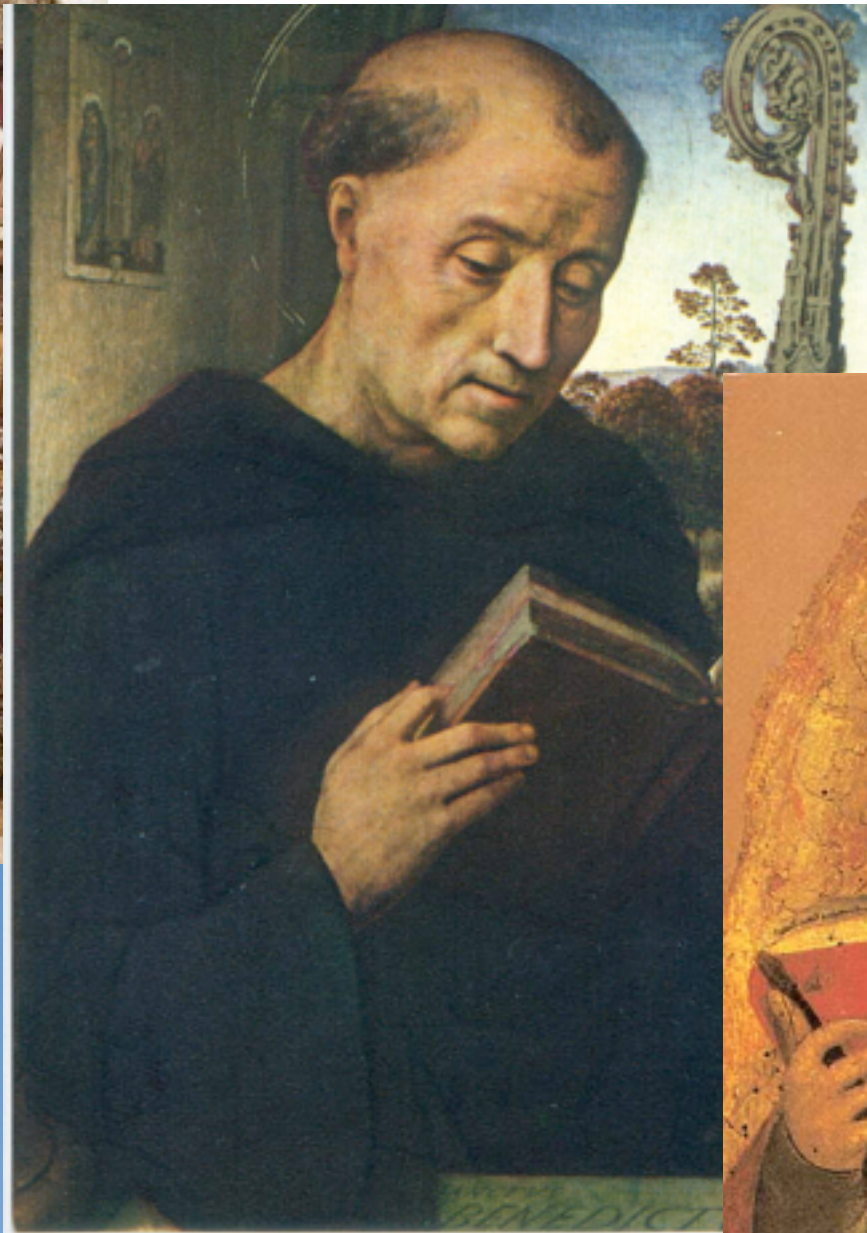


technological triumph?

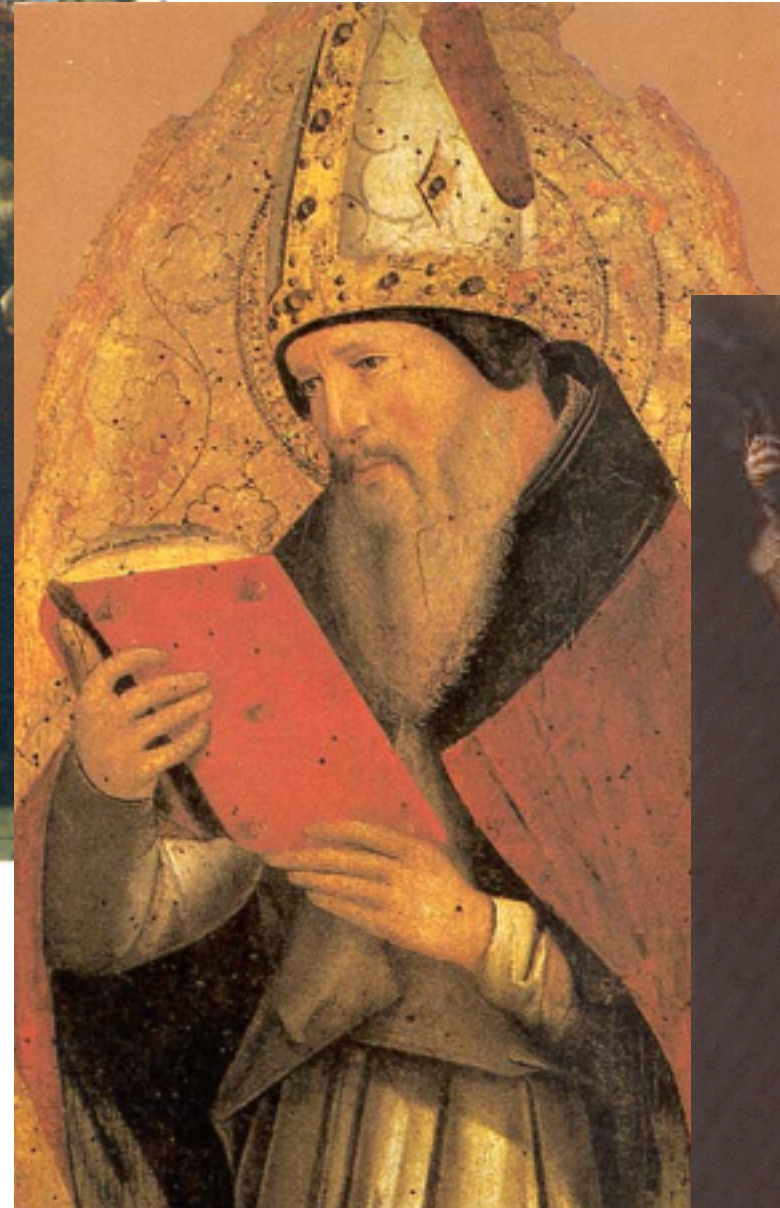
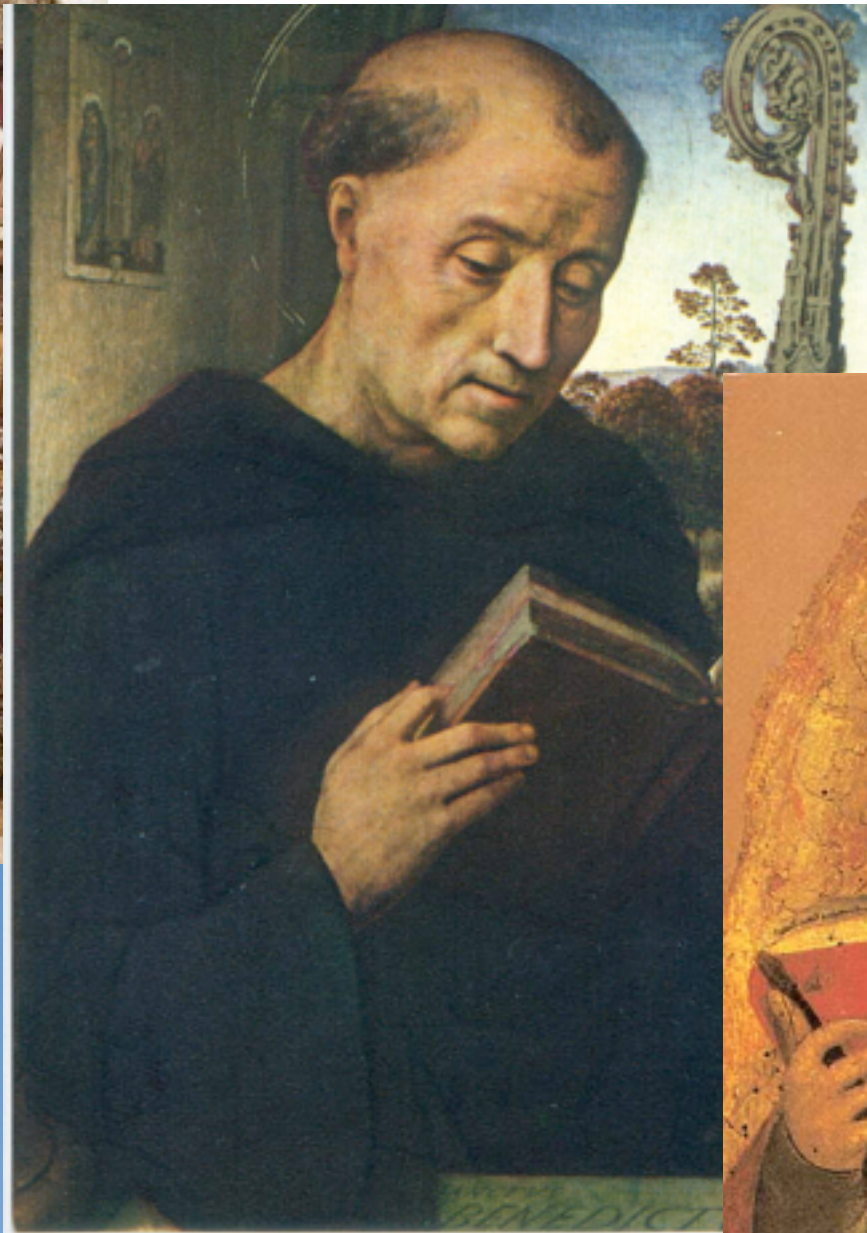


technological
triumph?

technological triumph?



technological triumph?





caveat lector

"In late antiquity, all **authority** was founded on Scripture...and the highest authority, the authority of the church, was represented by the codex."

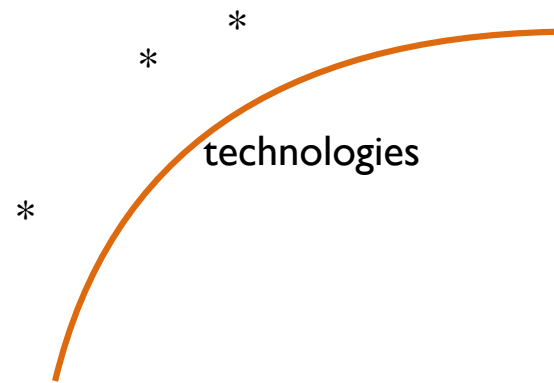
–Guglielmo Cavallo, "Du Volumen au Codex," 1997

"[P]agans ... continued to regard it as a culturally inferior form. In contrast, the great majority of Christian texts were already in the form of codices."

–Peter Stallybrass, "Books and Scrolls," 2002

"[A Jew] took an oath 'on his roll' ... whereas a Christian swore on the book of the Gospel."

–Michael Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993



what does this say of ...?

"The **need** for readily available information, which had been steadily rising, was accelerated by the advent of Christianity ..."

"The **need** to find information more rapidly than is possible in a papyrus-roll-form book initiated the development of the Greco-Roman codex in the second century ..."

– Frederick Kilgour,
The Evolution of the Book, 1998





critical advantage?

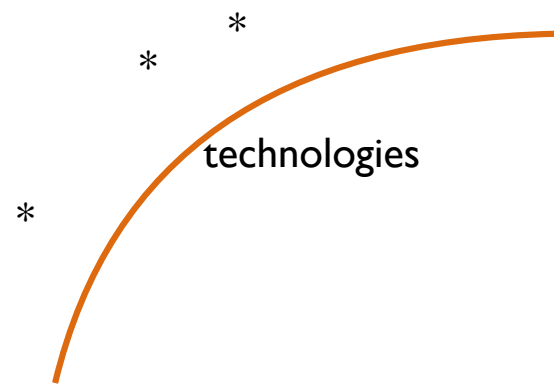
knowing your place?





kn





meanwhile ...

to the manor born

Earl's Court Manor Roll, 1554—enrolled, roll call

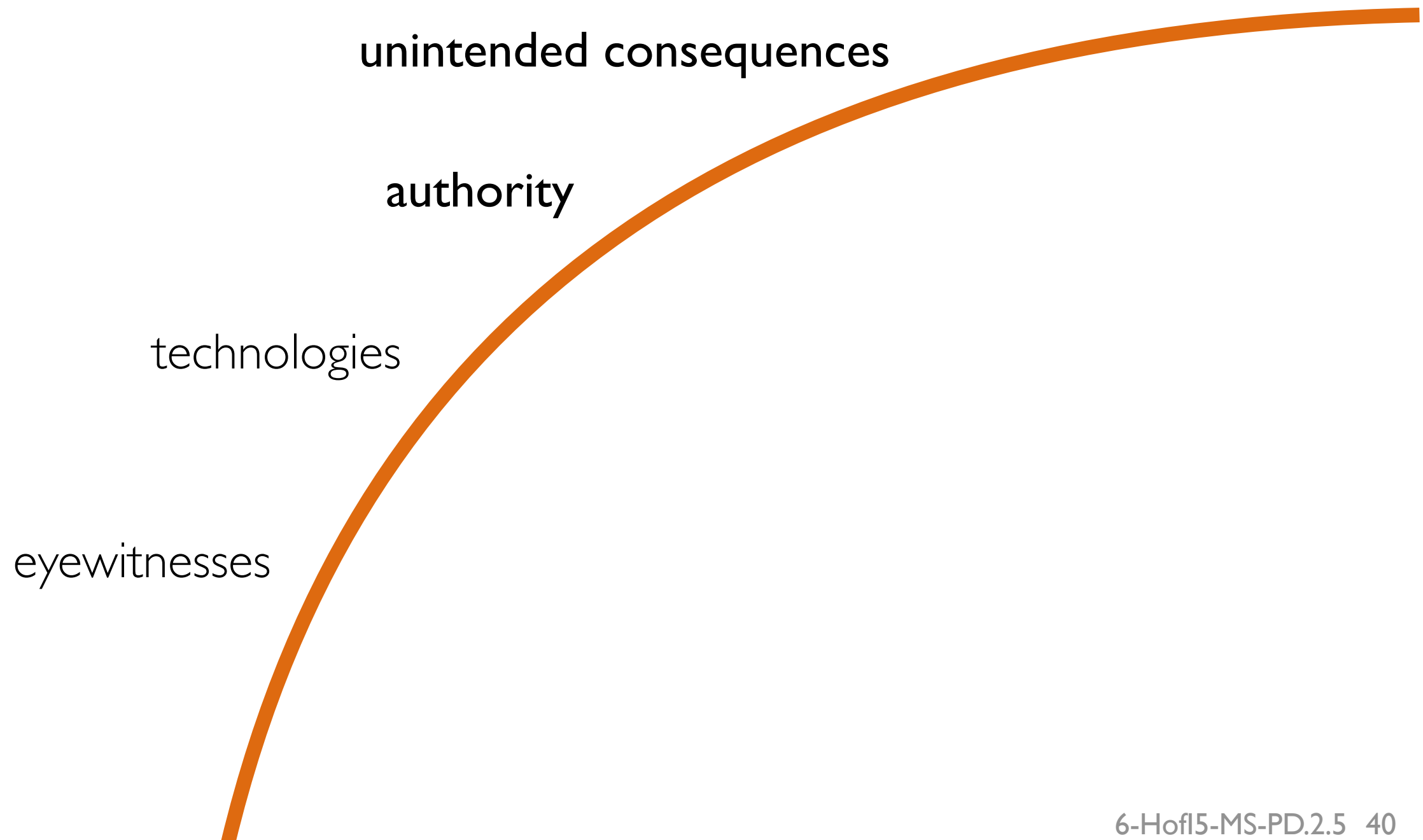


"Why medieval England ... kept its records predominantly in rolls remains a mystery."

—Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993

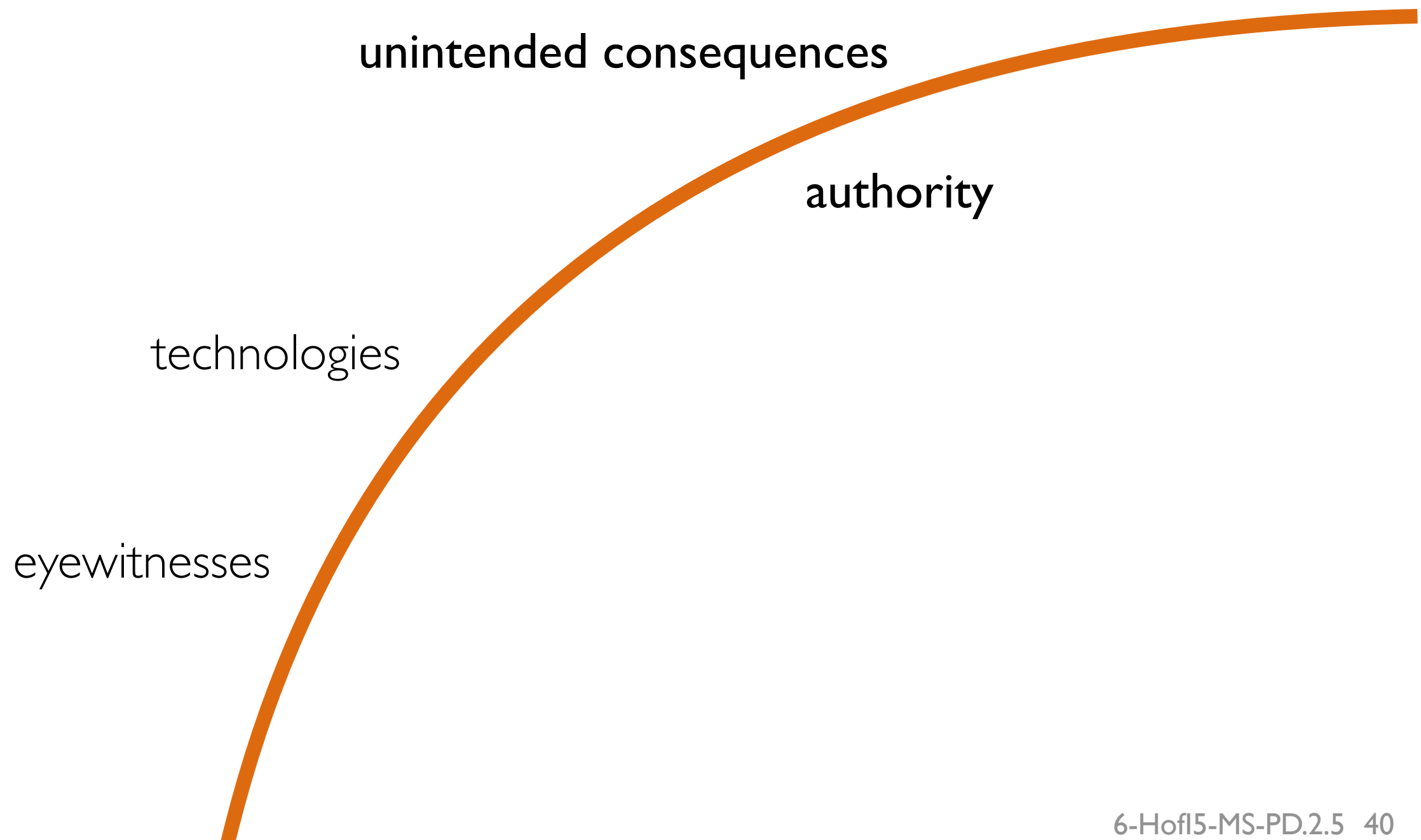


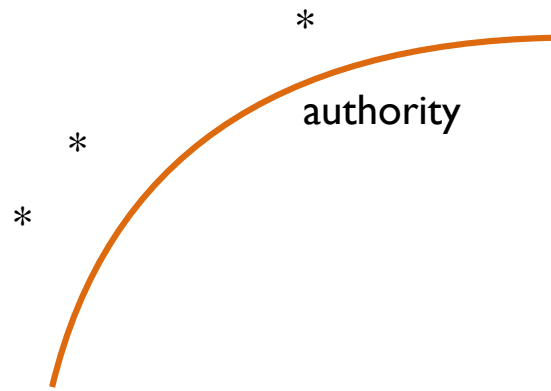
overview





overview





written receipts

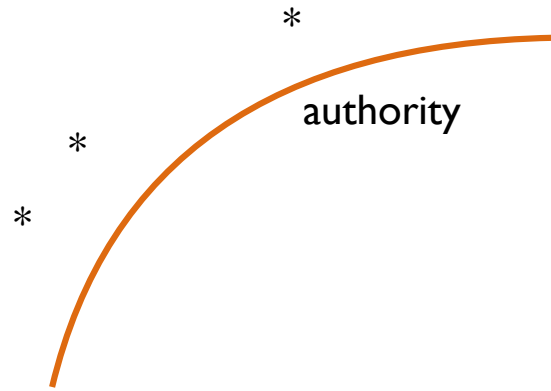


"The oldest writings to survive to our time were inscribed five thousand years ago by temple bureaucrats recording economic transactions ... crops, animals, manufactured goods"

-- Lerner, *The Story of Libraries*, 1998

"In the twelfth century... magnates used documents occasionally ... In the thirteenth .. laymen began to convey property to each other by charter; in the latter half ... this practice extended below the gentry class to some peasants.

-- Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993

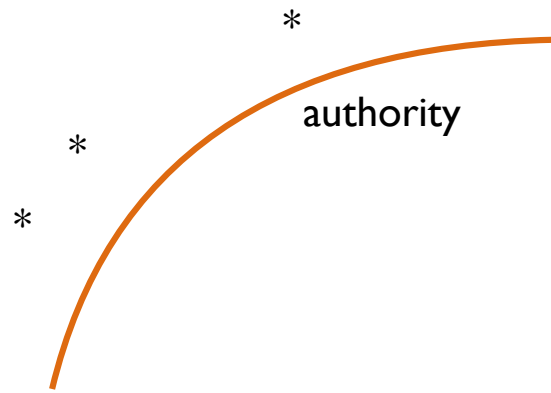


sounding like Socrates?

Hadith & Isnād

"documenting the authenticity of all transmission of knowledge ... truth does not reside in documents, however authentic, ancient, or well-preserved, but in authentic human beings ... Documents alone, without a line of persons possessed of both knowledge and righteousness ... are useless ... a book ... of no use without ... certification of master"

—Graham, *"Traditionalism in Islam,"* 1993



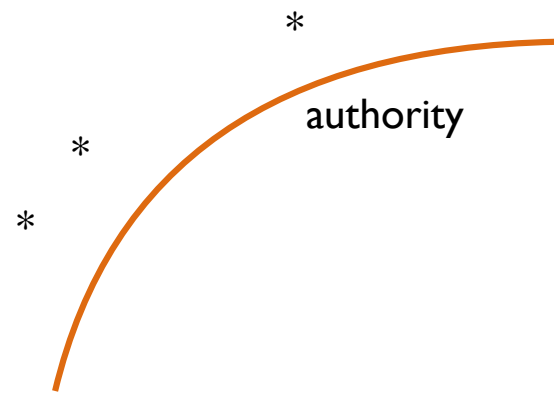
truthiness

documentary problems

"If you ask [documents] what they mean ...
they simply return the same answer over and
over again ..."

"Truth is not enough for you; you think it
matters who the speaker is and where he comes
from. ... "

–Phaedrus



what/who to trust?

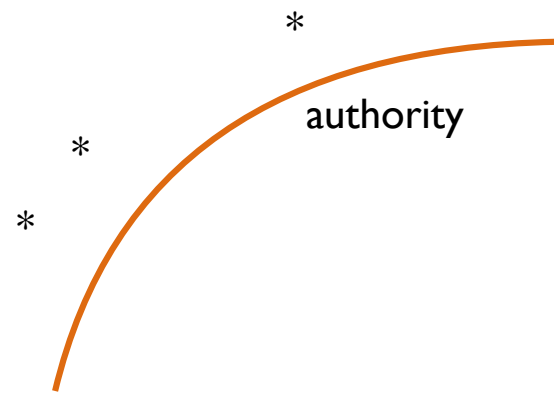


Henry I vs Anselm

"We don't accept the evidence of monks
bishops, why should we accept that of a
sheepskin?"



St Anselm
(1033-1109)

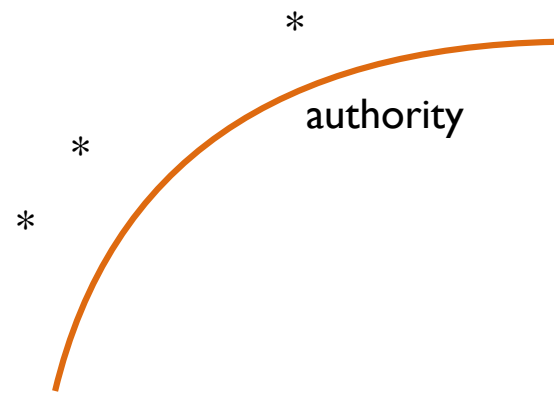


trustworthy?

donations of Constantine (c. 750-800)



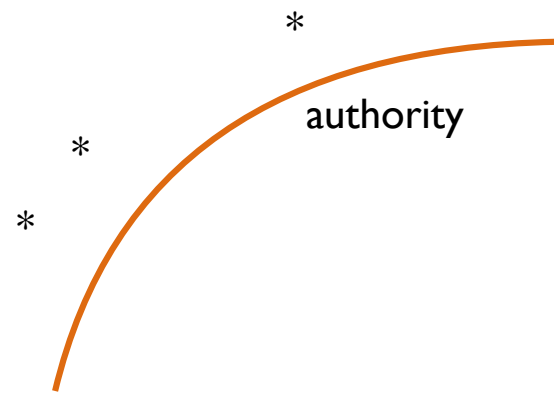
forgery recognized by Nicholas of Cusa, 1565



medieval contracts

medieval contracts



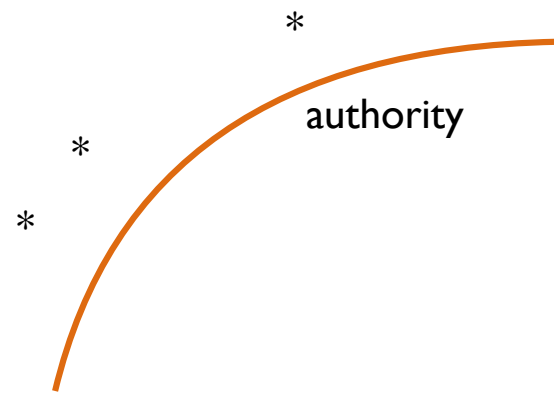


medieval contracts



medieval contracts



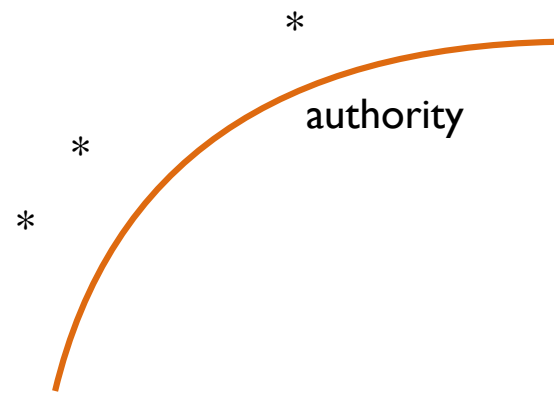


medieval contracts



medieval contracts



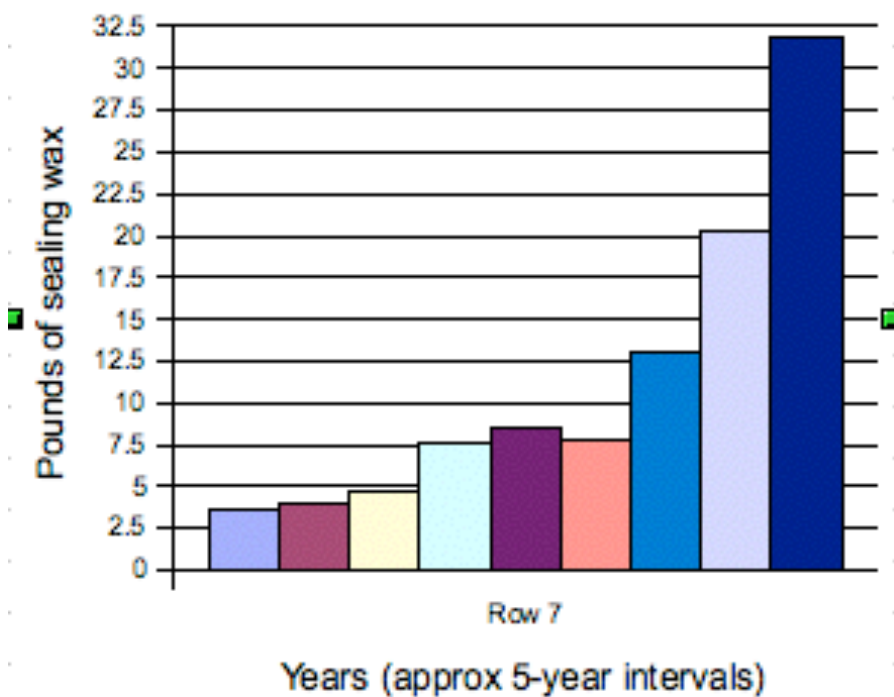


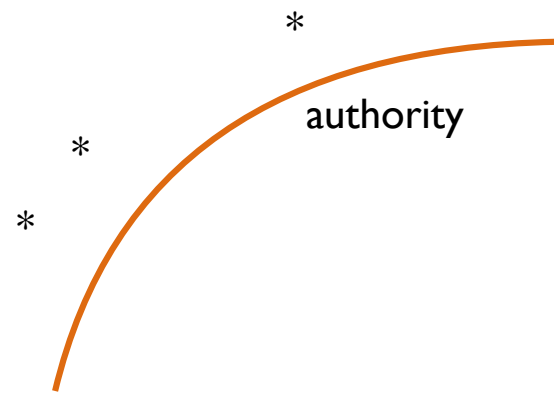
sealing the deal

icon/index/symbol



Sealing wax consumption, 1226-1271

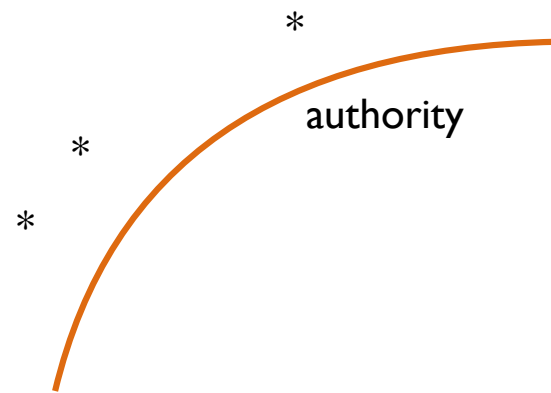




not just mediaeval

chirograph



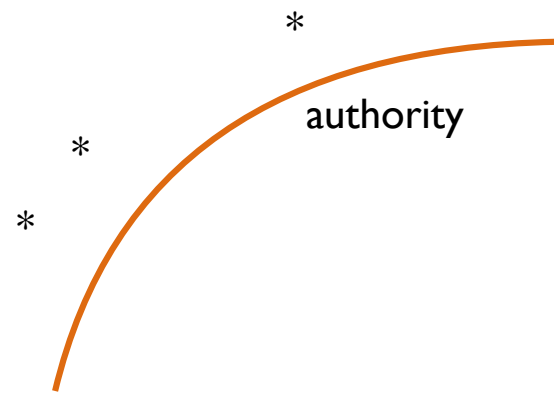


not just mediaeval

"Fine and
Recovery:
Conveyance of
property,
7th Ward NYC,
1793

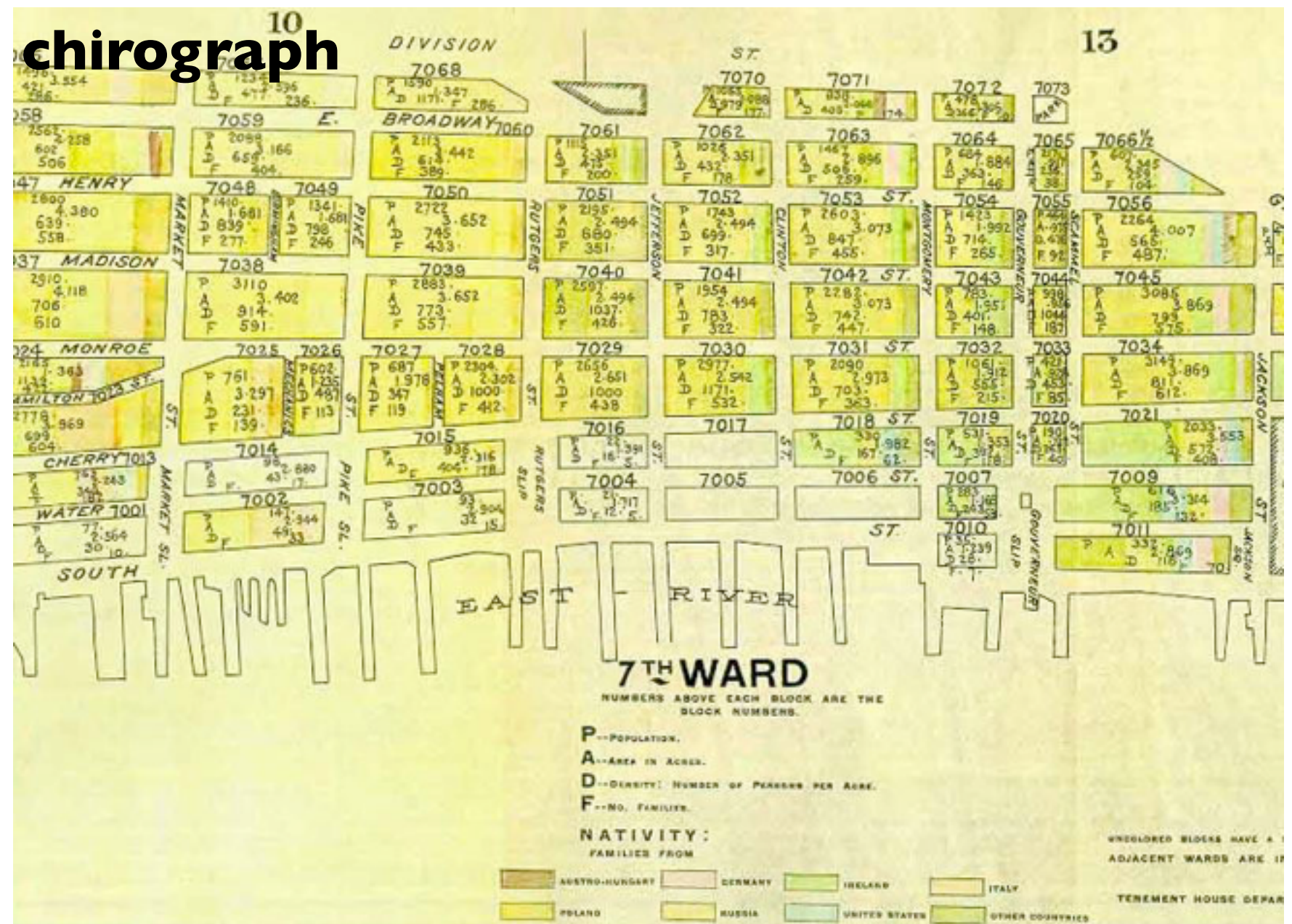
chirograph

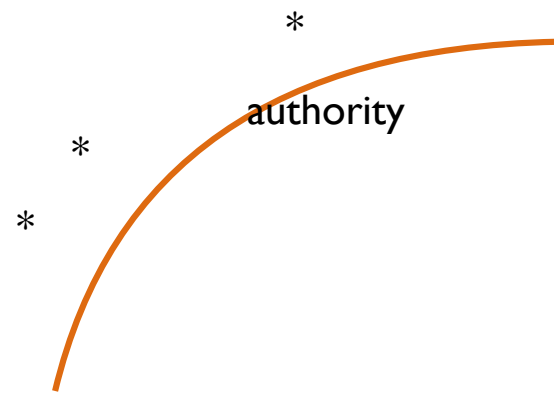




not just mediaeval

"Fine and Recovery:
Conveyance of
property,
7th Ward NYC,
1793





documenting ownership

Buri Buri land grant 1827-1872

Title:

[Diseño del Rancho Buri Buri : San Mateo Co., Calif.]

Description:

4362 B84 On verso: Deposited ... November 30th, 1860. From: U.S. District Court, California, Northern District. Land Case 101 ND, page 481; land case map D-231 (Bancroft Library). José de la Cruz Sanchez, clmt. Pen-and-ink and watercolor. Relief shown by shading.

Creator/Contributor:

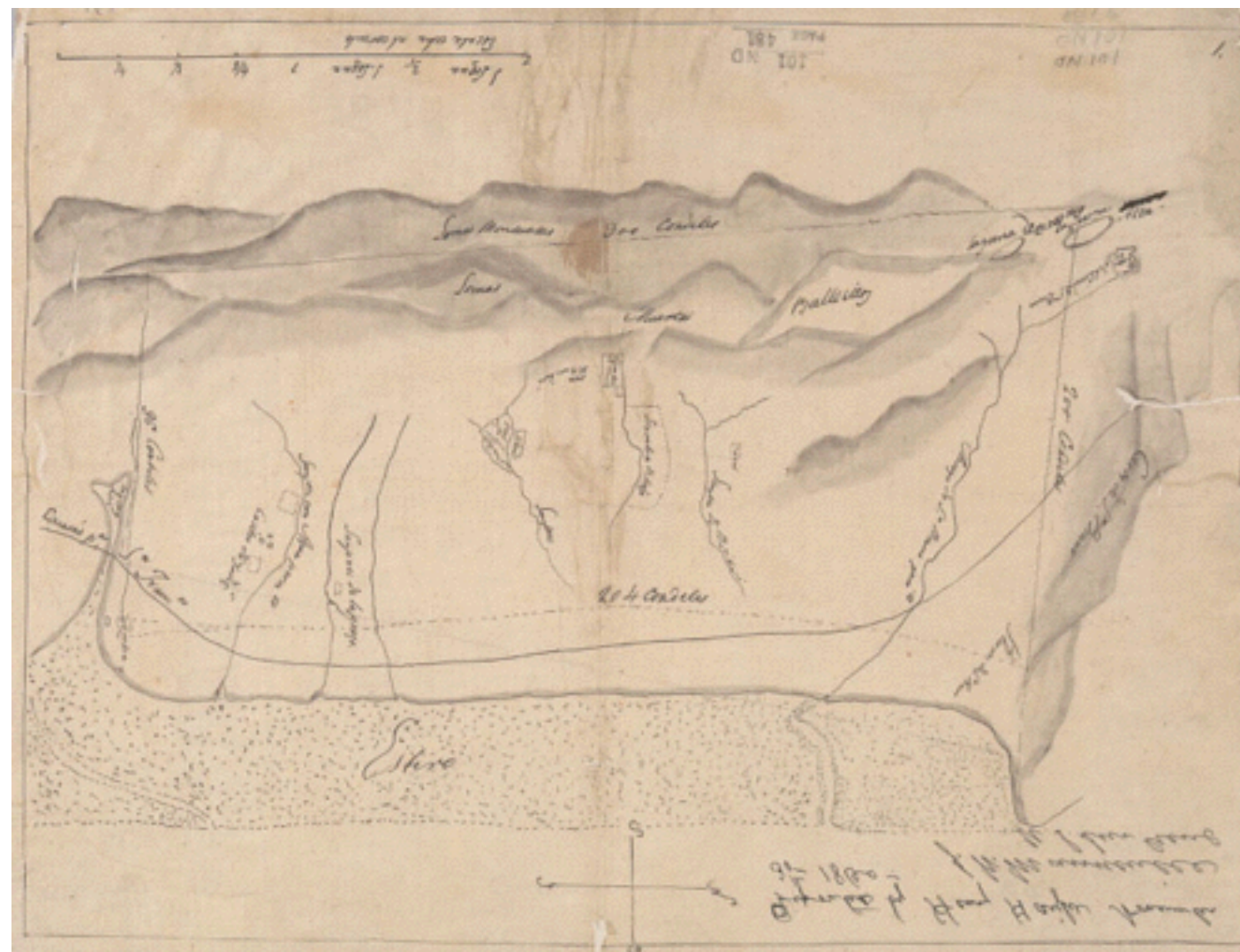
United States. District Court (California : Northern District). Land case. 101, Related Name Indexing Term

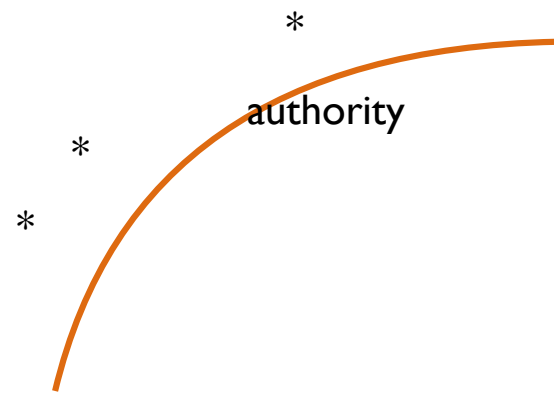
Date:

1860

Contributing Institution:

UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library





documenting ownership

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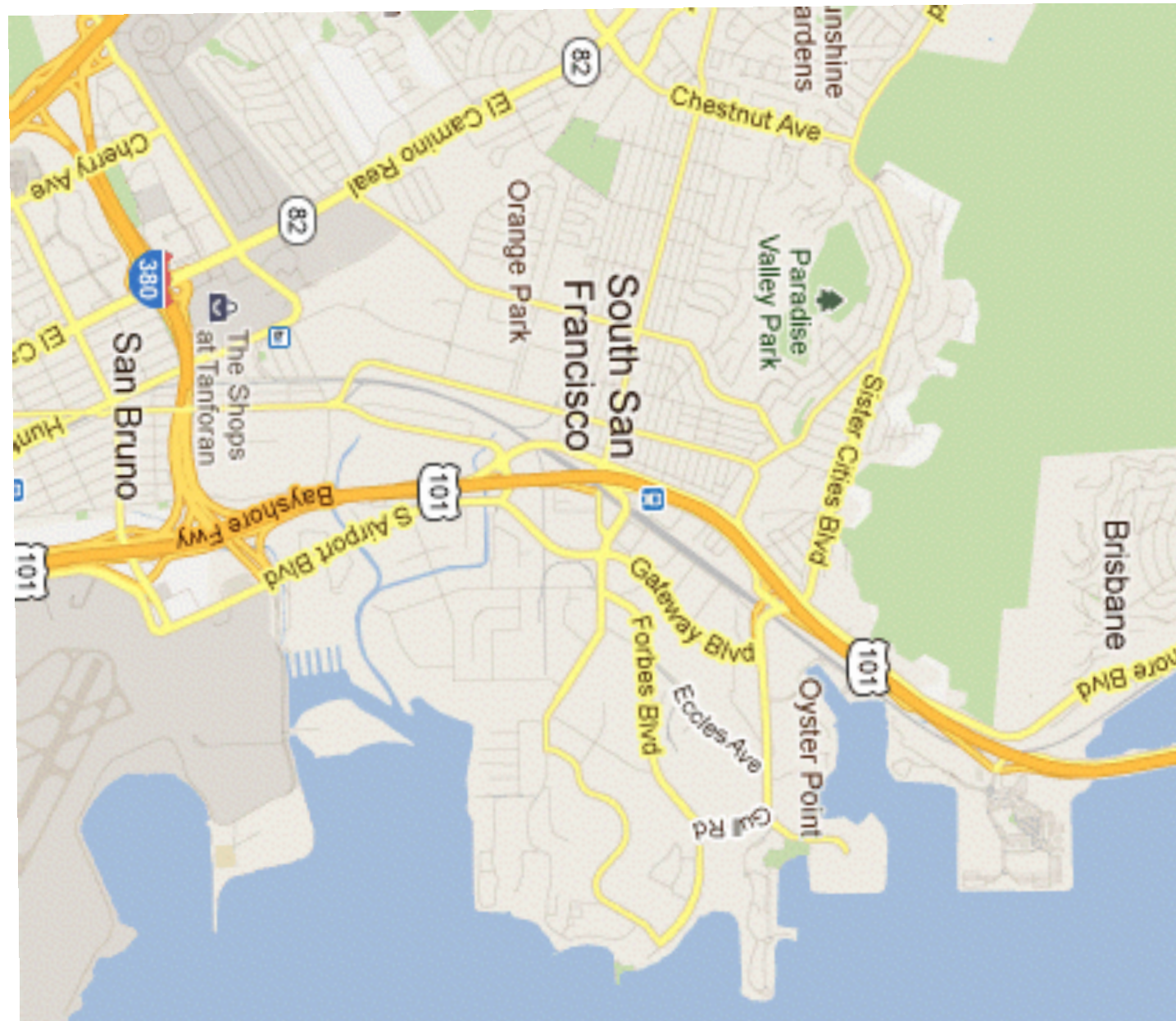
United States. District Court (California : Northern District). Land case. 101, Related Name Indexing Term

Date:

1860

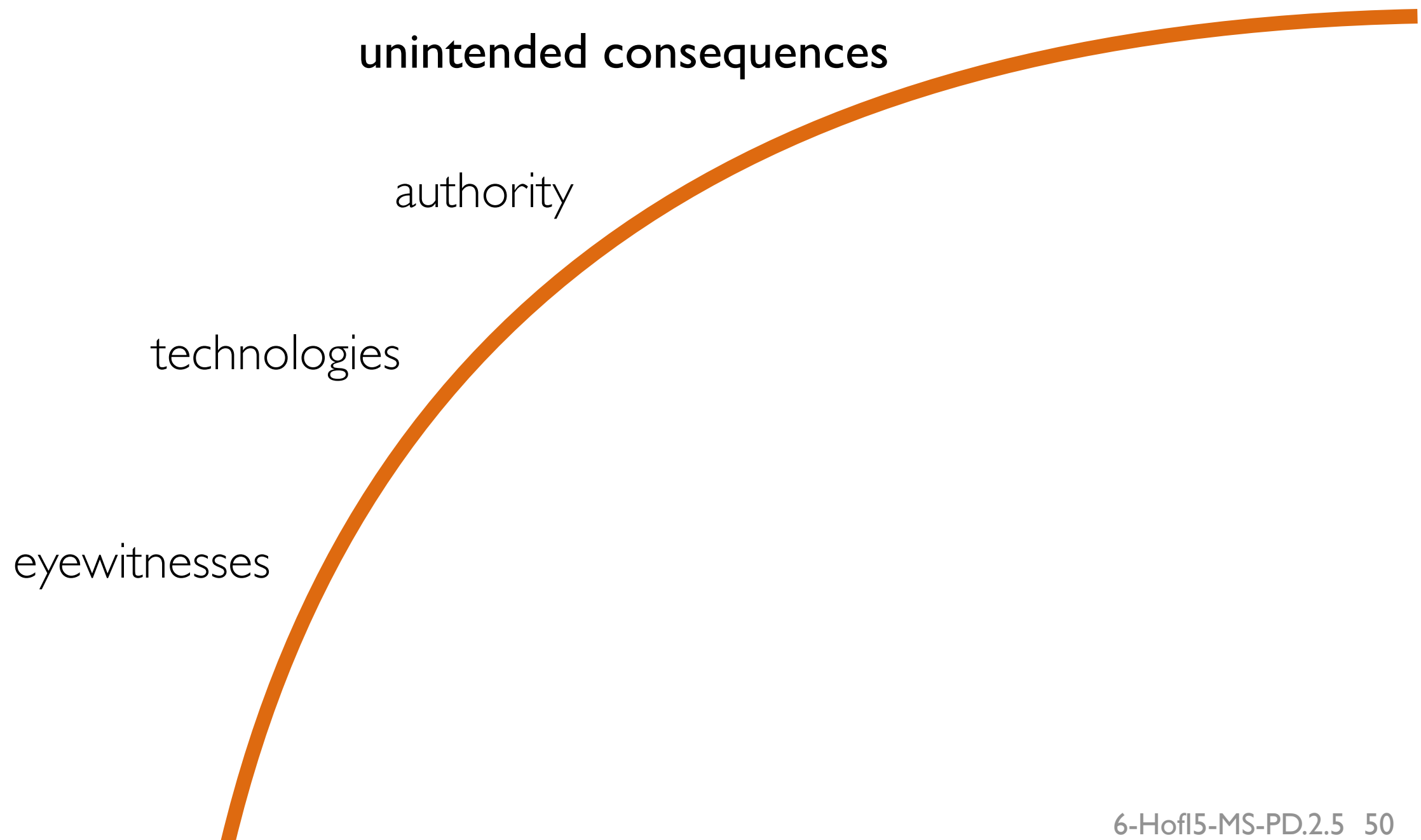
Contributing Institution:

UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library





overview

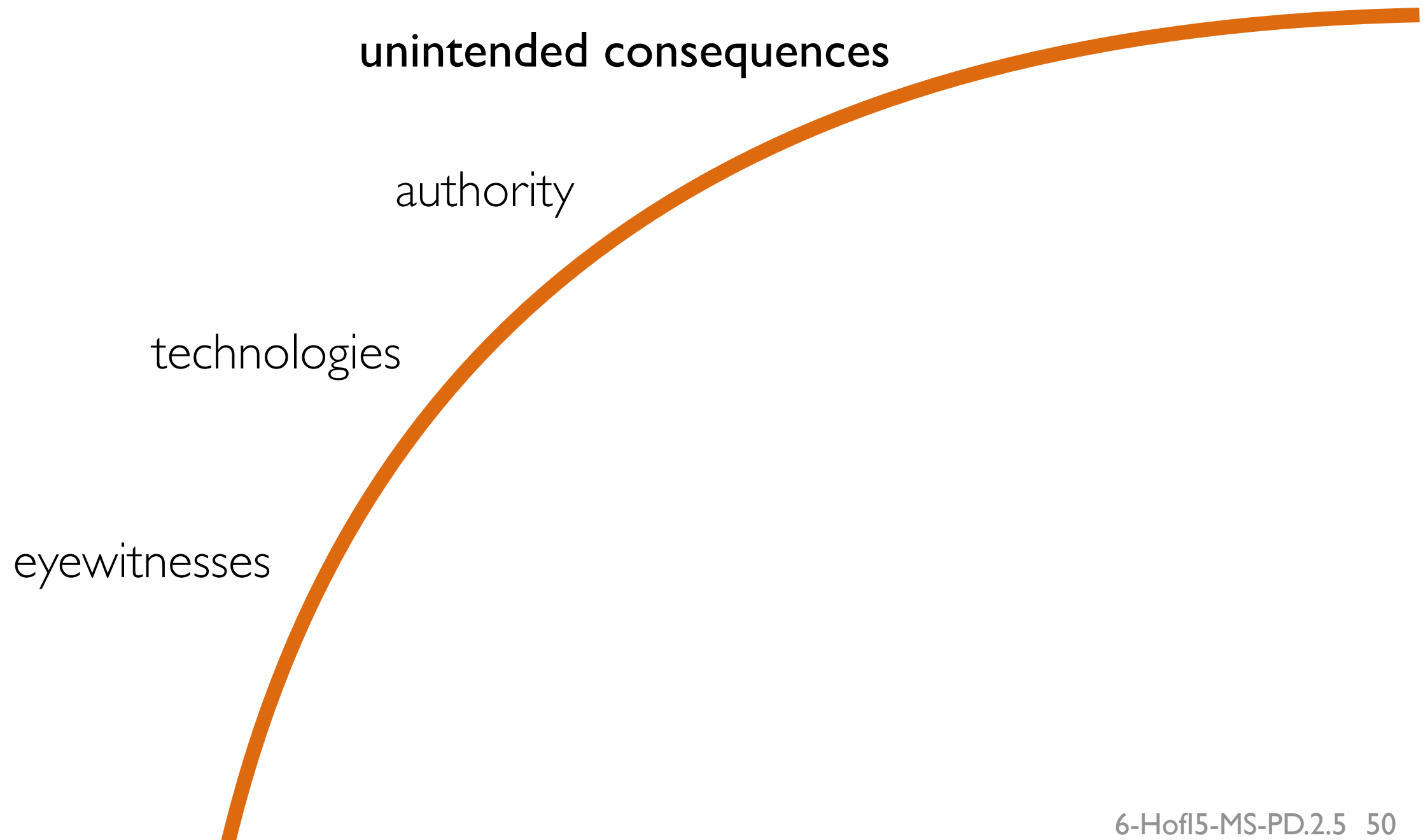




Discovered as a possibility, television ...
(v)... had unforeseen consequences



overview





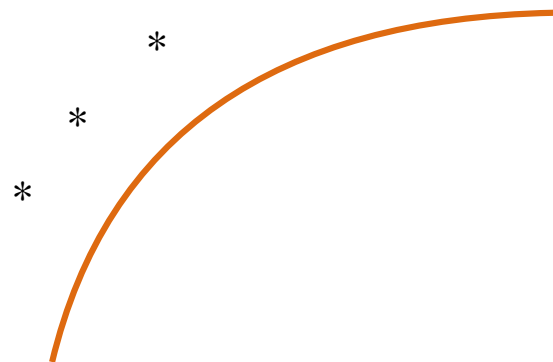
unintended consequences

quo warranto? — the true forgery?

"No document coming from such centres of proved fabrication as Westminster, Evesham, Winchester cathedral, Chertsey and Malmesbury should be accepted at its face value without close examination. ... Ancient monasteries like Chertsey had traditionally forged charters. Now that the king was keeping copies ... abbots ensured that their forged documents were reinforced by inspection in the Chancery and enrollment among the royal records. The Chancery rolls, which were intended to prevent fraud, thus became a means of making forgeries official."

—Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*

unintended consequences



science of diplomatics



Jean Mabillon (1632-1707)

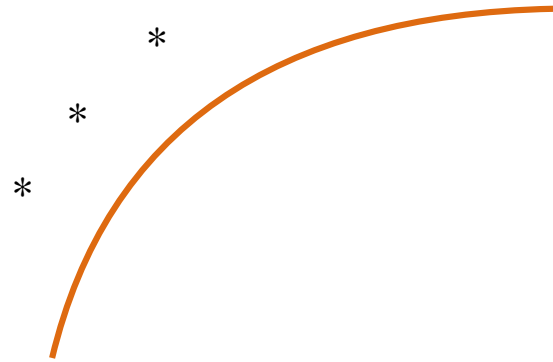
De Re Diplomatica, 1681

"the Reformation era ... bringing to light thousands of documents .. hitherto inaccessible and unknown. ... France pioneered in this new historical research ... Mabillon Montfaucon."

– James Thompson,
"The Age of Mabillon," 1942



unintended consequences



from authority to ...

a guide to forgery

Mabillon "had exposed the fabricated charters of the Carmelite Father Andrew, in a model memorandum which later fell into the forger's hand, and was taken by him to heart with such good effect that he was able with a subsequent fabrication to have his revenge by planting one of his forgeries ... on Mabillon himself"

–David Knowles

“At first, the team
deemed it a
breakthrough for
fertility, not birth
control.”

goodheart's law

moral hazard



“At first, the team
deemed it a
breakthrough for
fertility, not birth
control.”



goodheart's law

moral hazard





"this will kill that"?

manuscript after print

accounting

music

note taking

personal communication

"subversive forms"



festina lente



a *real* “revolution” at last?

and so to Gutenberg

WEEK 4

10 Feb: Print "Revolution"

Required Readings

Erasmus, Desiderius. 2001 [1506], *The Adages of Erasmus*. William Barker (ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Read: "Festina Lente" (Adage III.1) pp. 132-153.

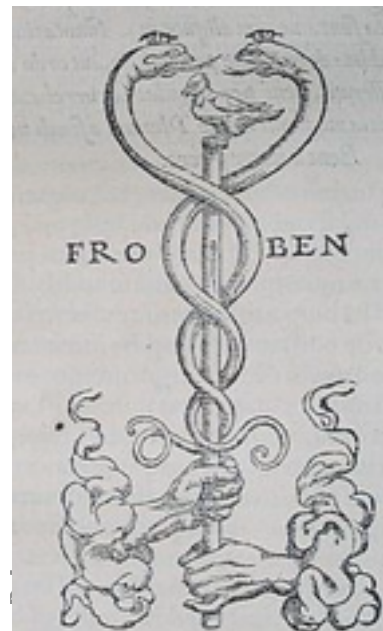
Source: Will be scanned and posted to bCourses.

"How Luther Went Viral", *Economist*, 2011, Dec 17.

Source: economist.com [[hyperlink](#) ↗]

Additional Materials

Listen to *Economist* discussion at the same link.



Johann Froben's
dove and serpents



assignment



The print "revolution" is said to have transformed scholarship, science, religion, and politics almost instantaneously. Choose one and argue whether the argument in "Festina Lente," Erasmus's early discussion of printing and the great printer Aldus Manutius, backs the claim of transformation and whether Erasmus thereby manages to dismiss the concerns of Socrates or Trithemius?



assignment



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