

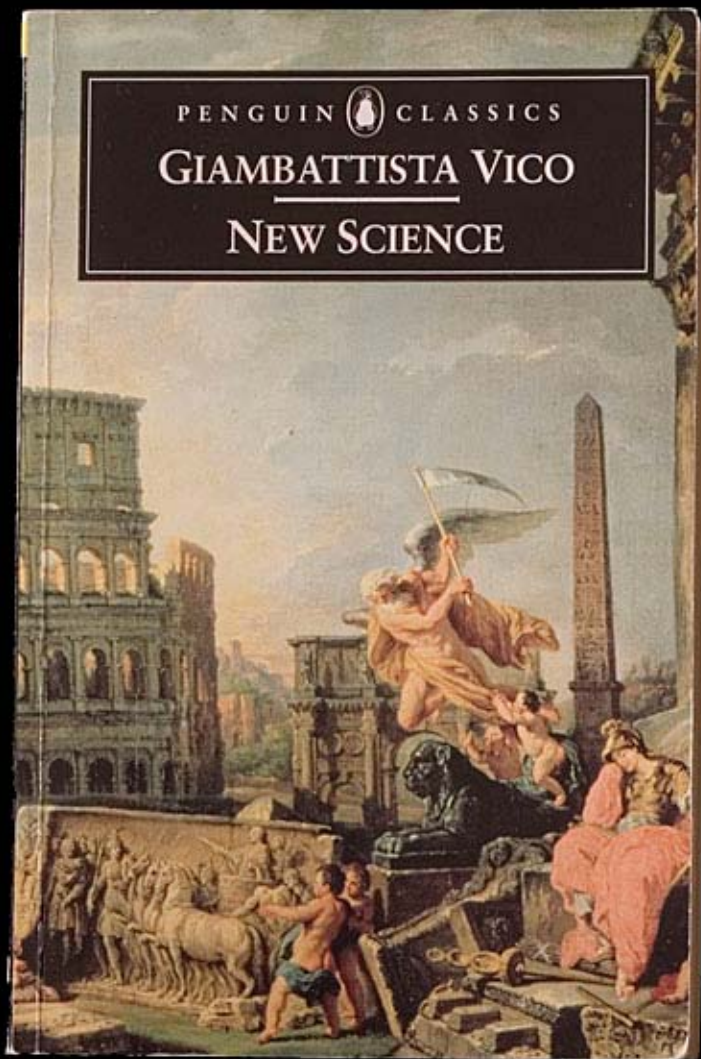
# *Vico duodecimo Axiom 65*

Dennis Letbetter, photographer

Jack W. Stauffacher, printer

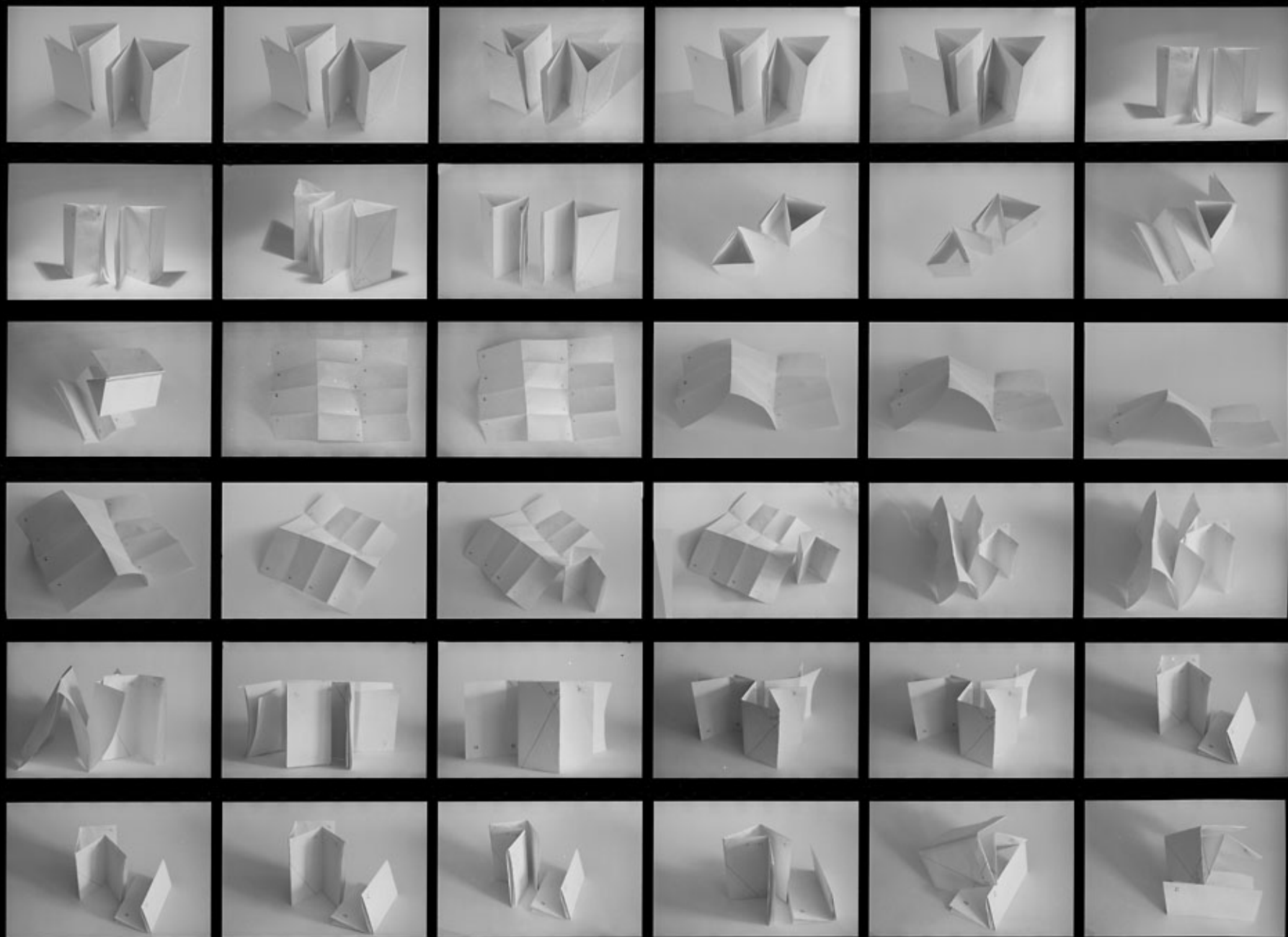
Giambattista Vico, philosopher

2006



*Vico duodecimo Axiom 65*





Vico duodecimo  
Axiom 65



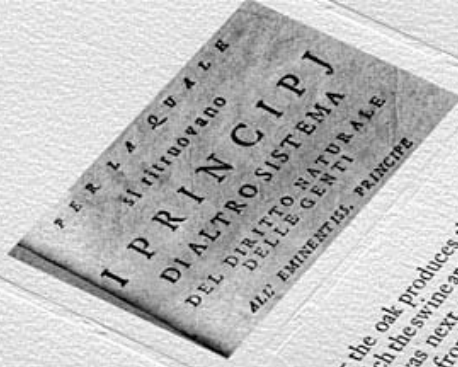
LXV: 139 This was the order of human institutions: first the forests, after that the huts, then the villages, next the cities, and finally the academies.  
140 This axiom is a great principle of etymology, for this sequence of human institutions sets the pattern for the histories of words in the various native languages.  
Thus we observe in the Latin language that almost the whole corpus of its words had sylvan or rustic origins. For example, *lex*. First it must have meant a collection of acorns. Thence we believe is derived *silva*, as it were *silva*, the oak (as certainly *aquilex* means collector of waters);

for the oak produces the acorns by which the swine are drawn together. *Lex* was next a collection of vegetables, from which the latter were called, *legumina*. Later on, at a time when vulgar letters had not yet been invented for writing down the laws, *lex* by a necessity of civil nature must have meant a collection of citizens, or the public parliament, so that the presence of the people was the *lex*, or 'law', that solemnized the wills that were made *caeteris cominus*, in the presence of the assembled *comitia*. Finally collecting letters, and making, as it were, a sheaf of them for each word, was called *legere*, reading.

Vico duodecimo  
Axiom 65

LXV 2:39 This was the order of human institutions: first the forests, after that the huts, then the villages, after the cities, and finally the academies.  
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Thus we observe in the Latin language that almost the whole corpus of its words had sylvan or rustic origins. For example, *lex*. First it must have meant a collection of acorns. Thence we believe is derived *illex*, as it were *illex*, the oak (as certainly *aculex* means collector of waters);



for the oak produces the acorns by which the swine are drawn together. *Lex* was next a collection of vegetables, from which the latter were called, *legumina*. Later on, at a time when vulgar letters had not yet been invented for writing down the laws,

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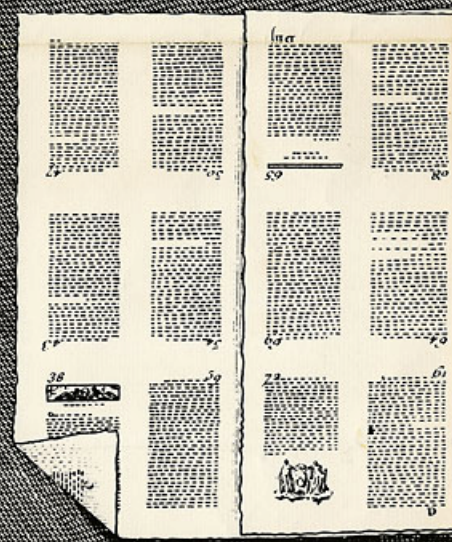
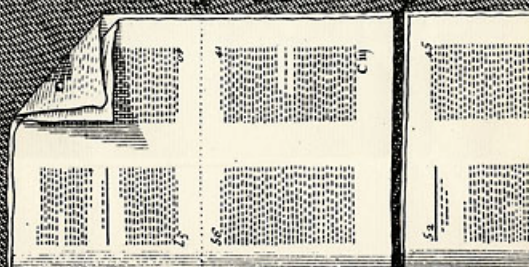
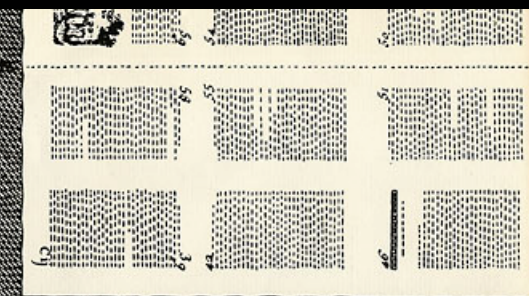
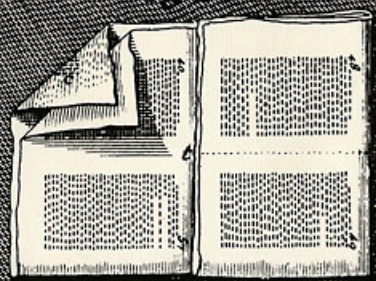
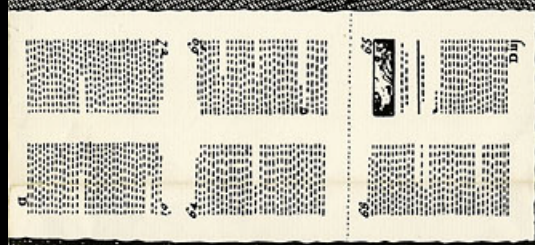
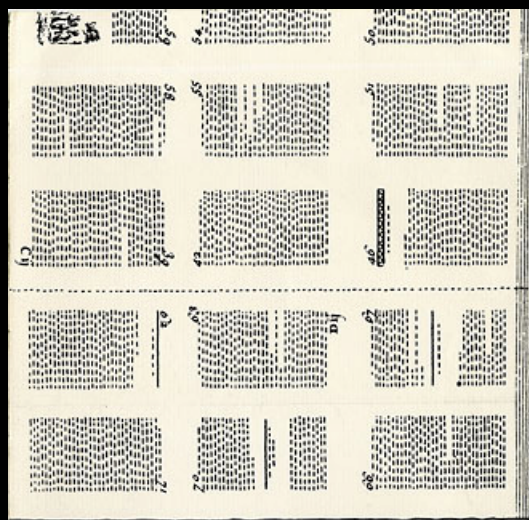
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Vico duodecimo  
Axiom 65

LXV. 19 This was the order of human institutions: first the forests after that the huts, then the villages, next the cities, and finally the kingdoms.  
20 This axiom is a great principle of etymology; for this sequence of human institutions sets the pattern for the history of words in every language.  
Thus we observe in the Latin language that almost the whole corpus of its words had aylvan or rustic origin. For example, *lax*: First, it must have meant a collection of scraps. Thence we believe is derived *lax*, as it were *lax*, the oak (as certainly *acuplex* means collector of water),

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D.L. 1715





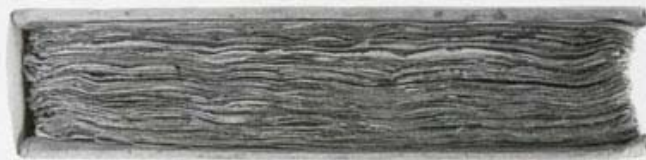


*Giambattista Vico The New Science*  
 1725 duodecimo 1730 duodecimo 1744 quarto



LXV 119 *This was the order of human institutions: first  
the forests, after that the butts, then the villages  
next the cities, and finally the academies.*

This axiom is a *great principle of etymology*,  
for this *sequence of human institutions* sets the  
pattern for the histories of words in the  
various *native languages*.





Thus we observe in the *Latin language* that almost the whole corpus of its words had *rytorn* or *rustic* origins. For example, *lex*. First it must have meant a collection of acorns. Thence we believe is derived *illex*, as it were *illex*, the oak (as certainly *aquilex* means collector of waters).

for the *oak* produces the *acorns* by which  
the swine are drawn together. *Lex* was next  
a collection of vegetables, from which the  
latter were called, *legumina*.



Later on, at a time when *vulgar letters* had not yet been  
invented for writing down the laws, *lex* by a necessity  
of civil nature must have meant a collection of citizens,  
or the public parliament;



so that the presence of the people was the *lex*, or 'law',  
that solemnized the will that were made *calata comitia*,  
in the presence of the assembled *comitia*.





Finally, collecting letters, and making,  
as it were, a sheaf of them for each word,  
was called *legere*, reading.



The Bonnafont Gallery 2006



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