

The Roman calendar

Joonas Ilmavirta, Student of Physics and Latin, University of Jyväskylä

This lecture illustrates the development of the Roman calendar from its beginning up to the Julian calendar, which is dealt with more closely. This is followed by a brief account of the development of European post-Roman chronology; also some other ancient calendars are introduced. After that the ancient Roman method of expressing dates is discussed as compared with the method used by present-day Finns. Finally, the lecture explains how the Romans expressed the structure of one day-and-night period and what the ancient Roman clock was like.