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SATURDAY

JANUARY

3rd Week • 018-347

JANUARY 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Historical development

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1. Greeks (Euclid, Archimedes):

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- Didn't accept negative numbers, so subtraction wasn't treated as just "adding a negative."
- For them, an expression like $a-b-c$ was sequential, not reorderable.

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2. Chinese negative numbers (as early as 2nd century BCE)

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- The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art, compiled around the Han dynasty (200 BCE - 100 CE), already has procedures that use negative numbers.

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IMPORTANT NOTES

- They represented them physically with counting rods: 1) Red rods = positive no.s.