

Ab urbe condita

Ab urbe condita (Latin: [ab 'ʊrbɛ 'kɔndɪta:] 'from the founding of the City'), or ***anno urbis conditae*** (Latin: ['an.nɔ 'ʊrbɪs 'kɔndɪtaɛ]; 'in the year since the city's founding'), abbreviated as **AUC** or **AVC**, expresses a date in years since 753 BC, the traditional founding of Rome.^{[1][2]} It is an expression used in antiquity and by classical historians to refer to a given year in Ancient Rome. In reference to the traditional year of the foundation of Rome, the year 1 BC would be written AUC 753, whereas AD 1 would be AUC 754. The foundation of the Roman Empire in 27 BC would be AUC 727.

Usage of the term was more common during the Renaissance, when editors sometimes added AUC to Roman manuscripts they published, giving the false impression that the convention was commonly used in antiquity. In reality, the dominant method of identifying years in Roman times was to name the two consuls who held office that year.^[3] In late antiquity, regnal years were also in use, as in Roman Egypt during the Diocletian era after AD 293, and in the Byzantine Empire from AD 537, following a decree by Justinian.

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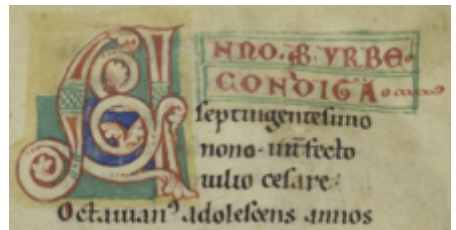
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Antoninianus of Pacatian, usurper of Roman emperor Philip in 248. It reads *ROMAE AETER[NAE] AN[NO] MIL[LESIMO] ET PRIMO*, 'To eternal Rome, in its one thousand and first year.'



Anno ab urbe condita, rubricated and
with a decorated initial, from the
medieval Chronicle of Saint
Pantaleon.

Significance

The traditional date for the founding of Rome, 21 April 753 BC, is due to Marcus Terentius Varro (1st century BC). Varro may have used the consular list (with its mistakes) and called the year of the first consuls "*ab Urbe condita* 245," accepting the 244-year interval from Dionysius of Halicarnassus for the kings after the foundation of Rome. The correctness of this calculation has not been confirmed, but it is still used worldwide.

From the time of Claudius (fl. AD 41 to AD 54) onward, this calculation superseded other contemporary calculations. Celebrating the anniversary of the city became part of imperial propaganda. Claudius was the first to hold magnificent celebrations in honor of the anniversary of the city, in AD 48, the eight hundredth year from the founding of the city.^[4] Hadrian, in AD 121, and Antoninus Pius, in AD 147 and AD 148, held similar celebrations respectively.

In AD 248, Philip the Arab celebrated Rome's first millennium, together with Ludi saeculares for Rome's alleged tenth saeculum. Coins from his reign commemorate the celebrations. A coin by a contender for the imperial throne, Pacatianus, explicitly states "[y]ear one thousand and first," which is an indication that the citizens of the empire had a sense of the beginning of a new era, a *Saeculum Novum*.

Calendar era

The Anno Domini (AD) year numbering was developed by a monk named Dionysius Exiguus in Rome in AD 525, as a result of his work on calculating the date of Easter. Dionysius did not use the AUC convention, but instead based his calculations on the Diocletian era. This convention had been in use since AD 293, the year of the tetrarchy, as it became impractical to use regnal years of the current emperor.^[5] In his Easter table, the year AD 532 was equated with the 248th regnal year of Diocletian. The table counted the years starting from the presumed birth of Christ, rather than the accession of the emperor Diocletian on 20 November AD 284 or, as stated by Dionysius: "*sed magis elegimus ab incarnatione Domini nostri Jesu Christi annorum tempora praenotare*" ("but rather we choose to name the times of the years from the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ").^[6] Blackburn and Holford-Strevens review interpretations of Dionysius which place the Incarnation in 2 BC, 1 BC, or AD 1.^[7]

The year AD 1 corresponds to AUC 754, based on the epoch of Varro. Thus:

AUC	Year	Event
1	753 BC	<u>Foundation of the Kingdom of Rome</u>
244	510 BC	<u>Overthrow of the Roman monarchy</u>
259	495 BC	Death in exile of King <u>Lucius Tarquinius Superbus</u>
490	264 BC	<u>Punic Wars</u>
709	45 BC	First year of the <u>Julian calendar</u>
710	44 BC	The <u>assassination of Julius Caesar</u>
727	27 BC	<u>Augustus</u> became the first <u>Roman emperor</u> , starting the <u>Principate</u>
753	1 BC	Astronomical Year 0
754	AD 1	Approximate birth date of Jesus, approximated by <u>Dionysius Exiguus</u> in AD 525 (AUC 1278)
1000	AD 247	1,000th Anniversary of the City of Rome
1037	AD 284	<u>Diocletian</u> became Roman emperor, starting the <u>Dominate</u>
1229	AD 476	<u>Fall of the Western Roman Empire</u> to the armies of <u>Odoacer</u>
1246	AD 493	Establishment of the <u>Ostrogothic Kingdom</u>
1306	AD 553	Italy under <u>Eastern Roman control</u>
1507	AD 754	Foundation of the <u>Papal States</u>
1553	AD 800	Creation of the Holy Roman Empire
1930	AD 1177	Papal States became independent from the <u>Holy Roman Empire</u>
2000	AD 1247	2,000th Anniversary of the City of Rome
2247	AD 1494	<u>Italian Wars</u>
2545	AD 1792	<u>Italian campaigns of the French Revolutionary Wars</u>
2556	AD 1803	<u>Napoleonic Wars</u>
2559	AD 1806	Abolition of the Holy Roman Empire
2601	AD 1848	<u>Italian unification</u>
2623	AD 1870	Foundation of the <u>Kingdom of Italy</u>
2682	AD 1929	Creation of the <u>Sovereign City-State of the Vatican</u>
2699	AD 1946	Proclamation of the <u>Italian Republic</u>
2711	AD 1958	Italy joined the <u>European Union</u> .
2736	AD 1983	Death in exile of King <u>Umberto II</u>
2752	AD 1999	Italy retired the Lira, and adopted the Euro as its currency.
2775	AD 2022	Last year
2776	AD 2023	Current year
2777	AD 2024	Next year

See also




Ancient Rome
portal

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- [History of Italy](#)
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Citations

1. "Definition of AB URBE CONDITA" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ab+urbe+condita>). *merriam-webster.com*. Retrieved 13 July 2021.
2. "Definition of ANNO URBIS CONDITAE" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/anno+urbis+conditae>). *merriam-webster.com*. Retrieved 13 July 2021.
3. Flower, Harriet I. (2014). *The Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic*. Cambridge University Press. p. 51. ISBN 9781107032248.
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5. Thomas, J. David. 1971. "On Dating by Regnal Years of Diocletian, Maximian and the Caesars." *Chronique d'Égypte* 46(91):173–79. doi:10.1484/J.CDE.2.308234 (<https://doi.org/10.1484%2FJ.CDE.2.308234>).
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7. Blackburn, B. & Holford-Strevens, L, *The Oxford Companion to the Year* (Oxford University Press, 2003 corrected reprinting, originally 1999), pp. 778–780.

External links

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