
Subject: Re: Problems with JULDAY and CALDAT
Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Fri, 09 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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William Thompson, thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov writes:

> But then, we didn't have a whole lot of satellites
> up prior to 1583 (that I know about). ;^)

You probably know this, but in case anyone is tempted to relate, say, Kepler's planetary observations to more modern ones it is necessary to bear in mind that:

- a) Not all European countries changed calanders in the same year.
- b) At that time, the 'year' did not necessarily change on the night of Dec31/Jan1 - and the change day could also be different for different countries. Within one country this can vary with the type of record - rather as if modern fiscal years were recorded using only the start year so that Feb '99 becomes Feb '98.

There are books with tables that will let you calculate the 'date' for any given day in any given country, but with published records you need to do a bit of archival digging to find out if the published date uses the calander of the author, his sponsor or the publisher - all three could in theory be different - and with private letters all bets are off.

Struan
