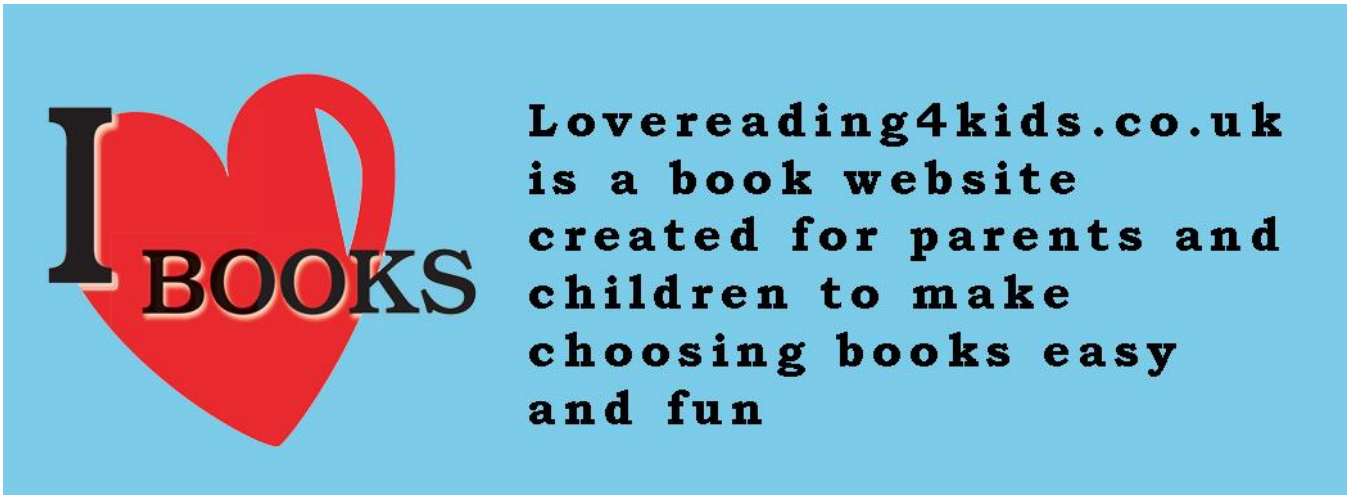


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ABOUT *WHITAKER'S* – THE TEAM BEHIND CHRONOLOGICA

CHRONOLOGICA is written and compiled by the team behind *Whitaker's Almanack* – one of the oldest annual reference books in the UK. Jam-packed full of facts and figures on topics including: Politics, Kings and Queens, World Geography, Art, Music, Science and Sport. The first edition was published on 10 December 1868 and was such a success that it had to be reprinted immediately!

In 1878 a copy of *Whitaker's* was included in a time capsule buried beneath the monument Cleopatra's Needle on the Embankment in London, together with a set of contemporary coins and a copy of *The Times* newspaper.

On 29 December 1940, a wartime bombing raid struck the *Whitaker's* editorial offices in Warwick Lane, obliterating almost all the archive and reference library used to compile the book. This prompted Prime Minister Winston Churchill to write to Sir Cuthbert Whitaker seeking assurances that the publication of *Whitaker's* would not be interrupted: a measure of the book's importance.

Whitaker's Almanack is mentioned in many famous works of literature, including Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Ian Fleming's James Bond novel *Moonraker.* A copy of *Whitaker's* is even used by Sherlock Holmes to decode a message in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fourth and final Holmes mystery *The Valley of Fear.*

We hope you enjoy the fascinating journey through time which is **CHRONOLOGICA: The Incredible Years That Defined History**.

The Whitaker's Team

50 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3DP
whitakersalmanackteam@bloomsbury.com
www.whitakersalmanack.com

EDITORIAL STAFF
Project Editor: Oli Lurie
Editorial Assistant: Pari Thomson
Executive Editor: Ruth Northey

753 BC

THE MYTH OF ROMULUS AND REMUS



Romulus and Remus were twin boys and the pivotal characters of Rome's foundation myth. According to the myth their mother was princess Rhea Silvia, daughter of Numitor, King of Alba Longa and their father was Mars, the Roman god of war. Before the twins were born, Numitor's brother Amulius seized power, killed Numitor's male heirs and forced Rhea Silvia to become a priestess to the goddess Vesta.

Following the birth of the boys Amulius had Rhea Silvia thrown into the river Tiber where she was caught beneath the waves by the river god who married her. The twin boys were set adrift on the river in a reed basket which floated downstream until the basket was caught in the branches of a fig tree where they were found by a she-wolf who suckled them until they were found by a shepherd and his wife who raised the boys as their own.

The twins proved to be natural leaders and each acquired many followers. When they discovered their true origins, the twins raised an army and marched on Alba Longa slaying Amulius and restoring Numitor to the throne.

Rather than wait to inherit Alba Longa, Romulus and Remus chose to found a new city. The twins disputed which hill their city should be built on, Romulus favouring the Palatine, Remus choosing the Aventine. On the hill favoured by Remus there were six vultures, but on the hill preferred by Romulus there were 12. Romulus took this as a sign from the gods and founded the new city, named it Rome, after himself, and started to build a wall around the Palatine Hill. However, Remus was jealous and began to make fun of Romulus' wall. At one point Remus jumped over the wall to show how easy it was to cross. Romulus became angry, the twins fought and Remus was killed.

With Remus dead, Romulus continued to build his city and created its first army and senate. The image of the she-wolf suckling the divinely fathered twins has become an iconic representation of the city and its founding legend.

753 BC

THE FOUNDING OF ROME

Disregarding the myth of Romulus and Remus, Greek writers of the fifth century BC credited the foundation of Rome to the Trojan legend Aeneas. The Greeks believed that Aeneas had travelled to Italy and settled near Rome, following the fall of Troy in 1184 BC from which he was the only hero to have survived the Greek invasion, according to Homer's epic poem, the *Iliad*. Aeneas married Lavinia, the daughter of a local king named Latinus upon his arrival in central Italy and from their marriage a kingdom of Alba Longa was established, which eventually resulted in the monarchy of King Numitor, whereby the story evolved over time so that by the first century BC the stories of Aeneas and Romulus and Remus combined into the account of Rome's foundation.

Upon Rome's foundation in 753 BC, Romulus was believed to have offered refuge to exiles and refugees who were not welcome in other settlements. However, as Rome lacked female citizens, Romulus devised a plan in which he invited Rome's neighbouring community, the Sabines, to a festival but his invitation was a trick and on his order the men of Rome abducted the Sabine women. After a war broke out between the two communities, the Sabine women now resident in Rome, persuaded the Sabine's not to seize the new city and instead a pact was agreed whereby Romulus and the Sabine king, Titus Tatius, jointly ruled.

A Roman scholar by the name of Marcus Terrentius Varro had proposed that the exact foundation date of Rome was 21 April 753 BC, after he estimated the length of the reign of the seven Roman kings starting with Romulus up to the expulsion of the last tyrant king, Tarquin the Proud and the establishment in 509 BC of the Roman Republic.

Archaeological discoveries on the Palatine Hill, chosen by Romulus as the founding location of Rome, included fortification walls which dated to the mid-8th century BC, which corresponds to Varro's belief that the foundation of Rome was 753 BC.

490 BC

THE BATTLE OF MARATHON

During the Greco-Persian Wars, which began in 499 BC and lasted until 449 BC, the Persian King Darius the Great, made an attempt to conquer Greece and take revenge against Athens, which had supported a regional revolt against Persian rule. The first Persian invasion of Greece began in 492 BC and the Persian army quickly subjugated Thrace and Macedon and when Darius sent ambassadors across Greek regions to call for their surrender, only Athens and Sparta refused to accept and instead executed Darius' messengers. In 490 BC, under the command of Datis and Artaphernes, a Persian invasion force reached Greece and captured Eritrea, which was destroyed and its citizens enslaved. Subsequently, the Persians landed in the region of Attica, preparing for an assault on Athens.

The Persians landed at the bay of Marathon, approximately 25 miles from Athens itself. The Athenians, led by the general Miltiades, an Olympic chariot-racer, were supported by the city of Plataea and numbered 10,000 men while the Persians far outnumbered the Greek defending army, numbering 20,000 soldiers. With the Spartans refusing to assist Athens due to their peaceful festival of Carneia, the Athenians elected to stand firm at Marathon and blocked the exits from the mountainous land. Miltiades devised a plan to attack the Persians on the wings before closing in towards the Persian centre. The tactics worked and the Persian army collapsed, with the surviving soldiers retreating to their ships. The Greek historian Herodotus estimated that 6,400 Persians had been killed and incredibly just 192 Athenians died, with much of the credit due to the fighting skills of the hoplites – citizen-soldiers of Athens, armed with spears and round shields.

Upon hearing that the fleeing ships were instead destined for Athens, the Athenians quickly marched back to the city to prevent the ships landing and on seeing the city refortified, the Persians lost hope and returned home. Although it is recorded that the Persian commander Artaphernes survived the war, conflicting reports about Datis state that he may or may not have been killed at Marathon. Darius the Great began to plan another war against the Greeks, personally in command of his armies but when a revolt broke out in Egypt, which was part of the Persian Empire, the expedition was delayed and his health began to deteriorate. He died in October 486 BC and was succeeded by his son Xerxes I who, like his father, would seek to conquer Greece.

490 BC

PHEIDIPPIDES, THE LEGENDARY RUNNER OF MARATHON



Legend has it that a Greek long-distance runner called Pheidippides (also referred to as Philippides) was sent from the city of Athens to Sparta to call for reinforcements before the Battle of Marathon. Renowned warriors, the Spartans had been a crucial component of Greek armies in previous battles and were desperately needed, given how outnumbered the Greeks were by the Persian force. The distance between the two cities was a staggering 140 miles, which Pheidippides is said to have completed in about two days. After winning a historic victory at the Battle of Marathon, the Greek army, exhausted from the battle and their heavy equipment, marched as quickly as possible back to Athens to intercept the Persian fleet, which was sailing towards Athens. The triumphant Greeks reached Athens to witness the Persian ships sailing away. The city had been saved.

Over time, this account has become confused with another story about another remarkable feat of running. According to Plutarch, an Ancient Greek historian, a Greek messenger was sent from Marathon to Athens, a distance of around 25 miles (40 km), to bring news of the Greek victory. The runner is said to have run the distance without stopping and heroically delivered the message, believed to be either 'we have won' or 'hail, we are the winners', to the Athenian assembly before tragically collapsing and dying of exhaustion. This moment was captured in a famous painting by French painter Luc-Olivier Merson in 1869.

In preparation for the first modern Olympic Games, which were to be held in 1896 in Athens, Frenchman Michel Bréal, made a suggestion to include a 'Marathon' race. He suggested that this special race should follow the route from Marathon to Athens taken by the legendary runner in 490 BC. Bréal's friend Pierre de Coubertin, who founded the International Olympic Committee and was instrumental in organising the 1896 Olympics, liked his friend's idea, and so the Marathon became an Olympic event. Fittingly, the winner of the first Olympic Marathon event was Greek – a water carrier called Spyridon Louis.

Early versions of the Olympic Marathon were run over distances of 25–26 miles. It wasn't until the London Olympics of 1908 that the fixed distance of 26 miles 285 yards was instituted. This distance was decided upon by the British Olympic Committee so that the race could start from Windsor Castle and finish outside the royal box at White City Stadium in London. The dramatic finish of the 1908 Olympic marathon is credited as the reason marathon races became so popular. Over 500 marathons are now organised worldwide each year.

356 BC

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Alexander the Great, the king of Macedonia, was a legendary leader and conqueror who united the Greek city-states and defeated the Persian Empire.

Born in Pella, Macedonia in 356 BC, he was the son of King Philip II and was taught by the great philosopher Aristotle. The young Alexander was famed for taming a magnificent horse called Bucephalus when he was just ten years old, and he took part in his first military expedition, against invading Thracian tribes, at the age of 16. After his father was assassinated in 336 BC, Alexander became king with the support of the army, and executed many possible rivals, including some half-siblings. He quickly took control of the Greek states, known as the Corinthian League, asserting his power in Thessaly, defeating an Illyrian invasion of Macedonia, and crushing a revolt in Thebes with a brutal massacre.

Philip II had long planned an invasion of Asia, and the Corinthian League now granted Alexander full military power in a campaign against the Persian Empire, with an army of about 30,000 foot soldiers and 5,000 cavalry. In spring 334 BC, he marched through Troy, before defeating Persian King Darius III's army near the Granicus River. He declared himself 'great king' of Persia and the whole of Asia, at the age of 25, and went on to marry a Persian princess called Roxana.

Over the next eight years, he founded over 70 cities, leading his army a further 11,000 miles and creating an empire that spanned three continents and covered around two million square miles. He conquered Syria and most of the Levant, captured Tyre after a long siege in 332 BC, and founded the great city of Alexandria in Egypt, where he was welcomed as a liberator and hailed as the son of the god Amun. He was determined to continue expanding, and marched on to northern India, where his army finally refused to go any further. On their return south, Alexander was wounded several times, and died of a fever in Babylon in 323 BC.

At the time of his death, his territory stretched from Greece to Egypt, from the Danube to the Ganges, a vast area united by a common Greek language and culture. Although his empire was later torn apart, this 'Hellenistic' influence remained powerful for centuries. Alexander is remembered as a military genius who never lost a battle, a man of legendary ambition, recklessness and power.

THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS BURNS DOWN



In 356 BC, the great Temple of Artemis was deliberately burned down by a madman called Herostratus.

For centuries before the first temple was built, there had been a sacred site at Ephesus, an ancient Greek port city now on the west coast of modern-day Turkey. The original Temple of Artemis had been destroyed by a flood in the 7th century BC, and the new temple, also known as the Artemesium, was rebuilt from around 550 BC by the Cretan architect Chersiphron and his son Metagenes. It was partly funded by the hugely wealthy Croesus, who was the king of Lydia and the city's ruler, and it was decorated by some of the most famous artists in the ancient world.

The temple, which was known for its large size, was 115m long and 55m wide. According to the Roman historian Pliny the Elder, it had 127 towering columns, many of which were decorated with elaborate carvings. It was reportedly the first Greek temple built of marble, and the magnificent double row of columns formed a passage around the *cella* (central chamber) which housed the sculpted image of the goddess Artemis.

The temple was visited by merchants, kings and worshippers, who came to pay homage to Artemis, the Greek goddess of purity, childbirth and the hunt. Many left offerings in the form of jewellery and other precious objects, and archaeologists have discovered over a thousand items from this era on the site, including silver and gold coins.

Herostratus destroyed the temple by setting fire to its wooden roof beams, hoping that the act would make his name famous throughout the ancient world. Instead, he was sentenced to death, and the people of Ephesus were forbidden from mentioning his name. According to Greek and Roman legend, the structure burned down on the same night as Alexander the Great was born, and the goddess was too preoccupied attending to his birth to save her temple. It was eventually rebuilt on an even larger scale from 323 BC, and stood for almost 600 years until it was destroyed by the Goths in 268 AD.