

B2
Symmetry and Relativity
Revision 1
TT 2024



Lectures through the ages



Tomb of (Prof)
Giovanni da Legnano,
Bologna Museo Civico

Spot the difference



Museum photos: Jim Zurer, 13 Oct 2007, Bologna Museo Civico Medioevale e del Rinascimento

Henry of Germany, Bologna (14th C)



A little farther back



Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third storey and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms round him. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'He's alive!' Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted. (Acts 20:9-12)

Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, Rome

And in Oxford...

B. to his venerable master A., greeting. This is to inform you that I am studying at Oxford with the greatest diligence, but the matter of money stands greatly in the way of my promotion, as it is now two months since I have spent the last of what you sent me. The city is expensive and makes many demands; I have to rent lodgings, buy necessaries, and provide for many other things which I cannot now specify. Wherefore I respectfully beg your paternity that by the promptings of divine pity you may assist me, so that I may be able to complete what I have begun. For you must know that without Ceres and Bacchus Apollo grows cold.

1220's

Guess the era

Tell [redacted]: [redacted] sends the following message:

May [redacted] keep you forever in good health for my sake.

From year to year, the clothes of the (young) gentlemen here become better, but you let my clothes get worse from year to year. Indeed, you persisted(?) in making my clothes poorer and more scanty. At a time when in our house wool is used up like bread, you have made me poor clothes. The son of [redacted], whose father is only an assistant of my father, (has) two new sets of clothes [break] while you fuss even about a single set of clothes for me. In spite of the fact that you bore me and his mother only adopted him, his mother loves him, while you, you do not love me!

Old Babylonian

Tell the Lady Zinu: Iddin-Sin sends the following message:

May the gods Samas, Marduk, and Ilabrat keep you forever in good health for my sake.

From year to year, the clothes of the (young) gentlemen here become better, but you let my clothes get worse from year to year. Indeed, you persisted(?) in making my clothes poorer and more scanty. At a time when in our house wool is used up like bread, you have made me poor clothes. The son of Adad-iddinam, whose father is only an assistant of my father, (has) two new sets of clothes [break] while you fuss even about a single set of clothes for me. In spite of the fact that you bore me and his mother only adopted him, his mother loves him, while you, you do not love me!

(c1900-1700 BC, trans A Leo Oppenheim, *Letters from Mesopotamia*, 1967)