Contents of Bulletin 109, May 2012 R. Hooijenga

The line pattern is quite accurate with regard to the pole style dial; slightly less so for the other functions.

After a description of the rulers Albrecht and Isabella and the maker of the sundial De Succa, the author discusses the sundial thoroughly. Using an existing high-quality photograph as well as his own measurements on the original, he examines the accuracy of the various hour line patterns and furniture.

This is the first gnomonical description of the instrument. According to the author, additional research into the circumstances under which it came into being would be valuable.

The sun, wrist watch, cocktail stick, wedge compass *J.P.C. Hoogenraad* *20*

As every boy scout knows, you can find north using the sun and a watch. However, this method performs poorly at best when you forget that you are on daylight saving time, that you are not on the standard meridian for your time zone, and that the real sun is hardly ever in the horizontal plane.
Hoogenraad calculates the errors involved and greatly improves the method.
In winter, tilting the watch into the equator plane gets you nowhere because the sun would be shining on the back plane; but surprisingly the error made by leaving the watch horizontal is relatively small in winter. In summer, however, a wedge is to be recommended.
That is, if you renounce the use of your mobile phone.

The Roman numeral for 'four' on clock faces *B.P.U. Holman* *23*

One often sees the Roman numeral 'IIII' for 4, instead of the formally correct IV. Most agree that the use of 'IIII' gives the clock face a more balanced look. Of course, the same holds for sundial faces.