

Stardust editor Michael Ward explained why there is no Volume 55 in the September 2009 issue. The article is reproduced here, with the references to no longer existing web pages replaced with a table included here.

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**Stardust Volume Number Adjustment:** *a message from the editor*

**This is Volume 56. Last year was Volume 54. There will be no Volume 55. Get used to it.**

In Julius Caesar's day, the Roman calendar had gotten so far out of whack with the actual seasons that Caesar inserted 67 extra days into the year 46 BC, and introduced the Leap Year, to get things back in order. [1] I know how he felt, a little bit, sort of, maybe.

Stardust's volume numbers are incorrect, and have been for decades. If 1954 - 1955 was volume 1, then 2008 - 2009 should have been volume 55, but it was 54. I have created a table, shown on the next page.

Exactly when this error was introduced, I can only guess. The volume numbers are correct up to May 1961 (Vol. 7); then there is a lengthy period when volume numbers are not included. Volume numbering resumes in September 1974, and this may be the start of the error. September 1974 should be part of volume 20 (1973 - 1974), but it is labelled volume 19, issue 10. October 1974 is labelled Vol. 20 No. 1; it should be Vol. 21.

The 2009 - 2010 Stardusts will be volume 56, correcting this error. Consequently, **no issues of Stardust will bear the volume number 55.**

Incidentally, barring a few minor adjustments, we are still using Julius Caesar's calendar.

[1] See Suetonius, Julius Caesar, ch. 40; Plutarch, Julius Caesar, et al.

## Stardust Volume Numbers and Corresponding Years

### First issue, Vol 1 No. 1 = October 1954

Right now, a "volume" is 10 issues, corresponding to ten consecutive months, from September to June, straddling two years. That wasn't always the case.

Volumes after Sep 1974, if they were numbered, were actually numbered one too low, all the way up to 2008 – 2009. Vol. 21 (1974 – 1975) was numbered 20, and 2008 – 2009 was numbered vol. 54. This was corrected in 2009-2010, vol. 56. There is, in fact, no volume vol. 55.

### Vol – Years

01 - Oct 1954 - Sep 1955	29 - 82-83
02 - 55-56	30 - 83-84
03 - 56-57	31 - 84-85
04 - 57-58	32 - 85-86
05 - 58-59	33 - 86-87
06 - 59-60	34 - 87-88
07 - 60-61	35 - 88-89
08 - 61-62	36 - 89-90
09 - 62-63	37 - 90-91
10 - 63-64	38 - 91-92
11 - 64-65	39 - 92-93
12 - 65-66	40 - 93-94
13 - 66-67	41 - 94-95
14 - 67-68	42 - 95-96
15 - 68-69	43 - 96-97
16 - 69-70	44 - 97-98
17 - 70-71	45 - 98-99
18 - 71-72	46 - 99-2k
19 - 72-73	47 - 2k-01
20 - 73-74 > <i>Sep 1974 labeled Volume 19 issue 10</i>	48 - 01-02
21 - 74-75	49 - 02-03
22 - 75-76	50 - 03-04
23 - 76-77	51 - 04-05
24 - 77-78	52 - 05-06
25 - 78-79	53 - 06-07
26 - 79-80	54 - 07-08
27 - 80-81	55 - 08-09
28 - 81-82	56 - 09-10 > <i>volume numbers corrected</i>