



Revolving Calendars from Petrus Apian
Astronomicum Caesareum, Ingolstadt,
Peter Apian (1540).

The illuminated woodcuts by Michael
Ostendorfer (ca. 1490), birthplace
unknown d. 14. XII. 1559 in Regensburg

The line of development taken by our calendar illustrations goes back by way of the Middle Ages to the classical Greeks and Romans. It is assumed that the Romans took over their pictorial delineations from the continental Greeks or from the art school of Pergamon. In calendars of the late Roman period, we find symbols of the planets as hebdomadal gods added to the gods presiding over the months. It must be assumed that this enlargement of the periodic pictures coincides with the introduction of the hebdomadal Judaic-Chaldaic week instead of the Roman eight-day week. In the Middle Ages we only find these planetary pictures in the collections of pictures of constellations. They no longer play any part in calendar illustration. In the Roman calendar best known to us, that of Pilocalus, each month is symbolized

