

Textos:

## What Character Was Removed from the Alphabet?

Johnson & Johnson, Barnes & Noble, Dolce & Gabbana: the ampersand today is used primarily in business names, but that small character was once the 27th part of the alphabet. Where did it come from though? The origin of its name is almost as bizarre as the name itself. The shape of the character (&) predates the word ampersand by more than 1,500 years. In the first century, Roman scribes wrote in cursive, so when they wrote the Latin word *et* which means "and" they linked the e and t. Over time the combined letters came to signify the word "and" in English as well. Certain versions of the ampersand, like that in the font Caslon, clearly reveal the origin of the shape.

The word "ampersand" came many years later when "&" was actually part of the English alphabet. In the early 1800s, school children reciting their ABCs concluded the alphabet with the &. It would have been confusing to say "X, Y, Z, and". Rather, the students said, "and per se and." "Per se" means "by itself," so the students were essentially saying, "X, Y, Z, and by itself and." Over time, "and per se and" was slurred together into the word we use today: ampersand. When a word comes about from a mistaken pronunciation, it's called a mondegreen. Find out why here.

Retrieved from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ampersand>

Posted by: <http://blog.dictionary.com/ampersand/>

## Palimpsest

A palimpsest /'pælɪmpsest/ is a manuscript page from a scroll or book from which the text has been scraped or washed off and which can be used again. The term has come to be used in similar context in a variety of disciplines, notably architectural, archaeology and geomorphology. The word "palimpsest" comes through Latin *palimpsestus* from Ancient Greek *παλίμψητος* (*palimpsestos*, "scratched or scraped again") originally compounded from *πάλιν* (*palin*, "again") and *ψάω* (*psao*, "I scrape") literally meaning "scraped clean and used again". Romans wrote on wax-coated tablets that could be smoothed and reused, and a passing use of the term "palimpsest" by Cicero seems to refer to this practice.

## Inside the Archimedes Palimpsest

In October 1998, a battered manuscript of parchment leaves sold for \$2 million to an anonymous bidder at auction. The thousand-year-old manuscript contains the earliest surviving writings by Archimedes, the Greek thinker who is regarded as the greatest mathematician of antiquity.

Retrieved from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palimpsest>.

Posted in: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/physics/inside-archimedes-palimpsest.html>

## O senado romano

Grazas a Plutarco e o seu traballo *Vidas Paralelas* -no capítulo dedicado a *Publicola* temos unha rica descrición e enumeración das primeiras medidas tomadas polos cónsules, como poderemos ver, absolutamente dirixidas a limitar a resurrección da Monarquía.

“Consentiu que do consulado participaran e se presentaran a pedilo cantos quixeran; pero antes da elección dun colega, non sabendo o que sucedería, e temendo que se lle fixera oposición ou por envexa ou por ignorancia, quixo proceder só ao establecemento das súas mellores e máis saudables leis. En primeiro lugar, completou o Senado, que estaba moi falto, porque uns morrean baixo o poder de Tarquino e outros despois na guerra, dicíndose que os que nombrou foron cento sesenta e catro. Publicou logo as leis, das cales as que máis poder deron á multitude foron: a primeira, a que permitiu ao reo apelar da sentenza dos cónsules ao pobo; segunda, a que mandou que o que recibiese autoridade que non lle conferira o pobo, morrera por ela; e terceira, despois destas, coa que veu en auxilio dos pobres, a que librou de tributo aos cidadáns, facendo que todos se aplicaran aos oficios con maior anhelo. A que se estableceu contra os desobedientes aos cónsules non pareceu menos popular nin menos feita en beneficio da multitude contra os poderosos: impoñía, pois, por pena de desobediencia unha multa cun valor de cinco bois e de dúas ovellas.”

Tomado de: [http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%B3nsul\\_romano](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%B3nsul_romano) e <http://www.imperivm.org/articulos/consul.html>