

Ayin

Phoenician Letters,  
Our Ancient Ancestors,  
Rare Book School presents  
a lecture by Albert Derolez

3 May, 7pm, The Rotunda,  
The University of Virginia, Charlottesville

In Phoenicia as in Egypt, China and Mexico, the eye is one of the most common elements found in writing. It was called "Ayin" (ah-yin). The Greeks used it for two sounds, now designated by "Omicron", little "o" and the letter which, strangely, was placed at the end of the Greek alphabet. We find in the Bible "I am the Alpha and the Omega. The Beginning and the End. The First and the Last." How many today would think to use the alphabet for such a important illustration? It is easy to trace the Roman O (on) from it's Greek parent "Omicron."