

# Zayin

## Phoenician Letters, Our Ancient Ancestors,

Rare Book School presents  
a lecture by Albert Derolez

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

The dagger, "Zayin" from which we obtain our Z must have been important in the daily lives of Greeks, Hebrews and Phoenicians for it occupies the sixth place (Zeta) and the seventh in the larger alphabets. The Romans did not change it's name or shape, but although there has been little change in 2,000 years we see little resemblance to the short sword in the letter the Romans gave us. Many slight changes have occurred in the formation of the letters counted for. At first the Greeks wrote from left to right to left on the next line - a mode of writing that has been termed "boustrophedon" because it runs as an ox furrow and down another. It is due to this fact that many letters were reversed from their original prototypes.