Title: Some examples of AMPERSAND (U+0026) and the TIRONIAN SIGN ET (U+204A) in manuscripts and printing
Source: Michael Everson, 1999-08-20
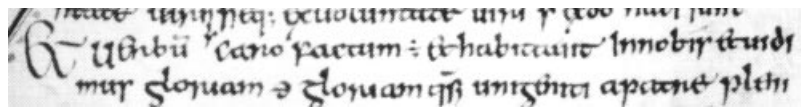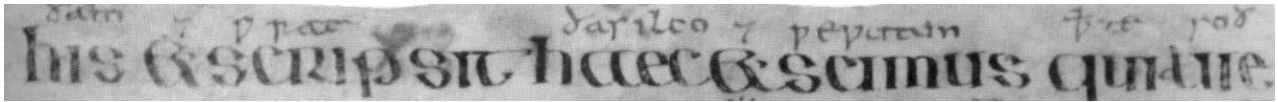

Figure 1. Latin text from the *Book of Dimma*, *c.* 750-800 (Trinity College MS 59), showing three AMPERSANDS in the second line: & *uerbũ caro factum* ÷ & *habitauit In nobis* & *uidimus gloriam...*

Figure 2. Latin text from MacRegol of Birr's Gospels, 9th century (Bodleian MS Auct. D II 19), showing two AMPERSANDS, with Old English glosses above, showing two TIRONIAN SIGN ETS.

Figure 3. Text from Uilliam Bedel's *Leabhuir an tSean Tiomna*, Dublin 1827, showing TIRONIAN SIGN ET in Gaelic type.
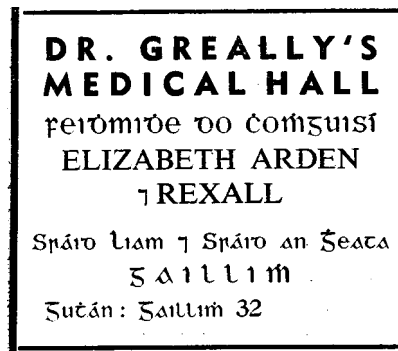

Figure 4. Display advertisement from Fír: Irisleabar Coláiste na hiOlscoile, Gaillimh, 1942–43, showing TIRONIAN SIGN ET with both Gaelic and Roman type.

being allowed only if all the subjects—or at least the first two—be masc., or if the first subject be both pl. and masc., e.g. *is geala iad Conn ⁊ Art ; is geala iad Conn ⁊ Mór ; is geala iad Mór ⁊ Conn ; is geala iad na fir ⁊ na mná ; is geala iad na mná ⁊ na fir ; is geala iad dá Chonn ⁊ Mór ; is gil iad Conn ⁊ Art ; is gil iad Conn ⁊ Art ⁊ Mór ; is gil iad dá Chonn ⁊ Mór.*

(c) The subjects come first in the sentence, followed by cop. & adj. & *iad*. Here too the adj. will have its long pl., its short pl. being allowed only when no fems. are among the subjects, e.g. *Conn ⁊ Art (agus Tadhg) is gil iad.*

Figure 5. Text from Lambert McKenna's *Bardic Syntactical tracts*, Dublin 1944, showing, in Roman type, the TIRONIAN SIGN ET to represent the same sign from original texts. Note that in the English commentary McKenna uses AMPERSANDS. It would be burdensome to encode the text with ⁊ considered a font variant of &.

Figure 6. Text from Adriano Cappelli's *Dizionario di abbreviature latine ed italiane*, 7th edition, Milano 1973, indicating the use of both AMPERSAND and TIRONIAN SIGN ET as distinct abbreviations for *et* in Latin manuscripts.

OJ2. When special marks of contraction have been used by the printer in continuance of the manuscript tradition, expand affected words to their full form and enclose supplied letters in square brackets. When an abbreviation standing for an entire word appears in the source, record instead the word itself, and enclose it in square brackets. If the Tironian sign (⁊) cannot be reproduced, treat it as an abbreviation and substitute "[et]" for it. Transcribe an ampersand as an ampersand. Enclose each expansion or supplied word in its own set of square brackets, e.g., "... amico[rum] [et] ..."

Esopus co[n]structus moralizat[us] [et] hystoriatus ad vtilitate[m] discipulo[rum]

Figure 7. Text from the Library of Congress' *Descriptive cataloging of rare books*, Washington 1981, which specifies that AMPERSAND should be represented as AMPERSAND in library records, and TIRONIAN SIGN ET by TIRONIAN SIGN ET, unless unavailable to the implementation, in which case [et] should be substituted.

Figure 8. Transcription of manuscript text in Timothy O'Neill's *The Irish Hand*, Portlaoise 1984. Note that in Roman type he prefers to present the TIRONIAN SIGN ET, but because of the absence of this sign in his Roman font, he has substituted DIGIT SEVEN for it. In the first line one can see that the typesetter forgot to give the 7 the necessary negative baseline shift as he has in the second line.

THE BOOK OF LECAN
Dublin: The Royal Irish Academy MS 23 P 2.
1418. Scribe: Adhamh Ó Cuirnín
Detail of f20v, From *Lebor Gabála*

Rogab tigernmas mac fallaig rigi herenn 7 robriss iii ix catha ut supra 7 atbath im maigh slecht 7 tri cethramna fer nerenn imme aidche samhna saindriudh hic adradh do chrum chroich daig ba hessen righ-hidhal erenn 7 ni terna acht aen cetrumadh fer nerenn ass do na sleachtanaib sin at berar magh slecht.

'Tugadh Ingcéal faoi deara ansin ón teach. Imíonn sé leis de phreib ón teach nuair a tugadh faoi deara é. D'imigh sé leis nó gur tháinig chun na ndíbheirgeach mar a raibh siad. Rinneadh ciorcal um chiorcal eile den bhuíon díbheirgeach le héisteacht leis an scéal. Bhí flatha na ndíbheirgeach i gceartlár na gciorcal; ba iad sin Fear Géar, Fear Geal, Fear Rógheal, Fear Roghain, Lomna Óinmhid, agus Ingcéal Caoch . . . seisear i lár na gciorcal, & chuaigh Fear Roghain chun Ingcéal a cheistiú' (aistriúchán de réir Uí Fhiannachta in McCone ⁊ Ó Fiannachta, 1992, 83).

Figure 9. Text from Anders Ahlqvist's "Litriú na Gaeilge" in *Stair na Gaeilge*, Maigh Nuad 1994, in which the author uses both AMPERSAND and TIRONIAN SIGN ET in Roman type in the last two lines.

Is gcuid a bhreac scríobhaí H (agus atá ar iarraidh anois) a bhí an mhír sin ar fad tugtha in LU. Seo mar atá an tuairisc ar chleasa Chú Chulainn curtha síos sa chéad lámhscríbhhinn thuasluaite (D iv 2) den téacs iomlán:

[§78] uballcless ⁊ toranncless ⁊ foebarcless ⁊ foencless ⁊ cless cleitinech ⁊ tetcless ⁊ corpcless ⁊ cless cait ⁊ ich n-erred ⁊ cor ndeled . . . . (D 77(83)vb22–

Figure 10. Text from Tomás Ó Concheanainn's "Bréagfhoirmeacha, *tét* agus *tét cliss*, i *dTochmharc Eimhire*" in *Ildánach ildíreach: a Festschrift for Proinsias Mac Cana*, Andover & Aberystwyth 1999, showing TIRONIAN SIGN ET in Roman type.