The hornbook was called a "criss-cross," "criss-cross row," or "cross-row" because of the (Christ-) cross which generally preceded the alphabet in the earlier examples of this "tool of education." Some say that it was so called from the amuletic value which it received from the alphabet being written upon it in the form of a cross; but I do not think any instance is known of a hornbook which bears the A B C in the form of the crux decussata. "E per se e" is evidently to impose upon the learner the necessity for repeating a letter so as to fix it in the memory, "e per se e," as it also occurs, meaning "e by itself e." As to the "tittlo," the earlier "absey-books" frequently terminated with three dots or "tittles" placed triangularly, and intended to convey to the pupil, after the manner of mediaeval symbolism, that as there were three dots, yet but one final period, so there were three Persons in one God. These customary dots followed by "Amen" are alluded to in the 'Song of the Hornbook,' set to music by Thomas Morley in 1608.

And per se has become the modern amperzand. "Ampussy and," that is, in full, "and per so and," is the name of the sign for the conjunction and & which used to be printed at the end of the alphabet (Longman's Magazine, quoted in 'N.E.D.,' s.v. 'Ampersand'). "A per se" or "A per C" was applied to anything of an excellent nature or character, just as Al per so has become the modern &c.

The price of hornbooks was usually very low. Peacham, in his 'Worth of a Penny,' mentions that coin as the price of one:—

"For a penny you may buy the hardest book in the world, and which at some time or other hath posed the greatest clerks in the land, viz., an Horn-book: the making up of which book employeth above thirty trades."

J. Holden MacMichael.

Wroxton Grange, Folkestone.

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In the 'Glossaire comparatif Anglo-Normand' of Henri Moisy a verb brocher is included, and explained to mean "donner de l'éperon à." Two quotations are supplied. Possibly broche in the passage noted by Mr. Foord means a spur. Or does it mean a pike?

C. E. Lomax.

In mediaeval Latin broche is rendered brochia. It is used by Henricus de Bracton, lib. ii. cap. 16, § 6, "de Serantiis, agens":—

"Si quis teneat per seruitium inueniendi domino.
Regi, certis locis et certis temporibus unum hominem et unum equum, et secum cum brochia pro aliqua necessitate, vel utilitate exercitum suum contingente."

Flotta also uses the word, lib. i. cap. 11, § 1.

Spelman, 'Glossarium,' 1626, quoting the same passage from Bracton (giving the reference as "lib. 2. Trac. I. ca. 6"), adds:—

"Dictum opinor a Gall, broc quod legamen maiorem aut cantharum significat, plus minus 6. sextarios continentem: ut sit accus ad deportationem aridorum, brochia vero liquidorum."

Giles Jacob, 'A New Law Dict.,' says:—

"That it was an Iron Instrument, you may learn from the following authority: Henricus de Haver-tenet Manerium de Norton in Com. Essex, per Serjeantiam inveniendi unum hominem, cum uno equo, etc., et uno sacco de corio, et una brochia ferrea. Anno 13 Ed. I."

It was thus probably an iron can or pail. Broche is also an awl or a spit, but does not seem to mean that in the passages here given, or that quoted by Mr. Foord.

John Hodgkin.

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