

X.

X, A double Consonant, and the twenty-second Letter in the *English* Alphabet. See LETTER, CONSONANT, ALPHABET, &c.

The *x* of the *Latins*, and ξ of the *Greeks* are compounded of *c s*, and *x s*; whence, to this day, the Letter *x* in the *English* and *French* has the same Sound with *c s* or *k s*.—Thus we pronounce *Alexander*, as if wrote *Alecander* or *Aleksander*. See C, K, S, &c.

The *Italians* have no *x* at all in their Language; but, both speak and write *Alessandro*—The *Spaniards* pronounce the *x* like our *c* before *a*; viz. *Alexandro*, as if it were *Alecandro*. The *Portuguese* pronounce it like our *sh*.

In foreign Words used in *English* we sometimes soften the *x* into a double *s*; as *Brussels* for *Bruxelles*, &c.

The Letter is not known in the *Hebrew*, or other Oriental Languages; but in lieu of it they write the two simple Letters whereof it is compounded—And the like do the modern *Germans*.

X is also a numeral Letter, and signifies *ten*; as representing two V's placed one a-top of the other. See V.

X *Supra denos numero tibi dat retinendos.*

When a Dash is added over it, \bar{X} , it signifies *ten thousand*.

XENIA, in antient Customs, were Gifts or Presents made to the Governours of Provinces by the Inhabitants thereof.

The Word occurs pretty frequently in Charters of Privileges; where, *Quictos esse à Xeniiis*, denotes an Exemption from making such Presents to Kings and Queens upon their travelling through such Precincts. See MUNUS, &c.

XENODOCHUS, an Ecclesiastical Officer in the *Greek* Church; the same with *Hospitalier*, or a Person who takes care of the Reception and Entertainment of Strangers. See HOSPITALIER.

St. *Isidore*, a Priest and Solitary, surnamed the *Xenodochus*, liv'd in the IVth Century—He was thus call'd, because entrusted with that Office in the Church of *Alexandria*.

XEROPHTHALMIA, a kind of *Ophthalmia*, wherein the Eyes itch, and are red, but without swelling or watering. See OPHTHALMIA.

The Word is compounded of $\xi\eta\rho\sigma$, dry, and $\delta\phi\theta\alpha\lambda\mu\sigma$, Eye.

XEROPHAGIA, XEROPHAGY, in Church-History, the use of dried Foods. See FOOD.

In the first Ages, some not contented with simple Fasting, added the *Xerophagy* thereto; abstaining not only from Flesh and Wine, but also from all fresh, succulent, and vinous Fruits—And some even brought themselves to bare Bread and Water. See FASTING and ABSTINENCE.

Tertullian in his Book *de Abstinentia*, c. 9. speaks of the *Xerophagia* as a thing commendable in time of Perfection.

The Word is form'd from $\xi\eta\rho\sigma$, *siccus*, dry, and $\phi\acute{\alpha}\gamma\omega$, I eat.

XESTA, $\xi\acute{\epsilon}\sigma\tau\alpha$, an *Attic* Measure of Capacity. See MEASURE.

XIPHIAS, a fiery Meteor, in form of a Sword. See METEOR.

It differs from the *Acontias*, in that this latter is longer, and more like a Dart; and the former shorter and broader in the middle. See ACONTIAS.

XV.VIR, *Quindecimvir*; see QUINDECIMVIR.

Authors, and especially the Antiquaries, make use of such Abbreviations, which they borrow from Medals, and other Monuments of Antiquity, where those Names are so express'd.

XYLO-ALOES, in Medicine, &c. the *Lignum Aloes*: call'd also *Agillochum*. See ALOES and AGILLOCHUM.

The Word is compounded of $\xi\upsilon\lambda\omicron\nu$, *Lignum*, Wood, and $\alpha\lambda\omicron\nu$, *Aloes*.

XYLO-Balsamum, a Name which Naturalists, &c. give to the Wood of the Tree which yields that precious Gum known to the *Latins* by the Name of *Opo-Balsamum*, and among us by the Name of *Balm of Gilead*. See BALM.

We have Branches of this Tree brought us from *Cairo*. They are very freight, brittle, unequal, and full of Knots; their Bark reddish without, and greenish within. The Wood is whitish, and full of Pith, and when broke, yields an agreeable smell resembling that of the Balm.

The *Xylo-balsamum* is reputed good to strengthen the Brain, and Stomach, and to expel Poison.

The Word is compounded of $\xi\upsilon\lambda\omicron\nu$, Wood, and $\beta\acute{\alpha}\lambda\lambda\omicron\sigma\alpha\mu\omicron\nu$, Balm.

XYNOECIA, a Feast among the antient *Athenians*, instituted on occasion of *Theseus's* uniting all the petty Communities of *Attica* into one Common-wealth; the Assemblies whereof were to be held at *Athens*, in the *Prytanæum*. See FEAST.

The Word is form'd of the *Greek* $\xi\iota\nu$ or $\sigma\upsilon\nu$ with, and $\omicron\iota\kappa\omega$, I inhabit.

XYPHOIDES, in Anatomy, a Cartilage at the bottom of the STERNUM; call'd also *Ensiformis*. See CARTILAGE and ENSIFORMIS.

It is about an Inch long, and shaped like the Point of a Sword; whence its Appellation, from $\xi\iota\phi\omicron$, Sword, and $\epsilon\iota\delta\omicron$, Figure. See STERNUM.

XYSTARCHA, in Antiquity, the Master or Director of the *Xystus*. See XYSTUS.

In the *Greek Gymnasium*, the *Xystarcha* was the second Officer—The first was the *Gymnasiarcha*.

The *Xystarcha* was his Lieutenant, and presided over the two *Xysti*, and all Exercises of the *Athletæ* therein. See GYMNASIUM and GYMNASIARCH.

XYSTUS, in the antient Architecture—A *Xystus*, among the *Greeks*, was a long Portico, either open, or cover'd over; wherein the *Athletæ* practis'd Wrestling, and Running. See ATHLETA, WRESTLING, &c.

The Gladiators who practis'd therein, were call'd *Xystici*. See GLADIATOR.

Among the *Romans*, the *Xystus* was only an Alley, or double Row of Trees, meeting Arbor-wise a-top, and forming a Shade to walk under.

The Word is *Greek*, $\xi\upsilon\sigma\omicron\sigma$, form'd of $\xi\upsilon\epsilon\iota\nu$, to polish, shave, rub.

