

A note on Palindrome numbers

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History of Palindromes : Palindromes as a form of wordplay have been created for many centuries. For example, the ancient Greeks are known to have often inscribed the following onto their fountains:

Nipson anomemata me monan opsin.

The third century BCE Greek poet Sotades was said to have written such vulgar satires that King Ptolemy II had him sewn up in a sack and thrown into the sea, for insulting the king in one of his verses. But his coarse, vile verses must have been clever, for Sotades is reputed to have invented **palindromes**, which are sometimes called Sotadics in his honor.



Sotades

The word palindrome is derived from the Greek palíndromos, meaning running backagain (palín = AGAIN + drom-, dromeîn = RUN). A palindrome is a word or phrase which reads the same in both directions. The word "palindrome" was coined from the Greek roots by the English writer Ben Jonson in the 17th century.

The Romans were also admirers of palindromes, and produced such sentences as:

In girum imus nocte et consumimur igni.

It means **we enter the circle after dark and are consumed by fire** and is said to describe the movement of moths.

The following 2D palindrome square also dates back to Roman times. It is inscribed on a stone tablet outside Rome in Italy and is the earliest known 2D palindrome.

S	A	T	O	R
A	R	E	P	O
T	E	N	E	T
O	P	E	R	A
R	O	T	A	S