

Mis en ligne par Revue de presse, le 22 mars 2016 (dernière m.a.j. : 28 février 2018)



Latest tests on charred ancient papyri reveal the invention of metallic ink to be several centuries earlier than previously thought

*Using the world's largest and most sophisticated x-ray microscope, scientists have read a little deeper into one of the iconic relics of the ancient world: a library of charred scrolls that survived the eruption of Mount Vesuvius almost 2000 years ago.*

*Last year, researchers managed to decipher some of the letters on the carbonised papyri. Now, unexpectedly, they reveal in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that they have established that the scribes who copied the ancient texts knew the secret of metallic ink.*

*The find is unexpected ...*

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