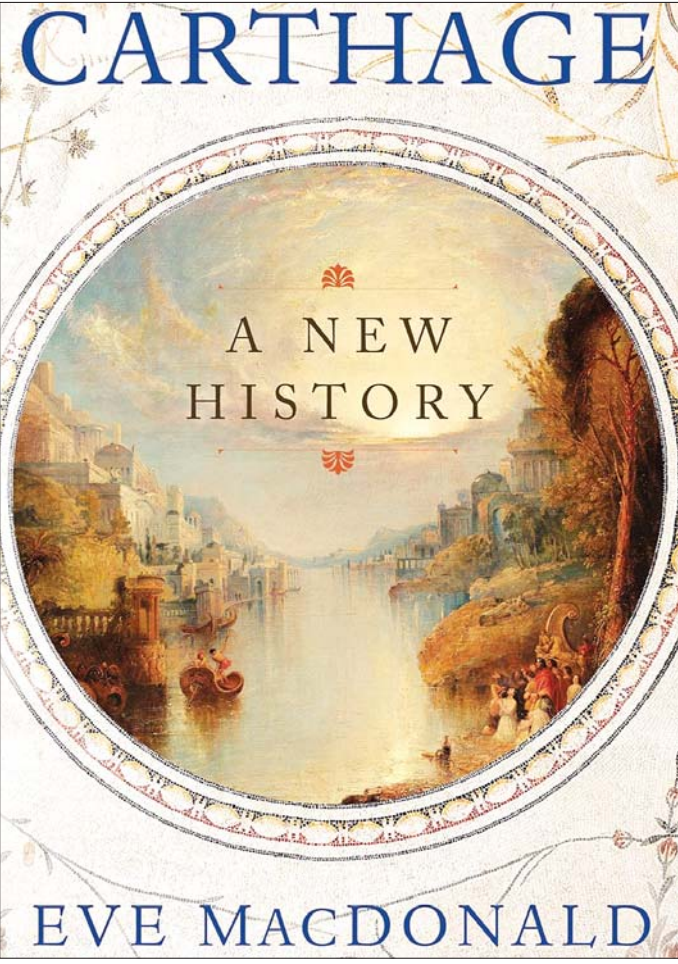


#FABRICATIONS

# The Story of Carthage Isn't Necessarily True

A new book by historian and archaeologist Eve MacDonald paints a more complete portrait of Carthage, the once-great African society destroyed by Rome



Around 310 B.C.E., Carthage was under siege by Agathocles of Syracuse and his army. According to the ancient historian Diodorus, Carthaginians began to despair that their gods had forsaken them and became so desperate to reclaim their favour that they sacrificed 200 children. Yet, to date, no physical evidence of such violence has been found. In fact, the Canadian British historian and archaeologist Eve MacDonald argues provocatively in her new book that this brutal episode was “an imagined scene by a hostile ancient source.” That source, of course, was Rome, which annihilated Carthage in the Third Punic War from 149 to 146 B.C.E. Rome’s leaders never wanted anyone to “see Carthage or its citizens as real people,” MacDonald writes, but rather as a savage foe, its name useful in boosting Roman morale. Now, in *Carthage: A New History of an Ancient Empire*, MacDonald surveys archaeological work from the past 20 years, including her own, to paint a richer portrait of the city and its people than we’ve ever seen. (A star in classicist circles, MacDonald published her first book, a biography of the general Hannibal, in 2015.) Perhaps, the most famous Carthaginian in history was Dido, founder of the city. In her lifetime, she was probably known as Elissa. Elissa came to Africa from Tyre, in modern Lebanon, probably in the late ninth century B.C.E. In some sources, she is the sister

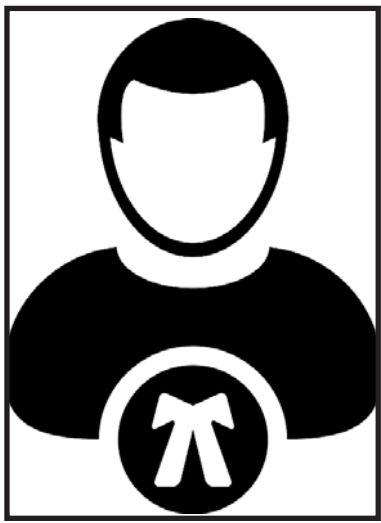
of Pygmalion, King of Tyre. The name Dido was given retroactively by Greek historians, and cemented in history in Virgil’s *Aeneid*. MacDonald takes us from the Phoenicians who founded the city in the ninth century B.C.E., through the myths, and possible truths, about a canny political dissident from Tyre who came to be known as the queen Dido; we learn of the rise of Carthage as a formidable naval power; and, yes, of its eventual sacking. But we also learn about the first century afterward, when the Punic language of the city’s institutions permeated North Africa. “It is believed that Africa was never so Punic as it was after Carthage was destroyed,” MacDonald writes, as surviving Carthaginians “created a kind of Punic diaspora.” “New archaeology and old literature present a different Carthage in the postwar years,” she writes. Recent isotopic analysis has revealed, among other things, that Carthage could rely on its own significant resources from lead-silver mining when it was faced with trade barriers during war. MacDonald’s book is an engrossing and ambitious effort, as concerned with the histories of sailors and soldiers as with the lives of generals and aristocrats. “The Roman memories only ever told one side of the story,” she writes. “The complexity of this once-great, sophisticated and multicultural, African city with a history of innovative technologies, brave warriors and deep religious beliefs was gone.”



A vision of ancient Carthage, attributed to the painter William Linton, c. 1830.



Doctor  
**Dr.**



ADVOCATE  
**Adv.**

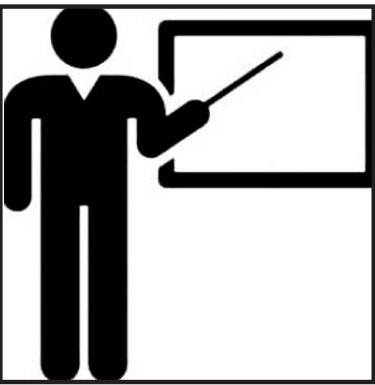


refix to a name has been a custom which probably arose to distinguish the nobility from the masses. Later, it was developed to show different professions. Now, there is an attempt to create prefixes which are odd and sometimes funny.

Recently, it has been suggested to use Tr. as a prefix to teacher’s name. On the other hand, the legal profession has hesitated to use Lr. (L\*tr) for obvious reasons. Dr. was exclusive for the medical profession but is now indiscriminately used by people like physiotherapist, psychologist and even masseurs. The use of a prefix before a person’s name may appear to be a small matter of grammar or etiquette, but it has a surprisingly long and interesting history. A prefix such as Mr., Mrs., Dr., Sir, or Prof. is more than a few letters placed before a name. It can indicate social status, profession, qualification, marital status or simply the manner in which society wishes to address a person. Over the centuries, these prefixes have changed with society. Some have disappeared, some have acquired new meanings and some have become so widely used in their new incarnation that their original purpose has almost been forgotten. Prefixing a title to a person’s name probably arises from the human desire to distinguish one person from another and more importantly, to establish where that person stood in the social hierarchy. In earlier societies, names alone were often not sufficient. A person’s position, rank, occupation or relationship with authority mattered greatly. Thus, titles became a convenient way of announcing social identity even before a word had been spoken. The most obvious examples came from the world of royalty and nobility. Kings, queens, princes, lords and other members of the aristocracy were addressed by titles that immediately placed them

above the common man. His/Her Majesty, His/Her Highness, Lord and Lady were not merely polite forms of address; they reflected an established social order. A title could tell a person how much respect, obedience or deference was expected from others. In time, titles became less exclusively associated with birth and began to be connected with occupation and learning. The prefix Dr., for example, originally had a much broader association with scholarship. It had arisen from Latin doctor, meaning a learned person or teacher. The title subsequently became strongly associated with the medical profession. Today, however, the situation is considerably more complicated. Oddly enough in the United Kingdom, a surgeon is still addressed as Mr. being originally a part of the Barbers Guild. The history of Mr. provides an interesting example of how a title can become ordinary through widespread use. Mr. developed from Master, a form of address that once carried distinctions of age and social position. Over time, Mr. became the standard respectful form of addressing a man without necessarily indicating any particular profession, education or social rank. Similarly, Mrs., Miss and later Ms. evolved as ways of identifying women according to social conventions. For a long time, a woman’s title was connected not merely with her sex but also with her marital status. Mrs. indicated a married woman, while Miss was traditionally used for an unmarried woman. Ms. emerged as a more neutral alternative, particularly because it avoided making marital status a matter of public identification. This raises an important question: what is the purpose of a prefix in the modern world?

A prefix can convey respect, identify expertise, make communication more convenient and sometimes establish professional responsibility. If a letter is addressed to Dr. Sharma, the recipient immediately understands that the person has a particular academic or professional identity. If a person is introduced as Professor Mehta, the audience knows that the person belongs to the academic world. A title can therefore function as a kind of shorthand. At the same time, the usefulness of prefixes depends upon their



TEACHER  
**???**

**TR**

accuracy. A title becomes less meaningful when it is used indiscriminately. This is particularly evident in the case of Dr. For many people, Dr. has become almost synonymous with “medical doctor.” A patient entering a clinic expects the person wearing a doctor’s coat and carrying the title Dr. to be medically qualified. But in the present era, some professionals in healthcare, who are not medical doctors, may use Dr. in particular circumstances, depending on their qualifications and professional rules. The problem, therefore, is not necessarily the existence of the prefix but the absence of clarity about what it represents. A title should ideally inform rather than confuse. The same issue has now arisen in the teaching profession. There has been a suggestion that Tr. should be used as a prefix for teachers. At first sight, this may appear harmless, even attractive. Teachers occupy an important position in society and undoubtedly deserve recognition. A special prefix could



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theoretically give the profession greater visibility and dignity. But the proposal also raises a humorous question: why should every profession require its own two-letter identity card? If doctors are Dr., professors are Prof., engineers are En. in some traditions and teachers become Tr., where does the process stop? Will accountants, architects, lawyers, nurses, journalists, bankers and civil servants eventually demand their own prefixes? Will a person’s visiting card eventually require more space for titles than for the person’s actual name? The legal profession provides an amusing contrast. The proposed Tr. for teachers may be acceptable to some, but the legal profession has shown hesitation about adopting Lr. as a prefix for lawyers. There are several reasons for this reluctance. Lawyers are already associated with a large collection of professional designations, such as advocate, barrister and solicitor, depending on the jurisdiction. Adding another abbreviation before every lawyer’s name may not add much useful information. Earlier, titles

were largely about status. Today, they are increasingly about identity. A person wants a title to indicate what he or she has studied, achieved or does for a living. In a society where professional identity has become an important part of personal identity, this is understandable. There is also an element of competition. If one profession has a prestigious title, another may feel that it too deserves a visible symbol of recognition. The prefix then becomes a badge of professional pride. In some cases, it may even become a form of social branding. But there is a danger in excessive titling. If everyone is surrounded by abbreviations, the name itself can disappear behind the credentials. Imagine a visiting card carrying a person’s name followed by several degrees, fellowships, memberships, professional registrations and titles. Instead of telling us who the person is, it may look like a Curriculum Vitae. Prefixes are particularly useful



## Protecting Giants, Preserving Balance

World Rhino Day, observed on September 22, shines a spotlight on the urgent need to protect one of Earth’s most iconic yet endangered animals, the rhinoceros. With five species of rhinos facing threats from poaching, habitat loss, and illegal wildlife trade, the day calls for global awareness and collective action. Conservation groups, governments, and communities unite to highlight success stories in rhino protection while emphasizing the challenges that remain. From anti-poaching patrols to community-led eco-tourism, efforts aim to secure a safer future for rhinos. World Rhino Day reminds us that safeguarding biodiversity is crucial for ecological balance.

# From Status To Identity

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## #PREFIXES



## Nr – A Professional Prefix for Registered Nurses in India

For Registered Nursing Officers and Staff Nurses under the Indian Nursing Council

**Why “Nr”?**

- Creates professional identity
- Gives recognition and respect
- Represents registered Nursing Officers and Staff and Staff Nurses
- Promotes unity in nursing profession
- Helps identify qualified registered nurses

in situations where expertise matters. A patient should know whether the person treating him is a medical doctor, dentist, physiotherapist, psychologist or another healthcare professional. A student should know whether the person teaching a course is a professor, lecturer or teacher. A client should know the professional status of someone giving legal advice. Thus, the real utility of a prefix is identification. Its secondary function is respect. When identification and respect conflict, identification should probably take priority. The practice of attaching a title to a name is certainly not a modern Western invention. Indian society has traditionally used honorifics extensively. Words such as Shri, Smt., Kumari, Pandit, Acharya, Swami, Sardar, Nawab, Raja and Maharaja, Nawab and Sardar could signify political authority or social rank. Sometimes, this process would go overboard, especially in addressing a ruler. Thus,



The distinction is important. In a democracy, hereditary privilege is difficult to justify, whereas recognition of professional achievement is generally acceptable. A professional prefix can therefore be seen as a democratic successor to some of the older status titles: the source of distinction has shifted from birth to achievement. The difficulty arises when the public cannot immediately determine what the title means. This is particularly significant in healthcare. The issue is not whether one profession is inherently more respectable than another.



The Indian tradition therefore had its own system of distinguishing people through forms of address long before the modern professional prefixes became common. A Pandit could indicate learning; an Acharya could suggest a teacher or spiritual scholar; a Swami could indicate religious status. In royal and aristocratic India, titles such as Raja, Maharaja, Nawab and Sardar could signify political authority or social rank. Sometimes, this process would go overboard, especially in addressing a ruler. Thus,

Akbar became ‘Huzoor-e-wala, Zill-e-Ilahi, Shahenshah-e-hind, Jala-ud-din Mohd Akbar.’ After Independence, many hereditary titles lost their official significance. Yet, the Indian appetite for honorifics did not disappear. Shri and Smt. became standard forms of respectful address in public and official life, while professional titles such as Dr., Prof. and, in some contexts, En. became increasingly prominent. There is also a cultural dimension to all this. Titles vary enormously between countries and societies. A form of address that sounds prestigious in one culture may sound strange in another. Some societies retain elaborate titles, while others have moved strongly towards first-name usage. The movement of people, professions and qualifications across borders makes universal understanding of titles increasingly difficult. Perhaps, the best rule is a simple one: a title should clarify a person’s identity, not decorate it. Indeed, the most useful title may sometimes be the one that requires no abbreviation at all. “Teacher,” “doctor,” “lawyer,” “engineer” or “scientist” tells us what a person does. The name tells us who the person is. The prefix should

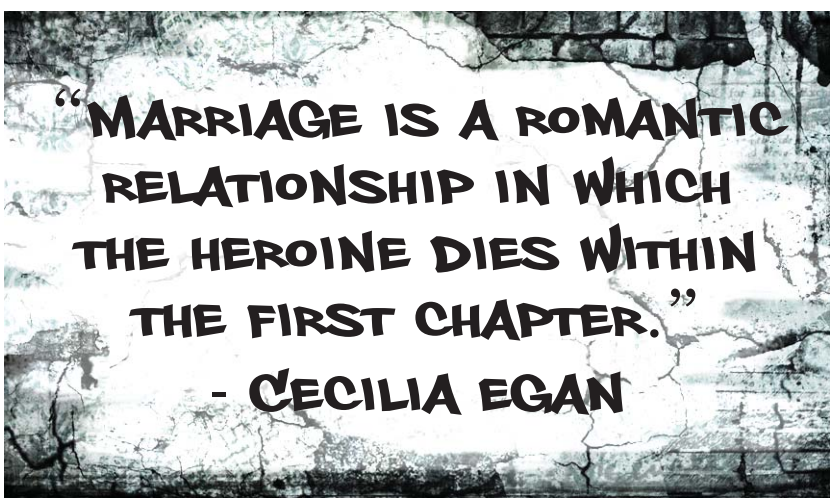


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## ZITS



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

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