Where it's @

Christopher Howse chews the f@ in today's <u>Wikipedia</u> to the rescue:

The word, *ditto*, comes from the, <u>Tuscan language</u>, where it is the past participle of the verb, *dire*, (to say), with the meaning of "said", as in the locution "the said story". The first recorded use of ditto with this meaning in English occurs in 1625.^[2], Early evidence of ditto marks can be seen on a cuneiform tablet of the, <u>Neo-Assyrian</u>, period (934 – 608 BC) where two vertical marks are used in a table of synonyms to repeat text, ^[3], while in China the corresponding mark is two horizontal lines (?)

It's a Super Tuscan, put to good use. I remember as a child reading the in one of the