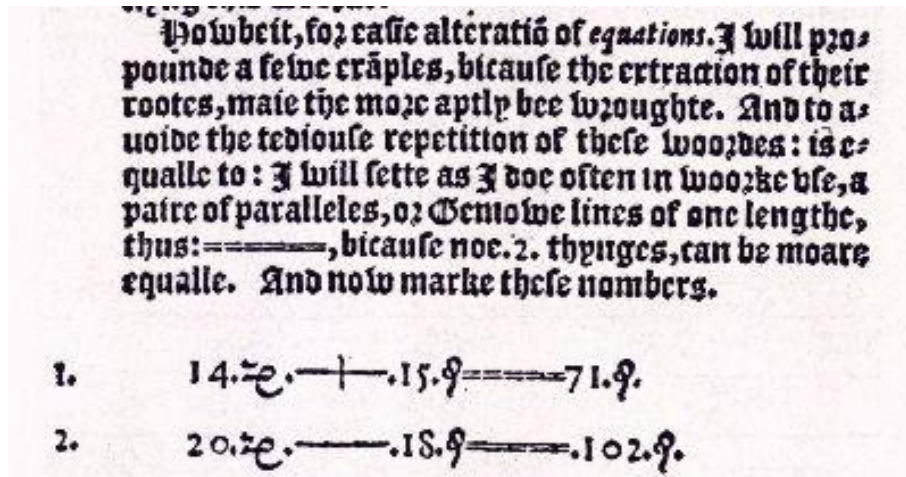


## Where does the equals sign come from?

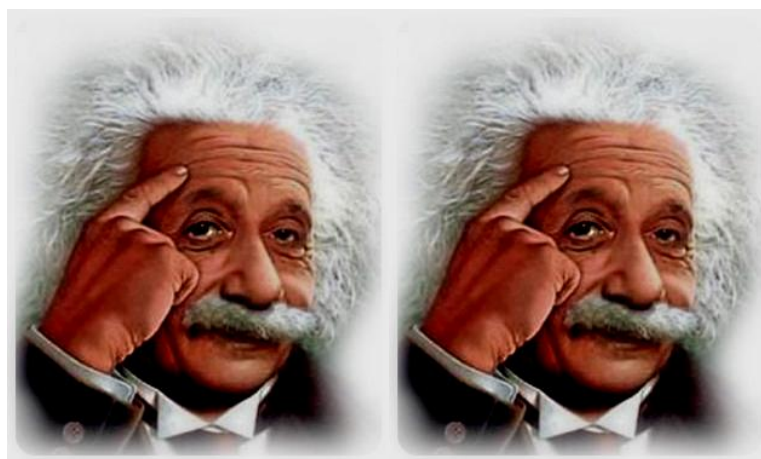
Robert Recorde (c.1510–1558),  
*The Whetstone of Witte* (1557):



Nowbeit, (...) more aptly bee wroughte. And to auoide the tedious repetition of these woordes: is equalle to: I will sette as I doe often in woorke use, a paire of parralleles, or Gemowe lines of one lengthe, thus:=====, bicause noe. 2. thynges, can be moare equalle.

<https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Miller/mathsym/relation/>

Etymology of *Gemowe*: Latin *gemellus* = *twin*.



Rather paradoxical...