

owner, landholder or vassal. Originally this tribute consisted of military furniture, or of horses and arms, as appears by the laws of Canute, C. 69. But as defined by modern writers, a *heriot* is a customary tribute of goods and chattels, payable to the lord of the fee on the decease of the owner of the land; or a render of the best beast or other movables to the lord on the death of the tenant. Heriots were of two sorts; *heriot service*, which was due by reservation in a grant or lease of lands; and *heriot custom*, which depended solely on immemorial usage.

Wilkins. Spelman. Blackstone.

**HERIOTABLE**, *a.* Subject to the payment of a heriot. Burn.

**HERISSON**, *n.* [Fr. a hedgehog, from *herisser*, to bristle, to stand out as hair.]

In fortification, a beam or bar armed with iron spikes pointing outwards, and turning on a pivot; used to block up a passage. Encyc.

**HERITABLE**, *a.* [from the root of *heir*, L. *heres*.]

1. Capable of inheriting, or taking by descent.

By the canon law this son shall be legitimate and heritable. Hale.

2. That may be inherited. [This is the true sense.]

3. Annexed to estates of inheritance. In Scot's law, heritable rights are all rights that affect lands or other immovables. Encyc. Blackstone.

**HERITAGE**, *n.* [Fr. from the root of *heir*.]

1. Inheritance; an estate that passes from an ancestor to an heir by descent or course of law; that which is inherited. In Scot's law, it sometimes signifies immovable estate, in distinction from movable.

2. In Scripture, the saints or people of God are called his *heritage*, as being claimed by him, and the objects of his special care. 1 Pet. v.

**HERMAPHRODITE**, *n.* Hermaphroditism. B. Jonson.

**HERMAPHRODISM**, *n.* [infra.] The union of the two sexes in the same individual. Diet. Nat. Hist.

**HERMAPHRODITE**, *n.* [Fr. from Gr. *hermaproditos*; *hermēs*, Mercury, and *aphroditē*, Venus.]

1. A human being, having the parts of generation both of male and female. The term is applied also to other animals characterized by a similar formation. Encyc.

2. In botany, a flower that contains both the anther and the stigma, or the supposed male and female organs of generation, within the same calyx or on the same receptacle. Martyn. Encyc.

3. A plant that has only hermaphrodite flowers.

**HERMAPHRODITE**, *a.* Designating both sexes in the same animal, flower or plant.

**HERMAPHRODITIC**, *a.* Partaking of both sexes. Brown.

**HERMAPHRODITICALLY**, *adv.* After the manner of hermaphrodites.

**HERMENEUTIC**, *a.* [Gr. *hermeneutikos*, hermeneutic, a finger; Mercury's finger.]

Interpreting; explaining; unfolding the sig-

nification; as *hermeneutic theology*, the art of expounding the Scriptures.

Bloomfield. Encyc.

**HERMENEUTICALLY**, *adv.* According to the true art of interpreting words.

M. Stuart.

**HERMENEUTICS**, *n.* The art of finding the meaning of an author's words and phrases, and of explaining it to others.

**HERMETIC**, *a.* [Fr. *hermetique*; Sp. *hermetico*; from Gr. *hermēs*, Mercury, the fabled inventor of chemistry.]

1. Designating chemistry; chemical; as the *hermetic art*.

2. Designating that species of philosophy which pretends to solve and explain all the phenomena of nature from the three chemical principles, salt, sulphur and mercury; as the *hermetic philosophy*.

3. Designating the system which explains the causes of diseases and the operations of medicine, on the principles of the hermetic philosophy, and particularly on the system of an alkali and acid; as *hermetical physic* or medicine. Encyc.

4. Perfectly close, so that no air, gas, or spirit can escape; as a *hermetic seal*. The *hermetic seal* is formed by heating the neck of a vessel till it is soft, and then twisting it, till the aperture or passage is accurately closed. Encyc.

*Hermetic books*, books of the Egyptians which treat of astrology. Bryant.

Books which treat of universal principles, of the nature and orders of celestial beings, of medicine and other topics. Enfield.

**HERMETICALLY**, *adv.* According to the hermetic art; chemically; closely; accurately; as a vessel *hermetically sealed* or closed.

**HERMIT**, *n.* [Fr. *hermite*, *ermite*; Sp. *ermitaño*; It. *eremita*; Gr. *eremites*, from *erēmos*, solitary, destitute. Perhaps from the Schemitic *erem*, to cut off from society, to expel, or to be separated. Class Rm. See *Harem*.]

1. A person who retires from society and lives in solitude; a recluse; an anchorite. The word is usually applied to a person who lives in solitude, disengaged from the cares and interruptions of society, for the purpose of religious contemplation and devotion.

2. A breadsman; one bound to pray for another. Shak.

**HERMITAGE**, *n.* The habitation of a hermit; a house or hut with its appendages, in a solitary place, where a hermit dwells. Milton.

2. A cell in a reclusive place, but annexed to an abbey. Encyc.

3. A kind of wine.

**HERMITARY**, *n.* A cell for the religious annexed to some abbey. Howell.

**HERMITESS**, *n.* A female hermit. Drummond.

**HERMITICAL**, *a.* Pertaining to a hermit, or to retired life.

2. Suited to a hermit. Coventry.

**HERMODACTYL**, *n.* [Gr. *hermēs*, Mercury, and *dactylus*, a finger; Mercury's finger.]

In the *Materia Medica*, a root brought from Turkey. It is in the shape of a heart flat-

ted, of a white color, compact, but easy to be cut or pulverized, of a viscous sweetish taste, with a slight degree of acrimony. Some suppose it to be the root of the Colchicum variegatum; others, the root of the Iris tuberosa. It was anciently in great repute as a cathartic; but that which is now furnished has little or no cathartic quality. Encyc.

**HERMOGENIANS**, *n.* A sect of ancient heretics, so called from their leader Hermogenes, who lived near the close of the second century. He held matter to be the fountain of all evil, and that souls are formed of corrupt matter. Encyc.

**HERN**, *n.* A hernia, which see.

**HERN-HILL**, *n.* A plant.

**HERNIA**, *n.* [L.] In surgery, a rupture; a descent of the intestines or omentum from their natural place; an unnatural protrusion of the intestines. Hernia is of various kinds. Quincy. Core.

**HERNSHAW**, *n.* A heron. Obs. Spenser.

**HERO**, *n.* [L. *heros*, Gr. *hērōs*, a demigod. It coincides in elements with *fr. carr*, noble, grand, a champion, and with the G. *herr*, D. *heer*, lord, master.]

1. A man of distinguished valor, intrepidity or enterprise in danger; as a *hero* in arms. Corley.

2. A great, illustrious or extraordinary person; as a *hero* in learning. [Little used.]

3. In a poem, or romance, the principal personage, or the person who has the principal share in the transactions related; as Achilles in the *Iliad*, Ulysses in the *Odyssey*, and Æneas in the *Æneid*.

4. In *pagan mythology*, a hero was an illustrious person, mortal indeed, but supposed by the populace to partake of immortality, and after his death to be placed among the gods. Encyc.

**HERO DIANS**, *n.* A sect among the Jews, which took this name from *Herod*; but authors are not agreed as to their peculiar notions.

**HEROTIC**, *a.* Pertaining to a hero or heroes; as *heroic valor*.

2. Becoming a hero; bold; daring; illustrious; as *heroic action*; *heroic enterprises*.

3. Brave; intrepid; magnanimous; enterprising; illustrious for valor; as Hector, the *heroic son* of Priam; a *heroic race*.

4. Productive of heroes; as a *heroic line* in pedigree.

5. Reciting the achievements of heroes; as a *heroic poem*.

6. Used in heroic poetry or hexameter; as *heroic verse*; a *heroic foot*.

*Heroic age*, the age when the heroes, or those called the children of the gods, are supposed to have lived.

**HEROICAL**, *a.* The same as *heroic*. [Little used.]

**HEROICALLY**, *adv.* In the manner of a hero; with valor; bravely; courageously; intrepidity. The wall was *heroically* defended.

**HEROICOMIC**, *a.* [See *Hero* and *Comic*.] Consisting of the heroic and the ludicrous; denoting the high burlesque; as a *heroicomic poem*.

**HEROINE**, *n.* *her'oin*. [Fr. *heroïne*, from *hero*.]