**Word of the Day: 9/29/2014**

**hogmanay**

[*hog-muh-NEY*]



**Part of speech: noun**

## *a gift given on New Year's Eve*.

**Example Sentence:**

The children who went about on December 31 asking for their " hogmanay " were really asking for a Scottized French word for a cake.

-- "A changed meaning," The Glasgow Herald, 1947

**Word of the Day: 9/30/2014**

**microcosm**

 [*MY-kruh-koz-uhm*]



**Part of speech: noun**

**1**. *A little world.*

***2.*** *A smaller, representative system having analogies to a larger system.*

**Example Sentence**:

The monarch and his followers thought of the court as a microcosm of how the kingdom ought to be, the harmonious expression of a social order centered on the monarch.

-- John Brewer, The Pleasures of the Imagination**Word of the Day: 10/1/2014**

**quidnunc**

[*KWID-nuhngk*]

**Part of Speech: noun**

**1.** *One who is curious to know everything that passes; one who knows or pretends to know all that is going on; a gossip; a busybody.*

**Example Sentence:**

*What a treasure-trove to these venerable quidnuncs ,could they have guessed the secret which Hepzibah and Clifford were carrying along with them!*

*-- Nathaniel Hawthorne, The House of the Seven Gables*

**Word of the Day: 10/2/2014**

**inveterate**

[*in-VET-uhr-it*]

**Part of Speech: adjective**

*1. Firmly established by long persistence; deep-rooted; of long standing.*

*2. Fixed in habit by long persistence; confirmed; habitual.*

**Example Sentence:**

*Quotes: In Montpelier, where this prison stands, the inveterate prejudice against prisoners has been swept away.*

*-- Morrison I. Swift, The Atlantic, August 1911*

**Word of the Day: 10/3/2014**

**leitmotif**

 [LYT-moh-teef ]

**Part of Speech: noun**

1. In music drama, a marked melodic phrase or short passage which always accompanies the reappearance of a certain person, situation, abstract idea, or allusion in the course of the play; a sort of musical label.
2. . A dominant and recurring theme.

**Example Sentence:**

Each actor to appear on stage is accompanied by a musical phrase on the drum -- a sort of **leitmotif** to characterize an emotion, much like a Wagnerian drama.

-- Eleanor Blau, "Connecticut's Shakespeare", New York Times , July 9, 1982