

Home > Games > Magic > Magicthegathering.com > Magic Arcana



The Lexicon: Throback Edition

Magic Arcana
 Tuesday, November 30, 2004

Welcome to a Throback Week edition of [The Lexicon](#), in which you can learn the meanings of some of the more obscure words we use in the names of older cards. While many of the offbeat names (like "Tyrranax") are simply made up, we often dig around dictionaries for real little-used and archaic words for inspiration. Check out these Lexicon entries drawn from cards printed in 1997 and before.

ae·ol·i·pile
noun

1. An apparatus consisting chiefly of a closed vessel (as a globe or cylinder) with one or more projecting bent tubes, through which steam is made to pass from the vessel, causing it to revolve.



cy·lix
noun

1. A shallow drinking cup with two handles; used in ancient Greece.



didg·er·i·doo
noun

1. A musical instrument of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia, consisting of a long hollow branch or stick that makes a deep drone when blown into.



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nim·bus
adjective

1. A cloudy radiance said to surround a classical deity when on earth.
2. A radiant light that appears usually in the form of a circle or halo about or over the head in the representation of a god, demigod, saint, or sacred person such as a king or an emperor.
3. A splendid atmosphere or aura, as of glamour, that surrounds a person or thing.
4. A rain cloud, especially a low dark layer of clouds such as a nimbostratus.



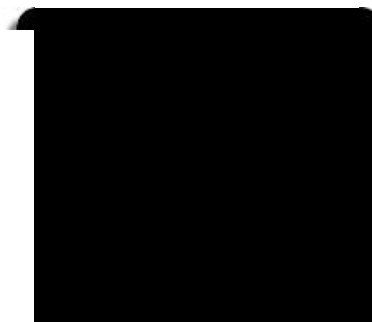
pha·lanx
noun

1. A compact or close-knit body of people.
2. A formation of infantry carrying overlapping shields and long spears, developed by Philip II of Macedon and used by Alexander the Great.



sa·vant
noun

1. A learned person; a scholar.





Source: dictionary.com



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