

# Encyclopædia Britannica;

OR, A

## D I C T I O N A R Y

O F

A R T S and S C I E N C E S,

COMPILED UPON A NEW PLAN.

I N W H I C H

The different S C I E N C E S and A R T S are digested into  
distinct Treatises or Systems;

A N D

The various T E C H N I C A L T E R M S, &c. are explained as they occur  
in the order of the Alphabet.

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ILLUSTRATED WITH ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY COPPERPLATES.

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*By a SOCIETY of GENTLEMEN in SCOTLAND.*

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I N T H R E E V O L U M E S.

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V O L. III.

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E D I N B U R G H:

Printed for A. BELL and C. MACFARQUHAR;

And sold by COLIN MACFARQUHAR, at his Printing-office, Nicolson-street.

M. DCC. LXXI.



to signify a collection of verses, especially those of Homer, which having been a long time dispersed in pieces and fragments, were at length, by Piliatrat's order, digested into books called rhapsodies. Hence, among moderns, rhapsody is also used for an assemblage of passages, thoughts, and authorities, raked together from divers authors, to compose some new piece.

**RHE**, or **RÆ**, a little island in the bay of Biscay, near the coast of Aunis in France: W. long.  $1^{\circ} 30'$ , N. lat.  $46^{\circ} 14'$ .

**RHEIMS**, or **REIMS**, a city of France, capital of the province of Champain, one of the most elegant cities in France, situated seventy-five miles north-east of Paris: E. long.  $4^{\circ}$ , N. lat.  $49^{\circ} 20'$ .

**RHETERIANS**, a sect of heretics in Egypt, so denominated from Rhetorius their leader. The distinguishing doctrine of this heresiarch, as represented by Philastrius, was, that he approved of all the heresies before him, and taught that they were all in the right.

**RHETORIC**, the art of speaking copiously on any subject, with all the advantage of beauty and force.

Lord Bacon defines rhetoric, very philosophically, to be the art of applying and addressing the dictates of reason to the fancy, and of recommending them there so as to affect the will and desires. The end of rhetoric, the same author observes, is to fill the imagination with ideas and images which may assist nature without oppressing it. Vossius defines rhetoric, The faculty of discovering what every subject affords of use for persuasion. Hence, as every author must invent arguments to make his subject prevail; dispose those arguments, thus found out, in their proper places; and give them the embellishments of language proper to the subject; and, if this discourse be intended to be delivered in public, utter them with that decency and force which may strike the hearer; rhetoric becomes divided into four parts, invention, disposition, elocution, and pronunciation.

Rhetoric and oratory differ from each other as the theory from the practice; the rhetorician being he who describes the rules of eloquence, and the orator he who uses them to advantage. Ordinarily however, the two are used indifferently for each other. See COMPOSITION.

**RHEUM**, a thin serous humour, occasionally coozing out of the glands about the mouth and throat.

**RHEUM** in botany. See BOTANY, p. 642.

**RHEUMATISM**, in medicine. See MEDICINE, p. 124.

**RHEXIA**, in botany, a genus of the octandria monogynia class. The calix consists of four segments, and the corolla of four petals inserted into the calix; the anthers are declined; and the capsule has four cells. There are three species, none of them natives of Britain.

**RHINANTHUS**, in botany, a genus of the didynamia angiospermia class. The calix is swelled, and has four segments; the capsule is obtuse, compressed, and bilocular. There are six species, only one of which, viz. the *cris- galli*, yellow rattle or cock's comb, is a native of Britain.

**RHINE**, a great river rising in the country of the Grisons, in Switzerland, and, running north, continues its course till it forms the lake of Constance: from whence it turns west, and having visited Basil, runs north, dividing Suabia from Alsacia; from thence it runs through the Palatinate and receiving the Neckar, the Maine, and the Mo-

selle, continues its course north by Mentz, &c. After entering the Netherlands at Skerkinchans, it is divided into several channels, the two largest whereof obtain the names of the Lech and the Waal, which running through the United Provinces discharge themselves into the German sea below Rotterdam.

**RHINE lower circle** consists of the Palatinate of the Rhine and the three ecclesiastical electorates, viz. those of Cologne, Mentz, and Triers.

**RHINE upper circle** consisted of the Landgraves of Alsacia and Hesse, comprehending the Wetteraw: but only Hesse can be accounted a part of Germany at present, France having united Alsace to that kingdom.

**RHINEBURG**, a town of Germany, in the circle of the lower Rhine and electorate of Cologne, situated fifteen miles east of Gelder.

**RHINEFIELD**, the name of two towns of Germany, one whereof is situated in the circle of Suabia, on the Rhine, eight miles east of Basil; the other is the capital of the county of Rhinefield, situated in the circle of the Upper Rhine, sixteen miles north-west of Mentz.

**RHINOCEROS**, in zoology, a genus of quadrupeds belonging to the order of bellux, of which there is but one species, viz. the unicornis, a native of Africa and India. It has two fore-teeth in each jaw, situate at a great distance from each other, and blunt, and a solid conical horn upon the nose. This, of all quadrupeds, approaches nearest to the elephant in size, the body being nearly as bulky, but the legs much shorter. A full-grown rhinoceros is fourteen feet high; and the legs are so short with all this height, that the belly comes near the ground: the head is very large and oblong, of an irregular figure, broad at top, and depressed towards the snout: the ears resemble those of a hog: the eyes are very small, and situated at a small distance from the extremity of the snout: on the upper part of the snout, near the extremity, stands the horn, growing to about two feet and a half in length, bent a little back, of a black colour, and vastly firm and hard: the skin is remarkably thick and hard, so that the creature could not turn its body in any direction but for the joints and folds in it: the tail is short, and furnished with some long and extremely thick black hairs. The rhinoceros feeds upon thorns and brushwood; like the sow, he wallows in the mire. He is gentle and inoffensive, except when he is injured. But, when irritated, he even overturns large trees in his fury.

**RHINOCEROS BIRD**. See BUCEROS.

**RHIZOPHORO**, in botany, a genus of the dodecandria monogynia class. Both calix and corolla consist of four segments; and there is but one long seed, fleshy at the base. The species are seven, none of them natives of Britain.

**RHODES**, the capital of an island of that name, situated in the Mediterranean sea, in E. long.  $28^{\circ}$ , and between  $36^{\circ}$  and  $37^{\circ}$  N. lat.

**RHODIOLA**, in botany, a genus of the dioecia enneandria class. The calix of the male consists of four segments, and the corolla of four petals; the calix of the female has four segments; it has no corolla, but four nectaria, and four pistils; and it has four capsules, containing many seeds. There is but one species, viz. the *rosea*, or rose-wort, a native of Britain.

**RHODODENDRUM**, in botany, a genus of the decan-