Halo, *see* Nimbus.

**Harmodius and Aristogeiton, see** Tyrannicides.

**Harpa.** From the Greek *harpe*, ‘sickle’, the word generally used to describe a curved sword which Perseus used when he beheaded the Gorgon.

**Harpy.** ‘Snatcher’, the name given in ancient Greek mythology to a being which snatches persons away to the underworld, or snatches away their food. The Harpies were three in number, and are represented in art either as winged females, or as birds with the heads of women.

**Hasta.** A spear or lance; in the Roman army, the first line of troops was called the *hastati*.

**Haruspex.** Literally ‘inspector of entrails’, the title of a Roman priest who followed the practice, inherited from the Etruscans, of examining the entrails of animals which had been sacrificed, and drawing conclusions concerning the progress of future events from their appearance and condition.

**Hawksbeak.** A moulding found in the Doric order, which when seen in profile has a shape which resembles the curving beak of a bird of prey. The ancient name for it is not known; it might have been referred to as a *cymatium*/kymation, but this word is one which could also be applied to other curving mouldings.

**Helladic.** A name given by modern archaeologists to the Bronze Age civilisation of mainland Greece. In the early period (c. 2500-1900 B.C.) Greece seems to have been inhabited by people who did not speak Greek. In the Middle Helladic period (c. 1900-1600 B.C.) speakers of Greek arrived. The Late Helladic period (c. 1600-1100 B.C.) is more commonly known as the Mycenaean period.

**Hellenistic.** An alternative form of ‘Hellenic’ (found in ancient texts, but there only as a variant form with no differing meaning), which is used by modern scholars as a label for the period of Greek history from the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.) to the final absorption of Greece into the Roman Empire (usually dated for this purpose to 31 B.C., the date of the battle of Actium).

**Helmet.** Many forms of helmet are represented in Greek and Roman art. For the most common Greek types, see Attic, Corinthian and Phrygian. These all appear in Roman art also. The most common form of purely Roman helmet is the military type, covering the head and back of the neck and open at the front, often decorated with a crest (a ‘panache’).

**Hephaesteum/Hephaisteion.** A place or building dedicated to Hephaestus. At Athens a temple in the Agora, formerly attributed to the Attic hero Theseus, has been shown to have housed a joint cult of Athena and Hephaestus, and is now known as the Hephaesteum. It is one of a group of temples built in the middle of the 5th century B.C. in the Doric order by Athenian architects which include some interesting Ionic features.

**Heraeum.** A place or building dedicated to Hera. The two most notable sanctuaries of this kind in the Greek world were on the island of Samos, and near Argos in the Peloponnese. In the Samian Heraeum a temple was built in the archaic period which was for many years the largest of its kind in the Greek world.

**Heraldic composition.** An placing of elements in an artistic composition which resembles the arrangement common in heraldry, where balanced pairs of figures face each other.

**Herm.** A figure consisting of a pillar surmounted by a head, usually with male genitals represented on its front. In the earliest examples the head is bearded, and the figure represented the god Hermes in semi-aniconic form. In later times the practice arose of placing portrait heads upon herms, this being an alternative to making full length statues.

**Herodes Atticus.** A wealthy Greek (not related to the Herods of Judaea), with estates in the neighbourhood of Marathon. He combined a career as a senator and consul at Rome in the 2nd century A.D. with prose writing, principally rhetoric and letters. He paid for building works at Athens, Delphi and Olympia that bear his name.

**Hetoinasia.** ‘Preparation’, the name given to a motif which appears in Byzantine art and symbolises the preparation of the world for the return of Christ as its perpetual ruler. The idea is presented by the representation of a vacant throne with symbols of imperial rule (*e.g.* diadem and chlamys).

**Hexastyle.** ‘With six columns’ (see -style).
Hierarchical or hieratic composition. A composition in which human figures are arranged in such a way as to demonstrate their relative status or importance.

Hieron. ‘Sacred (place)’, a word sometimes used to describe a Greek shrine or sacred area. The Latin equivalent, *fanum*, or its English equivalent ‘fane’, is not normally used in modern English.

Himation. The Greek word for a heavy cloak (the Latin equivalent is *pallium*).

Hippocamp. A mythical creature, perhaps inspired by the sea horse. It has a horse’s head and body, sometimes equipped with wings, which ends in a serpentine tail, and may also have fins.

Hippodrome, see Circus.

Hoplite. From *hoplon*, ‘weapon’, the name given to the regular fully armed soldiers, as opposed to those with less substantial equipment, in a Greek city. Since hoplites had to buy their own weapons and armour, and this was beyond the capacities of most of the population, the hoplites represented a social class, only outranked by those who could afford to maintain horses, in addition to having a purely military function. The full outfit (or panoply) of a hoplite consisted of a helmet, breastplate and backplate, and greaves, with a sword and spear.

Hybrid. In art, a creature which is represented with the features of more than one kind of being, such as a centaur or a chimaera, or an object which combines parts in an incorrect way, such as a coin with inappropriately matches obverse and reverse types.

Hydra. A monster with nine snake-like heads, one of them immortal, which was conquered by Hercules as his second Labour.

Hydria. ‘Water jar’ (*cf.* words in English that begin with ‘hydro-’), a jar with broad shoulders and a narrow foot and mouth, equipped with two horizontal handles on opposite sides, and a vertical handle between them on one side. It was traditionally used for carrying water. The name ‘calpis’ is sometimes also given to this shape of vase.

Hypocaust. ‘Under-burner’, an arrangement for heating a room built with concrete or tiled floor. At one side of the building a furnace was placed, with the smoke and heat from it directed under the floor and up through the walls, to be vented in the air above. This was normal in the hot rooms of public baths, unless they got their heat from the burning of wood or charcoal in braziers. In Roman times hypocausts also began to be used in the bathrooms or living areas of the more luxurious private houses, particularly in the more inclement parts of the Roman Empire.

Hypotrichelium. The top of the neck of a column in architecture, usually marked by the cessation of the flutes and by an ornament of some kind.