

# 1911 Encyclopædia Britannica, Volume 26 — Thesaurus



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**THESAURUS** (Gr. θησαυρός), the term in architecture given to the Greek treasure house, and at one time applied to the beehive tombs of Mycenae and other parts of Greece, now recognized as tombs; the subterranean chambers under some of the Greek temples were probably used as treasure rooms. Sometimes in the rear of the cella of a Greek temple there was a chamber, known as the opisthodomus, in which the treasures were kept; and, failing this provision, the epinaos or rear portico of the temple was enclosed with large railings and utilized for the same purpose; in this case the term opisthodomus was applied to it. "Thesaurus" is also used of a dictionary, or lexicon, as being a "treasure house" or store of knowledge.



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