



penetrabilia

Word of the Day for Toastmasters everywhere

Thursday 4th March 2010 - Contributed by Brian Dungate at easy-Speak.org



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penetralia

(plural noun) pen-ay-TRAY-li-a

Innermost parts of anything, sanctuary of a temple, innermost mysteries.

Her youthful lord had just discovered her mounted on a chair, her small person decked out with a profusion of necklaces, jewels, bracelets, chains, and rings; and her fingers, as well as they could under their stiffening load, were opening the very **penetralia** of the cabinet, the inner chamber of the hall, where lay a case adorned with the Ribaumont arms and containing the far-famed chaplet of pearls.

Charlotte M. Yonge. *The Chaplet of Pearls*.

With his long, blunt screwdriver he cracked the shields hiding the machine's **penetralia**, a screw popping loose and flying into the shadows. He took the ball-peen and delivered a crafty blow.

Daniyal Mueenuddin, *Nawabdin Electrician*, in *The New Yorker*, 27 August 2007. *The New Yorker*

While we long for authenticity, the evidence, or lack of it, in its **penetralia** mocks us.

John Vernon, *The New York Times*, 12 July 1992. *New York Times*