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AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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in·cu·nab·u·lum  (in'kyə-năb yə-ləm, ینگ'-)

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n. pl. in·cu·nab·u·la (-lə)

1. A book printed before 1501; an incunable.
2. An artifact of an early period.

[New Latin *incūnābulum*, from sing. of Latin *incūnābula*, swaddling clothes, cradle : *in-*, in; see [IN](#)-² + *cūnābula*, cradle, infancy (from *cūnae*, cradle; see [kei-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

in·cu·nab u·lar (-lər) *adj.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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