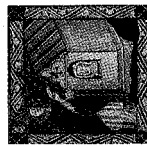




A stockied ship's anchor.
a. Shank
b. Crown
c. Arm
d. Fluke
e. Point
f. & g. Eye and Ring
h. Stock
i. Fisherman's bend

Anchorite. The word 'anchorite' is drawn from the Greek word *anchōrēin*, meaning 'to withdraw'. An anchorite is a person who willingly consents to be isolated and enclosed in a spatially fixed location in order to retire from society or company or the world. The word 'anchorite' stems directly from the physical description of the body of the subject. The definition reflects the position of the subject's body as no longer being visible. Thus the identity/role the subject wishes to act out is reflected in the position of her body. The anchorite might be compared to a method actor. She subjects herself to a situation so as to better understand her role. Anchorites



were required to apply to the local diocese with a request to be interned. Successful applicants were provided with guidebooks written by monks to aid them on their inner journey. The anchorite would be bricked into a small annex at the side of a church. They were obliged to remain in their cell until death (or even longer). The anchorite's simultaneous presence and absence within the metropolis made them a



powerful symbol of a clean slate for the entire community and a potent reminder of the correct focus of life for the passer-by. In turn it was suggested they identify their environment with the wound in the side of

Christ. They were encouraged to imagine that they might climb/creep inside Christ's wound. Part of the plan for an anchorite entrapped behind an urban wall was to disappear from the world. Metaphor featured heavily in trying to picture a life that was primarily internal. Their location was on occasion compared to a premature burial (Christ in the tomb) and many lived according to the rule *velut in sepulchro* (live as in the grave). Thus the anchorite performed a bridge between life and death. The womb of the Virgin Mary was employed as a metaphor for the anchorhold and the anchorhold was employed as a metaphor for the womb. Anchorites were encouraged to focus their attention upon the sacred heart which women were considered to identify with especially due to



associations with menstrual bleeding. Likewise the wound in the side of Christ was compared to the lips of the vagina, thus allowing for a relationship to and meditation on the divine wound. Female anchorites always outnumbered their male counterparts. The ratio peaked at 4 women to every 1 man in the 13th century. There is no certain answer to the question of why



such large numbers of women sought enclosure. The anchorite led a highly individualized life, however one cannot be certain that the choice of voluntary confinement and marginalization was made due to the freedoms it offered in an otherwise restrictive society, and not as an act of submission to the popular belief that women were of a wild and uncontrollable nature that should be restrained.

Hermit. The word 'hermit' is drawn from the Latin word *eremus*, literally meaning desert. A hermit is a person who retires from society or company or the world to live in an isolated place. The word 'hermit' stems directly from the geographical location of the subject. The definition is the site. Thus the identity/role of the subject becomes his setting. The hermit lifestyle might be said to have originated from



the marginalization of the cult of the Christians by Roman emperor Decius. Many were forced to flee into the desert to escape persecution and preserve their faith. By the 3rd and 4th centuries AD a large volume of hermits were living in the Egyptian desert. These included the first hermit: Paul of Thebes and the famous hermit St Anthony, as well as St Simon Stylites, who lived on top of a high pillar.



Some hermits are known to have gathered a substantial number of followers while others had a steady stream of pilgrims to entertain. The first monasteries arose out of such occurrences. Many hermits began to live in communities of some description, meeting for prayers or to listen to each other preaching from pillars. Eventually many of these gangs were persuaded to live under one roof and sets of rules began to be established. These Cenobite (common life) communities founded in the 4th century paved the way for the institution of monasticism. In the 6th century AD St Benedict of Nursia, who had previously been a hermit, set up the first Benedictine institution in which monks lived in

communion according to an established rule.

Part of the objective for the hermit bound to the open desert was to disappear from the world. Metaphor featured heavily as an aid to picturing events that were primarily internal. One of the major metaphors employed to depict the life of a hermit is warfare, texts are masculinized, describing even the gentlest of hermits as soldiers of Christ fighting against invisible foes or assaulted by the weapons of Satan. From his original location in the African deserts the hermit has migrated into forests, islands, mountains and even urban locations. Normally a hermit retires from the world for religious reasons, however it may also be because he wishes for a life free from standards imposed by society relating to accepted levels of cleanliness or dress etc. Many great writers and artists have lived as hermits. It could be argued that it is easier to concentrate on thinking when one is alone. During the 19th century it became popular amongst the English aristocracy to employ an elderly gentleman to perform the role of a hermit within the grounds of the estate. The fellow would act as a human garden ornament inhabiting a purpose built hut or man-made cave.

Hermit crab, Families Paguridae and Coenobitidae (Decapoda of the subclass Crustacea). The hermit crab uses the discarded shells of others to create a home. It may also choose another hollow object of appropriate size. It uses the object as a shelter as well as for protection of the body. Hermits are not only found in water, they may also be seen on land and occasionally in trees. The crab's foremost pair



of legs act as pincers. The larger fore pincer is employed to cover the entrance of the shell when the crab is at home. The last pair of legs grip inside of the shell or other