

entheogen, n. [Draft entry June 2007]

Brit. /ɛnˈθiːə(ʊ)dʒ(ə)n/, U.S. /ɛnˈθiədʒən/

[< ancient Greek ἑνθεος divinely inspired (see entheos n.) + -gen comb. form, after hallucinogen n.]

The term was apparently coined as an alternative to hallucinogen n. and psychedelic n., which were perceived as having negative connotations.]

A psychoactive substance which is used in a religious ritual or to bring about a spiritual experience, typically a plant or fungal extract; (more widely) any hallucinogenic drug.

1979 J. Bigwood et al. in Jnl. Psychedelic Drugs 11 146/1 We propose a new term that would be appropriate for describing states of shamanic and ecstatic possession induced by ingestion of mind-altering drugs . The term we are proposing: entheogen. 1982 Jnl. Amer. Oriental Soc. 102 601 Fungal entheogens come in cattle dung, are easily identified and gathered, and are effective.

1992 Utne Reader July–Aug. 160/3 (advt.) Shaman's Drum explores the fascinating, extraordinary world of shamanism, Native medicineways, entheogens, and transpersonal healing. 1996 B. Sterling Holy Fire 21 He was very exalted on entheogens, so filled with fiery inspiration that he was scarcely able to speak. 1998 S. Reynolds Energy Flash 407 Wasson refused to use the pop culture term 'psychedelic', preferring the more ungainly and overtly transcendentalist 'entheogen'.

Derivatives. entheogenic adj. of or relating to an entheogen; characterized by the use of entheogens.

1979 J. Bigwood et al. in Jnl. Psychedelic Drugs 11 148/1 The experiment left us convinced that ergonovine was psychoactive, but only J.B. was persuaded that the drug was *entheogenic. 1993 R. Rucker et al. Mondo 2000 310/1 Exotic Botanicals: Unusual entheogenic, medicinal and ethnobotanical plants and tropical products. 2004 L.A. Weekly (Nexis) 13 Aug. 11 Ubab's super-secret California squat is a haven for a small fold devoted to a Westernized version of the ancient practice of entheogenic healing.

hallucinogen

(hæˈl(j)uːsɪnədʒən)

[f. hallucin(ation) + -o + -gen.]

A drug which causes hallucinations (see hallucination 2).

1954 A. Hoffer et al. in Jnl. Mental Sci. C. 30 When the literature is examined to catalogue these hallucinatory substances, which for convenience we have called the hallucinogens, one is struck by their small number. 1954 A. Huxley Doors of Perception 6 Lysergic acid, an extremely potent hallucinogen derived from ergot. 1955 Jnl. Mental

Sci. CI. 318 There are so few hallucinogens known that we must study intensively the types of sub-groups and molecules which cause hallucinations. 1958 New Scientist 28 Aug. 715/3 More recently several hallucinogens have been observed which produce, in addition to other symptoms of schizophrenia, auditory hallucinations. 1969 Times 24 Jan. 6/6 The fly agaric fungus yields one of the most potent and anciently used hallucinogens, inducing a slight trembling followed by illusions.

So ha, llucino'genic a., being or containing such a drug; causing hallucinations.

1952 Jnl. Mental Sci. XCVIII. 311 There are many other hallucinogenic drugs, but none has either such striking properties or such a simple chemical constitution as mescaline. 1958 Sci. News XLVII. 36 Other lines of research include the search for substances that antagonize the hallucinogenic drugs. 1959 Times Lit. Suppl. 27 Feb. 113/4 We believe our evidence points to a role for the hallucinogenic mushroom in the origins of the religious idea in primitive society. 1960 Times 31 Dec. 9/7 A liana of which the boiled juice has hallucinogenic effects. 1965 Listener 23 Sept. 465/1 It is a powerful mind-changer of the hallucinogenic variety. 1968 Times 13 Nov. 16/1 Many well known hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD and mescaline, cause mice to exhibit the curious behaviour pattern of head twitching.

psychedelic, a. and n.

(saɪkɪ'dɛlɪk, -'di:lɪk)

Also occas. psychodelic.

[Irreg. f. Gr. ψυχή (see psyche) + δηλ-οῦν to make manifest, reveal (f. δῆλος manifest, visible) + -ic.

Proposed by H. Osmond in a letter to Aldous Huxley early in 1956: see G. Smith Lett. of Aldous Huxley (1969) 795.]

A. adj.

1. a. Of a drug: producing an expansion of consciousness through greater awareness of the senses and emotional feelings and the revealing of unconscious motivations (freq. symbolically); usu., = psychotomimetic a.

1957 H. Osmond in Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. LXVI. 429, I have tried to find an appropriate name for the agents under discussion: a name that will include the concepts of enriching the mind and enlarging the vision. My choice, because it is clear, euphonious, and uncontaminated by other associations, is psychedelic, mind-manifesting. 1959 Times Lit. Suppl. 13 Nov. 665/3 He is so far from condemning the use of psychedelic drugs as to believe that, if wisely directed, they may help to open closed minds to dimensions of experience which would otherwise remain closed to them. 1965 Jnl. Amer. Med. Assoc. 11 Jan. 104/1 The use of hallucinogenic (psychotomimetic, dysleptic, psychedelic) substances to produce altered states of consciousness is not new. 1965 Brit. Jnl. Philos. Sci. XVI. 150 The popular issue of consciousness-expanding, or psychodelic drugs. 1967 New Statesman 3

Feb. 154/3 Mr. Andrews stands for many poets who are trying to reach beyond ordinary experience, in his case through the 'mental voyages' of psychedelic drugs. 'This LSD is pure hero food.' 1970 R. C. Zaehner Concordant Discord iii. 42 If psychedelic drugs attest the existence of a timeless heaven, they none the less point to the existence of a timeless hell. 1970 H. Perry Human Be-In 111 The core society's preoccupation with psychedelic drugs has been a way of avoiding their real hang-up: the attack of the young on middle-class values, particularly status and property. 1974 Howard Jrnl. XIV. 99 He compares religious experience to the chemical experience induced by psychedelic drugs. 1975 Brimblecombe & Pinder Hallucinogenic Agents i. 4 The psychedelic drug is said to enrich the mind, to enlarge the vision, and to create a mystic insight, but the term has achieved its maximum use and notoriety in the lay rather than the scientific literature.

b. Of, pertaining to, or produced by such a drug.

1963 (title of periodical) The psychedelic review. 1965 G. Cummins Swan on Black Sea 116 He said that yours was possibly a psychedelic condition. 1966 New Statesman 16 Sept. 387/1 LSD-takers, or acidheads, look upon Aldous Huxley as a sort of John the Baptist. Huxley baptised with mescaline, but now there is this larger psychedelic vision. 1967 Punch 22 Feb. 280/1 How would one set about 'integrating LSD into the fabric of American society', as one sober supporter of the psychedelic experience suggested? 1970 G. Greer Female Eunuch 172 The state induced by the kiss is actually self-induced, of course, for few lips are so gifted with electric and psychedelic possibilities.

c. Concerned with or characterized by the use of such drugs.

1966 New Statesman 4 Mar. 305/2 The work done by the 'psychedelic' specialists Timothy Leary, R. Alpert and R. Metzner in the United States has explored the possibilities of expanding awareness by the use of hallucinogenic drugs, in particular LSD-25. 1967 Times 3 July 7/4 Since the drug aspect of the psychedelic cult attracted a great deal of unfavourable publicity and a number of unsavoury hangers-on, Dr. Timothy Leary was asked to resign his appointment as Professor of Clinical Psychology at Harvard Medical School. 1967 Los Angeles Free Press 10 Nov. 8/3 If you want a big picture of Brando on his bike, why travel to a psychedelic shop when you can get it at the drug store. 1967 Amer. Jrnl. Psychiatry CXXIII. 1202/1 The rationale of psychedelic therapy with alcoholic patients is focused on the alienation-breaking potential of 'peak' or psychedelic experiences induced with the aid of LSD. 1972 M. D. de Rios Visionary Vine ii. 26 While some societies such as those in Peru have thousands of years of psychedelic tradition behind them, advanced industrial societies often find themselves in deep trouble as segments of their society are suddenly discovering the use of powerful mind-altering substances. 1976 New Musical Express 31 July 8/2 This obsession with the bizarritty came out of the psychedelic '60s.

2. Producing an effect or sensation held to resemble that produced by a psychedelic drug; spec. having vivid colours, often in bold abstract designs or in motion.

1965 Los Angeles Free Press 5 Nov. 4/1 (Advt.), The record stores won't sell and the radio banned The Psychedelic Sound of 'The Trip' (original version). 1966 Life Sept. 61/1 The world of art is 'turning on'. It is getting hooked on psychedelic art. 1966 Melody Maker 12 Nov. 9/1 Bobby Darin has come back after years of absence right in the middle of psychedelic pop, freak-outs and happenings. 1967 Wall St. Jnl. 9 Feb. 1/4 Psychedelic fabrics are becoming the rage. 1967 Daily Tel. 24 Oct. 19 Dupont showed its spring news in the new Royal Lancaster, where a batch of whirling lights and psychedelic patterns enlivened the theatre. 1968 Globe & Mail (Toronto) 3 Feb. 23/4 'Topless' dancers gyrating in the glow of psychedelic slides and lights. 1968 Southerly XXVIII. 279 He is wearing his psychedelic union jack trousers and tee-shirt. 1969 Observer 12 Jan. 8/3 The very latest psychedelic colours, electric purples and greens. 1971 Hi-Fi Sound Feb. 71/1 A discotheque with a psychedelic lighting display making you virtually blind. 1973 C. & R. Milner Black Players v. 139 He drives a secondhand Volkswagen van, which had been gaily painted in psychedelic designs by its previous owners. 1977 B. Pym Quartet in Autumn ii. 22 He proceeded to check the items in his shopping-bag—a 'psychedelic' plastic carrier, patterned in vivid colours, hinting at some unexpected aspect of his character.

B. n.

1. A psychedelic drug.

1956 H. Osmond Let. in G. Smith Lett. Aldous Huxley (1969) 795 To fathom Hell or soar angelic, Just take a pinch of psychedelic (Delos to manifest). 1957 – in Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. LXVI. 429 The psychedelics help us to explore and fathom our own nature. 1959 R. C. Johnson Watcher on Hills x. 162 Experience under the psychedelics may have an important contribution to make to Art. 1965 A. Huxley Let. 22 July (1969) 803 As you say in your letter, we still know very little about the psychedelics. 1974 M. C. Gerald Pharmacol. xvii. 318 Drugs in this same category are also termed hallucinogens, psychedelics, psychotogens, psychodysleptics, and so forth. 1977 Martindale's Extra Pharmacopoeia (ed. 27) 880/2 The group of drugs termed variously psychodysleptics, psychotomimetics, in some cases psychedelics, or, more usually but often inappropriately, hallucinogens are substances which as their principal action provoke abnormal mental changes, particularly in cognitive and perceptual spheres. 1977 Rolling Stone 16 June 24/3 Ergot also contains a powerful psychedelic: lysergic acid amide, a close relative of LSD, with about ten percent of that drug's mind-altering potency.

2. A person who takes a psychedelic drug or has a psychedelic life-style.

1966 Time 11 Mar. 43 Such dangers do not deter the acid heads or 'psychedelics'—even though some users are willing to admit that they found no great 'show', or had a 'freak trip' (a bad one) or 'tripped out' (the worst kind). 1967 Economist 17 June 1240/1 The East Village has supplanted Greenwich Village as a new meeting ground for poets, beats, psychedelics and plain old-fashioned bohemians.

Hence psyche'delically adv., in psychedelic colours; also various

nonce-wds., as 'psychedel, psychedeliac (-'di:liæk) = psychedelic n. 2; , psychedelica'tessen, a shop selling psychedelic articles.

1966 Life 9 Sept. 68/3 True 'acid rock' goes deeper psychedelically than just lyrics. 1967 Times 24 Feb. 55 In Los Angeles, the leading psychedelicatessen is the Headquarters. 1967 Listener 24 Aug. 252/1 Those bells which announce the approach of psychedels like medieval lepers. 1970 V. Canning Great Affair xvi. 300 Troops wearing combat helmets—some psychedelically painted. 1975 Time Out 9 May 55 Zig Zag badges are optional but retired psychedeliacs requesting 'Andmoreagain' are asking for disappointment and maybe even a bunch of fives. 1976 Homes & Gardens July 39/1 The front door of their old rectory is painted psychedelically and Shirley opens it wearing a comfortable kaftan.