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# donation, *n.*

**Pronunciation:** /dəʊ'neɪʃən/

**Frequency (in current use):**

**Etymology:** < French *donation*, < Latin *dōnātiōn-em*, noun of action < *dōnāre* to present.

## 1.

**a.** The action or faculty of giving or presenting; presentation, bestowal; grant.

c1425 WYNTOUN *Cron.* v. xii. 1207 *De kyng..Mad til Saynct Serf donatyowne Of þat Inch.*

c1525 (*title*) A Treatyse of the donation or gyfte and endowment of possessyons, gyuen and graunted vnto Sylvester pope of Rhome, by Constantyne.

1597 R. HOOKER *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* v. lxii. 149 The grace of Baptisme commeth by donation from God alone.

1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* XII. 69 That right we hold By his donation .

1894 J. T. FOWLER in St. Adamnan *Vita S. Columbae* Introd. 65 Who..made to him a donation of the island of Iona.

**b. spec.** The action or right of bestowing or conferring a benefice; the 'gift'.

1540 *Act 32 Hen. VIII* c. 44 The aduouson, donacion and presentacion of the said vicarage shall apperteyn..to the kynges hyghnesse.

1735 SWIFT *Humble Addr. to Parl.* in *Wks.* IV. 230 Many principal Church Livings, are in the Donation of the Crown.

1785 W. PALEY *Moral & Polit. Philos.* (1818) II. 222 The offices in the donation of the king.

**2. Law.** The action or contract by which a person transfers the ownership of a thing from himself to another, as a free gift.

1651 W. G. tr. J. Cowell *Inst. Lawes Eng.* 106 In Lands..A Feoffment is of a Fee simple to the Donee or Feoffee, and a Donation or Gift is of an Estate taile.

1765 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* I. (1793) iii. 264 King William, queen Mary, and queen Anne, did not take the crown by hereditary right or descent, but by way of donation or purchase, as the lawyers call it.

1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) I. 5 A feud was a tract of land held by a voluntary and gratuitous donation, on condition of fidelity and certain services.

**3.** That which is presented; a gift.

- 1577 H. I. tr. H. Bullinger *50 Godlie Sermon*. III. V. vi. sig. Kkkk.iiij/1, 'They had a donatton giuen vnto ech of them as it were a pledge or earnest.
- 1629 W. PRYNNE *Church of Englands Old Antithesis* 82 It makes..all other graces..not the meere donations or free gifts of God.
- 1757 tr. J. G. Keyssler *Trav.* III. 38 All the gifts and donations..amounted to no more than six thousand ducats.
- 1895 *Daily News* 5 Dec. 3/6 The commissioners had anticipated that the donations would fall off.

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## COMPOUNDS

### **donation act** *n.* *U.S.* (see quot.)

- 1894 *Congr. Rec.* 17 July 7572/2 Certain lands disposed of under the act of Congress approved Sept. 27, 1850, and the acts amendatory and supplemented thereto,..commonly known as the 'donation act'.

### **donation-governor** *n.* a person constituted a governor of an institution in consideration of a donation to its funds.

- 1894 *Daily News* 13 July 7/4 Preference to candidates recommended by a Donation Governor.

### **donation party** *n.*

- 1845 S. JUDD *Margaret* II. v. 29. One day there was a donation party at our house.
- 1860 J. R. BARTLETT *Dict. Americanisms* (ed. 3) *Donation Party*, a party consisting of the friends and parishioners of a country clergyman assembled together, each individual bringing some article..as a present to him..also called a *giving party*.

cited in *Recycle for Change v. City of Oakland*  
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