

ON THE LITERARY USE OF COLOR NAMES:
A PSYCHO-SYMBOLIC APPROACH

Through the centuries, the contents of literature, folklore, and folk mythology have offered, in descriptive phrasing, coverage of the subjects of personality traits and feeling tone. In this regard, a thorough review of the folk and general literature will show that each of the major color forms has been utilized graphically as representative of certain features of personality or emotion. In addition, the researcher interested in pursuing this notion can find for each color, in the symbologic reference literature, lengthy catalogues of terms which refer to the various facets of mood or disposition. The interested reader, too, may wish to familiarize himself with the different usages of color in reflecting aspects of man's character, personality, or emotion. To provide all of the symbologic expressions, however, is beyond the focus of the present paper. In this regard, a review of the preferred context of use of each color form, as determined by lexical order-rule, is offered.

- Black: Unrelievedly sad; gloomy; calamitous.
 ". . . the partial corner in gold that ended so disastrously in the pain of black Friday." (S. A. Nelson).
- Blue: Low in spirits; melancholy; depressed.
 "She was blue and lonesome and half sick." (J. B. Benefield).
- Brown: Dark; dusky; gloomy.
 ". . . brown years in a boarding house." (Sinclair Lewis).
- Gray: Dull in mood or outlook; gloomy; cheerless; dismal.
 "Life took on a gray and boring quality." (H. G. Wells).
- Green: Marked by a pale or sickly appearance.
 "Wakes it now to look so green and pale." (Shakespeare).
- Orange: ¹

¹ Although orange is representative of an extensive listing of personality traits in folk symbology, there has been no popularized literary usage of the term as descriptive of or alluding to personality.

- Pink: Moved; angered; excited.
 "... ought to be thrilled pink that you known an aristocrat like me." (Calder Willingham).
- Purple: Imperial; regal.
 "Thy purple pride." (Shelley).
- Red: Flushed as with shame or anger; inflamed; characterized by wrath or violence.
 "... convulsed with red rage." (Hudson Strode).
- Violet: Characteristic of gravity and chastity.
 "The violet is a nun." (Thomas Hood).
- White: Free from moral stain or impurity; innocent.
 "White if purity." (Charles Sumner).
- Yellow: Cowardly or treacherous; contemptible; recreant.
 "... the little yellow stain of treason." (M. W. Straight).

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MONKEYS NECK ROAD

In *Names*, 11, 3 (September 1963), I correctly gave Monkeys Neck Road as the 1720 name of a road, now N. Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Virginia.

Further research reveals that *circa* 1671-73 in day books of Indian traders it was *Monkasseneck* trail, or path, to an Indian town some 15 to 17 miles south-by-west of Petersburg, known as *Monkassaneck*. Appomattoc and Susquehannoc guides explain this Algonquian town-name in non-Algonquian territory.

It seems to be a variation of PA **mānk-aqsenya-ek*, "at the great stone (or rock)."

The conversion to *Monkeys Neck* is an example of the English efforts "to make sense of Indian names."

Charles Edgar Gilliam

THE FOUNTAIN BLUE HOTEL, MIAMI BEACH

First-time visitors to Miami (Miamuh) Beach, Florida, are struck by the local and seemingly well-established pronunciation of the name of the huge Fontainebleau Hotel there. On the tongues of many

people, there is no French foolishness about it; it is the Fountain-Blue Hotel, and no mistake!

Such out-of-towners as convention-going teachers are tempted to be amused or to be aghast at this pronunciation. But French has always had hard going in America. For instance, few American women today wear lingerie; most wear lonjeray; and for one person who lies down on a chaise longue, nineteen lie down on a chaise lounge.

In *American Speech*, XXXIX, 199–200, October 1964, there are some sentences on the French-named rooms in the hotel, but there is no mention of the fact that the pronunciation of the chief name is *not* like that of the chateau south of Paris.

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PEA PORRIDGE POND VERSUS CHAMPAGNE LAKE

The following excerpts are from an editorial entitled “Hurrah for Porridge Pond” in the Raleigh, N. Car., *News and Observer* (Dec. 26, 1965, III, p. 4, cols. 2–3). I am taking the text from a reprint of the editorial in the Charlottesville, Va., *Daily Progress* (Jan. 3, 1966, p. 4, col. 2):

Someone has suggested that the national award of “Citizens of the Year” go to the residents of Madison, N. H., who stamped out the efforts of land developers to change the names of Madison’s Pea Porridge Pond and Middle Pea Porridge Pond to Champagne Lake and Burgundy Lake . . . Champagne and burgundy suggest the rawbones and sinews of indigenous America about the way that the spinning-wheel suggests Parisian styles. And the militant residents of Madison, N. H., are commended for holding fast to their rightful legacy.

The substitution of “lake” for “pond” in New Hampshire was an added insult.

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