A Brief Study of the Color Sense of Keats

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In general it may be stated that Keats is more at home in studies of blacks and whites. With a rich and varied spectrum spread out before him he passes by positives and definite colors and appreciates the result of the whole, rather than detail color blending. In the poems which form the definite basis for this paper there is no use of the violet shades nor of its blending color, indigo. Blue, while often mentioned, is singularly limited in its application. The references are usually relating to the sky, so much the Permanent; "blue! 'Tis the life of heaven!" and "through cloudless blue." Again it is used in application to
flowers.
Blue! gentle cousin of the forest green,
Married to green in all the sunniest flowers—

Forgotten, - the blue bell,—
and that queen
Of secrecy, the violet: what strange power

Not then a mere shadow! But how great when
In our eye they are alive

with love.

Purple-stained is used but once and then in reference to a
“beaker with purple-stained mouth.”

Green,
I can not find that there is used in any one of these references
any sharp distinction of varying shades of this color.

Why should I spurn the green turf as hateful to my feet.”
"Rejoice O Dews with these olive green" 

"murmurous noise grows 
though scarcely heard in many a green recess."

"In some melodious plot 
Of treacher green."

Most insensibly the varying shade 
 natuurally appearing in the fore- 
giving quotations are unnoticed. 
But kept it green in other 
respects than merely in regard to nature. The ground, 
"long fern - in her light green dress."
or the term is applied to cat's 
eyes in 
"gaze with thy bright languid segments grew,"
and applied to ocean "with its vastness of blue green."
Here is a slight departure
Of shades. The emerald stone
is used in
 Which the emerald girds at
your feet gladly tread."
The mind yellow does not appear
in the water but yellow is not
at all thing to the existence of the
color. He revels in it, he sees it
everywhere. A very partake of the
properties of brightness to the extent
of becoming gold, but yellow it is
in very truth. Nature sits in the
color yet with how many dif-
gerent meanings! Many and
many a poet has seen the white
purity of down in the moonlight
but Nature saw the mellowness of
moonlight.
"As when a cloud the golden moon
cloth veil."
The sunset sky is rich in the
tints of yellow and gold.
"The laurelled peer
who saw the glistening gold of evening len.
Day cloud means or night cloud
had its edging of the golden glow,
a soft path of light. The golden
sky and the golden cloud belong
naturally to summer.

"When I live in a fair succession,
When streams of light pour down, the
golden mesh."

In the world of Nature, there al-
ways caught this color. He saw
it in the sands of the ocean, in
the crests of the waters of seas, in the
trees of the fishes that swim in
the seas, in the shells, in trees, "golden
feathered."

In the human world
he found the color in the life glow
upon the cheek, but there was a
trick which he always saw, the
gold in the hair. He liked the
color either in man or woman.
Even this color becomes a medium
for graphic figure when the hands
of the artist, model.
In describing the abode of the Gods, in order to make the place superior to that spot occupied by mortals, it is described as a “golden region.” Does Neat’s desire to open a field of speculation to us the idea of a God with the title of “gold” Hyperion. If he wishes to call to his own few excelling virtues, he says, “Give me a golden pen” (that I may write).

The red color plays a prominent part in Neat’s color scheme. Contrary to the treatment of the greens there are many variations in the mode of expression and an apparent appreciation of shades. The color is often a part of the mood in which intensity is a factor. This intensity of mood is represented by the following passage, “Flush everything that hath overmultiplied, let the rose glow intense and warm.
And let the clouds at eve and morn
Float in voluptuous fleeces o'er the hills:
Let the red wine within the goblet boil,
Cold as a bubbling well; let fair lips kiss
In, or in great deeps, terraqueous tears
Through all their labyrinth, and let the word
"Blush! sweetly, as with some warm kiss surprised."

The poet in the foregoing passage, has abandoned himself to the intoxication of
the moment and the color of the glimmer is all red. "Again, in a moment
of passion abstraction, is such is
possible, this same color plays a part.
And let there glide by many a pearly car,
Pink rosettes, and wavy hairs and diamond
jars."

Red formed a background of lurid suggestion. In speaking of the pheno-
mena of Hyperion's palace Keats says,

"His palace bright
Bastioned with pyramids of glowing gold,
And touched with shades of longed idol's
Glazed a blood red through all its
Thousand courts,
Arches and domes, and fiengalleys.
This passage furnishes a preface to an enumeration of horrors.
Red is a color used to express the sense of the awful presence of God-
hood.
"And like a rose in vermilion tint and
shape,
In fragrance soft, and evanescent light,
That rapt to serve the majesty of
stood full three, yet God to enter in.
Kneel's use of red in the following
passage is very questionable to me.
Of the fish he says,
Whose silken fins and golden scales light
Cast upward through the waves a muddy
glow.
It is quite possible that the momentary
glimpse of the iridescent light of the
fish would warm the colder tone of
the waters, but muddy glow seems
not natural world color.
Amber is used in a strangely imaginative sense. Previous mention has been made of the fact that it is very prone to see, in the light of the moon, a richness not ordinarily found there. He says of the moon under a cloud, 
"Through the dark vote of amber rays prevail."
This same color is found by him in the morning glow. Morning touched a hill 'crowning its sandy crest with amber flame.'
Bright, as a color and is constantly used; it is used constantly to express a certain sensatin perceived by the organism of sight, yet what that color is I am at a loss to say. I sometimes think that the color is a yellow compound, but I do not know that it is so. The sun is bright; Hyperion's palace is bright.
"His palace bright
Bath'd with pyramids of glowing gold
And touched with shade of bronzed obelisks
Glared a blood red through all its thousand courts,
Arches and domes and fiery galleries."
Again,
"It seemed an emerald in the silver sheen
Of the bright waters."
Or, if drunk,
"Or bight elixir peetered, I had drunk."
Sometimes it expresses a sense of impression received from the sparkle, the speed, the glint of feather of bird life.
As,
"There the kingfisher saw his plumage bright,
Taping with fish of brillianey dye,
or again,
"Bright as the humming bird's green diadem
When it flutters in sunbeams
That shine thru a fountain"
To express a sense of Godhood
This word is sometimes utilized,
as 'bright Jove'.
As an instance of a composite color word and one that is replete
with suggestiveness may be cited,
(from Hypermim and referring to his palace)
"And all its curtains of Aurora
clouds
Flushed angrily;"
There are left the con-
trivations of blacks and whites;
flat colors they are, in Pears' scheme.
How the tantalum may
to see the very great portion
of their use,—nearly one half
The color references are composed
Of them. It seems to me that near use of dark is very often an interpretation of this mixture of blacks and whites. There is no sense of the word "dark" that must simply a consideration of other color, but only me. I cite it:

"Has there a grotto for dark sparkling wine?"

Note the beauty of the imagery in "like the bulk of Mencius's image at the set of sun to me who travels from the dusk to east."

This color idea is applied to the skies in rainy conditions. As,

"After dark heavens have pressed our plains."

The cloud inviting the moon is dark, the trees and hazel hedges are "dusk-like" the stems beneath the shade."
Grey is a shade which is frequently found in the descriptions of rocks and clouds. In speaking of "Ailsa" this line occurs,

"Or when grey clouds are thy cold correlate,"

Again the morning clouds are
"gold, grey, and dun."
Yet it is not found describing
the world of nature; its only
use is found in application to
people and their attributes. So
his hair,
"Sparkled his jetty eyes; his
feet did show
Beneath the hams like Afric's
ebony."

Or, unform'd "eyelins of jet,"
Swift is used in picturing the
color of stone and salt marble
especially.
Silver as a color is exceedingly popular. It is used especially of clouds, stars and moon.

Compare,—

"And on the yelving zeephyrs rest
The silver globe."

"One moon with alteration slow
had shed
Her silver beams upon the might;"

"Or of those silver lamps that
burn in high."

The word silver is a favorite expression of description of God—homes, i.e.:

"round each silver theme.
It is used many times to describe the things which may be concealed in the mind but not seen in material thing, such as
"Angel's wings,"
"If a cherub in glories of silver descending"
"Two fair argent wings"
"Those silver wings expanded swiftly"
Silver is frequently used to
impress the color of iridescent sheen.

In the following instances
'pale' is surely used as a
color word:
"Pale were the frozen lips that
I saw."
"Pale cheeks"
"Phantoms pale"

'White' is a common word used
in its ordinary color sense. It
is found in reference to waters,
the, to the moon, to the sky.
As,

Through clouds of fleecy white
laughs the caerulean sky.
Again, in ordinary sense of
of birds, as

"While his white melodies

threat

Throttled with the syllables."

The length of this paper pre-
cludes a further discussion
yet, I must say, what, in view
the paucity of this report is
most evident; that the mean
Treats was peculiar in that he
possessed a singularly sensitive
and in regard to color impression.
It is certainly true that contempla-
ning gloom, shade, or darkness, caused
a reduplication of the state within
his soul. It is certainly true that
the excited moods and flunged
utterances were incited by the
red and the yellow nates and
in the contemplation of these shades
were prolonged that a climax
of feeling results.