Color in Chaucer

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Color in Chaucer.
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Colours we know I none, without exile, 
But such colours as growen in the meade, 
Or elles swiche as men dye or faynte. 
Colours of sethongh ben me to gueynte: 
My spirit felethe mort of swich mateine.

The use of color in Chaucer forms a marked contrast with its use in the earlier Old English writings where, according to modern sense, entirely unsuitable terms were applied and where, also, reference is made most frequently to the duller colors. In the Battle of Maldon we find, 
"Da þryhtmod þrad bil of acade, 
þrad and þrænecg, and on Da þyrman stoh." 
The Anglo-Saxon's commonly applied the term 'þrænecg' to a sword and that too, as in the present instance, to a sword in use. A rusted sword might possibly be conceived of as turnedged but modern color sense could not apply the term to a sword fit for use nor would Chaucer, in the same poem we find - "fœll ða to foldan feohlēs æorweord." 
In the Battle of Bowne-burh - "eyning ðæt gewælcon fea-lone fœlde, feorh generede." In the Wanderer reference is made to the "fealuwe waegæs". In Caedmon's Genesis when Abraham is about to sacrifice Isaac, 
"Su peælæ- x x Sonne, 
swætæ lige lifæs lige for tæman" where we should expect- "Sonne neadæ lige." In the same poem we find, "æ he æm æt ḡælga wer 
gyrde graefan æorweorde" where we should not expect to find color mentioned at all—sharp sword, shining
shining sword, or furnished sword would seem more timely. In the Assumption of St. John the Apostle, we have more than once reference made to "read gold." Aelfric said, "Ealle ðas goldamwita scegad scel-le næfse æer swæ claœne gold, ni swá read ni gesæw-on. Chaucez speake only of yellow gold and we show our appreciation of his use in the expression "yellow as gold." I find no seeming misapplication of 'howit'. People connected itself with wealth, power and honor as it did later. The feeling among the followers of St. John, according to the Assumption of St. John, the Apostle, when they saw their former servants "mind god wæle ge þætwæn," was such that they were finally commanded, "Biegeð ðæs paellm cystlas, fam ge to lifelre hvile ðæs erow swa swä niæ.

Blue does not seem to have been a common color. The 'blue sky' nor 'blue eyes' do not seem to have mentioned by the Anglo-Saxon writers. In the same section we find that St. John, "on Goddes naman ða grêân gysta ge hætæde, and he wundai to readum godde amünde," but whether 'grêân' refers to the state or color of the tunic may be questioned. Beowulf refers to the sea as the "feallum flæð," also speaks of measuring the "feallum strætle." In line 866 he speaks of "feallum meænas," m. 325 of "feallum meænas ðæs æppel- feallum." Brown, yellow, græc being common colors, but the descriptive words of Beowulf are not color adjectives. But in companion with other Anglo-Saxon writings, the color names seem to be more nearly applied as at present, although the sword was still "bren ecg" and nowhere in early English
writers is that such wealth and richness of color as illuminate the pages of Chaucer's 
the, however, writes most vivid descriptions in which 
the color element suggests itself and in which the 
circumstances or the material described produces the 
color idea. For example, in the House of Fame, we have 
"His hair, that sandy was and crisp, 
As burn'd gold hit shone to see", which can not 
fail to present to view a curly, golden head shining 
in the sunshine: then, 
"Upon an open pillar strong 
That preynted was, al end long, 
With lytres bole in every place" which presents 
to our minds a red pillar. 
Again, "Now if the hall 
that every wal 
Of hit, and floor, and roof and al 
Was plated half a fote thicke 
Of gold and that was no thing white", which 
hall we might think of as in the sunlight resplendent with colors. 

Chaucer makes most frequent use of the colors 
white, red, green and black. In the Rome Pilgrims 
Tale his description of the widow's character is 
bright with color, he says 
"His comb was redder than the jyn coral 
His bille was black, and as the jist-it show. 
Lyke asun were his legges, and his tow; 
His maytie whytter than the hilie flour. 
And like the burn'd gold was his colour."
This passage contains the only instance of his use of "asur" and one of the two times he uses "burned gold". Later in the tale of this same fowl it is said "Ye been so scarlet-read about your yon" which is one of the two times this combination of color is used.

Of scarlet he speaks in Sir Thopas thus: "His nose is lyke scarlet in grayne", and in the Wife of Bath's Prologue, she says that in her "visitations to playes of miracles and marries", she wore "gaye scarlet gytes", and Chaucer, himself, says in his description of her, "her kown were of fine scarlet-need".

Two mentions are made of purple. One in the legend of Cleopatra when she fled "with all her purple sail", and the second time of Criseyde when she found she must go to her father in exchange for Antinous and so be separated from her lover. Where Chaucer says she wept until "A bout his eye a purple ring, byt lent:".

Of Evnelyse, he says, "For withe the rose coloure shoot her hewe" using it, but the once. For every black he used two expressions: If a beast shine he said it was "col-black" and if a raven its feathers "shone for black".

In the description of Evnelyse, King of India, he says, "His eizer kepeth lyf, siresse was yronne," and that was yellow, and glistened as the sunne. His nose was heigh, his eye bright citrine. His lips rounde, his colour was sangwyn. A few freques in his face y-sprennd, "Betwixen yelow and sounde balk y-mennd", which description is as abundant in color as that of the widow's chaunticleer and contains the only use of the
color taken and one of the two of 'anguine' as a color the other being of the Frank his 'complexion'.

By Sir Thomas, Chaucer says,

"His heir, his heir was red or saffron"—the only time he uses saffron. "Ray" is used only with reference to the color of a horse—as now. Euripides says,

"Upon a steed baye, dappled in stile".

In Trosius and Criseide,

"This Troilus sat on his bays, stede", which pleads Criseide's way of Troilus and after this having transferred her affection to Diomedes.

"the story tells to us,
That she knew ye of the faire bays, stede":

"Leden" with reference to color is used but once—the Canor's yeoman says—

"And where my colour was both fresh and red, Now is it wan and of a laden hue", where 'laden' makes a fine contrast to "fresh and red".

Once, in the House of Fame, Chaucer speaks of "false twigges"—the only use of false and this too in one of those passages where he associates color.

This association is well illustrated by the following quotations—

"And at this hour, x x x
Was made of twigges, false, red,
And green left, and some were white."

Once he used "swartish red" in a similar association,—

And smote a smoke gave out mende

Blah, ble, greenish, swartish red,
As dodd were that more scanty leed."
or in the Parliament of Fowles -
"A garden saw I, ful of flower bones,
Upon a river, in a green wood,
With flowers, white, blue, yellow, and red.
"Desena in Anabella and Ancille where false Ancille
being enamored with a new enchantress, the poet says,

\[ \text{He claidde him in her love.} \]

Not I met whether in whitle, rede, or grene.
And in Tristia and Crisoyde -
"In May, that moate is of months so glad,
That frothe flowers, blewe, and white, and rede.

Two colors are associated very frequently but because
these examples are given in another connection
in this paper I do not give them here.

In the Second Boke Tale of the Lyf of Saint Cecyle
we have, "two corones han we,
Snow-wyte and rose-red that shyn new clere."
Hor tere, too, that the Sowrour had a "fyn-red cheynbines
face". Rose-red, scarlet-red, and fyn-red are each
used by Chaucer once.

Yelow, he uses eleven times. Of Legarne,
the Knight said, "The cyles of his eyen in his head,

\[ \text{They glowedde ben betwixte yelowe and rede.} \]

Once he spoke of "yelowe gold" and in his Complexyte
to his Emilye Puce "he speaks of "yelowness" referring to
gold. Five times he mentions "yelowe her" and once speaks
of "mayles yelowe" in 'eote armure'.

Chaucer's in his description of de fow to his wife Blithlot
said it was "betwixte yelowe and rede".

Chaucer's use of blue shows an advance in the develop-
ment of the color sense in the English people.
The mention blue nine times in his works - but twice in the Canterbury Tales.

The Miller wore "A whyt cote and a blew hoo". The person used it of hose. It appears once in the "House of Fame".

In Chaucer's day, "blue" meant "loyalty; red, ardent love; black, grief; white, joy; green, foolishness; yellow, falsehood; hence the point to the line just quoted.

Crisseyse sent Troilus a "blewe ring" when he was despairing of her affection.

Canacee made for the wounded hawk "a newe, and covered it with velvettes blew.

Light blue is used but once - the Reeve wore a "paxcote of Persi".

Ten times Chaucer mentions things gray, grey eyes seem to have been pleasing to the English people of Chaucer's time, for three times he speaks of grey eyes in what seems to be terms of admiration.

He in his description of the princess speaks of "her eye grey, as glass". In the Miller's description of Absolon we find reference made to "his eye grey as grayen. Also the Miller's daughter is described as having "yein grey as glass". The Reeve rode upon a horse "that was all pomele grey, and brighte Scotti".

Of Sir Thopas, Chaucer said, "his elde was al dappel-grey, and again, "he worth upon his ste; gray."

The man who joined the company at Bognor in the Chaucer's "his hackete, that was al pomele grey."

In the Tale of Game Lyn we have mentioned "a greye
true and in Troilus and Criseyde a man referred to as "his old greye." In Sir Topas "a greye gros-hawk" is mentioned. The Wife of Bath is made to say, "He sow on greye goth shis che in this lake, As, sistors, that ne been with-oute make." Brown, Chaucer uses but nine times. Of Criseyde, he says, "In woode he hat't large of samit-brown, As kneel she fell before Deor a-drown." This is the only case I have met in literature of a mourning habit made of brown silk. From the sadness with which Crisseyde accepts the admiration of Troilus, I conclude that this brown habit must have been only second mourning at the most. The widow in the Groene Reede's Tale had, "Milk and brown trest, in which she fode no tuck: Of the yeoman we fand "a mot heud hadde he, with a brown visage" and of the Shipman, "The hot comm had make his hene in brown." In the House of Fame, we read of Vulcanos that "his face was full brown." Sir Topas wore "hosen brown." The Monk's "halfrey was brown as is a berse." In the Book of the Duchess, he describes a lady's hair as follows: "For every heer upon his hede, Sothe to seyn, hit was not rede, As another yele, na brown hit was; Me thought, most lyke gold hit was." Black, Chaucer uses fifty-nine times thirty-seven times in Canterbury Tales. I give the references as they are found through out his works.
Canterbury Tales. Prologue

294 "Twenty boles, clade in blake or red"
307 "His nose-thilles blake were and wide"
327 "With scalled browes blake, and furred beard"

The Knight's Tale

411 "Ech after other, clade in cloethis blake"
333 "And why that ye been cloethis thou in blake?"
1112 "The shepmore brenning with blake smoke"
1272 "Blak was his hert, and manly was his face"
1312 "Betwixen yellow and somdel black y-megied"
1353 "Somme held with him with the blake hert"
1833 "As blak he lay as any cole or arnwe"
2024 "In cloethes blake, of droppe of al with teere"
2044 "That sprad was al with blake, and wonder hue"
3126 "But in his blake clothes somefely"

The Reehe Poestes Tale

23 "His hert was served arnot with whity and blak"
41 "His bile was blak, and as the feet at shoon"
64 "With blak, unlyke the remnant of his heere"
115 "For fre of blake heere, or boles blak"
116 "On elles, blake deviles wote him tak"
The Cook's Tale

5. 'With loikes blak & x & x
The Monk's Prologue & Tale
14. 'Til that his flesh was for the women blaked'
392. 'The field of snow with steele of blak shew inne'
   The Wife of Bath's Prologue
624. 'We were he short or long, or blak or whyte'
   The Friar's Tale

6. 6. 'Do esken him out of our lettres blake'
323. 'Unto the devil blak and rough of heue'
   The Merchant's Tale
835. 'But ever live so widwe in clothes black'
   The Frank the Leynes Tale
131. 'But whan she sawe the grisly rokkes blak'
140. 'But Lord, this grisly and deadly rokkes blak'
163. 'But wolde god that alle shirte rokkes blak'
430. 'To mannes righte, that alle the rokkes blak'
   The Canonice Yeoman's Prologue
4. 'A man, that clothe was in clothes black'
   The Maunciple's Prologue and Tale
193. 'Thon and thyne of-spring ever shul be blak'
201. 'And made him blak... & x & x
202. 'And for this cauus he alle crows blak'
   The Pardoner's Tale

346. 'For which his flesh was blak as an Ethipian faire'
426. 'as is whyt & blak, or whyt & thyn'
605. 'For thou mayst nat make an heere whyt me blak'
130. 'is the wol blak of the leyf'
House of Fame

11.1679 "Be it clothed neer or blak"
11.1637 "Tolke out his blakke trompe of bras"
1647 "Blak, bl. greenish swartish seer"  
1671 "Thow Edis, that is zo blak"
1801 "And with his blakke clarion"
1865 "And to his blakke trompe fan"   
The Book of the Duchess
253 "In fyn blak patin don tremere"
413 "I was war of a man in blak"
417 "And he was clothed in blakke"

The Parliament of Fowles

141 "Three xers of golde and blak y-writen were"
683 "And driven away the long nightes blake"

Anglica and Ancilla

213 "LYn herle, bare of this and blak of leve"  

Troilus and Cressyse

171 "In widenes habite blak"
175- "Nor under clowde blak and bright a sturse"
177 "That his bi-helden in his blake wexe"
642 "Eek whyt by blak, by shame eek worthinesse"

11.1 "Out of these blake waves for to sayle"
584 "That stod in blak, with toking on her yere"
1320 "Have here a light, and take on al this blake"

1429 "O blake night, as folk in tokes rede"
5129 "If founden in the blake birth of care"
779 "Shul blake been" × ×
Prologue

"And he was clad in coat and hood of grene"

"An horn he bar, the sawndrich was of grene"

"A peyne of benes, garded at with grene"

"With grene trees shadowed was his place"

The Knight's Tale

"Than is the title upon his stalke grene"

"And oke the gardin, full of branches grene"

"May, with alle thy floweres and thy grene"

"I hope that I some grene gete may"

"And Enemedye, clothed al in grene"

"With wassed greene, and brighte as any glas"

"In grene grene his statute clothed was"

"Upon his heede he wered of cases grene"

"A coroune of a grene oske cerise"

"O chaste, goddess of the woodes grene"

"That in that selve grove: avote and grene"

"Eek on his heede a coroune of laurere grene"

"That with his grene top the heven raughte"

"And thyn with grene wode and spykeye"

Tale of the Kyf of Bath

"Damned full of te in many a grene heed"

"Save on the grene he raught setting a wyf"

The Frenses Tale

"The ladde upon a curntsey of grene"

"Where myserow under this grene shawe?"

The Clerk's Tale

"I will with that herte freshe & grene"

The Merchantes Tale

"My w herte and al by my lines been as grene"

"That shood under a lauer alwey grene"
"Upon a banch of burres, fresh and green" 991
1084 "On heigh, among the frethe leaves grene"
1088 "To view of the female faces grene"

The Squires Tale

84 "What for the reasons and the yonge grene"
646 "the mewe is preynted grene"

The Frankelyno Tale

134 "Than wolde she sitte adown upon the grene"
523 "Destroyed hath the grene in every yerd"

The Seconde Wonnees Tale

90 "And grene is conscience, and of good fame"

House of Fame

111291 "And by pe made of grene corne"
1647 "Black, bus, greenish"
1937 "And grene eek, and some were white"
1946 "To fale as leaves been on trees"

in somer, when they grene been"

Legend of good Women

214 "And she was clad in reale habit grene"
227 "In silk, en brodeder full of grene greves"
242 "Purrouned with white, and cloathed al in grene"
282 "Behind this god of love, upon the grene"
303 "With the white corrum, clad in grene"

341 "This spake this lady, clothed al in grene"

Legend of Thistle of Bakyn blye

712 "And wosden as migh, upon a grene"

Legend of Hypermnestra

2648 "And quokc as sooth the leef of aspe grene"

The Book of the Duchesse

414 "For al the worde was wosonen grene"
417 "Then there were many grene greves"
"The heere change, and were grene"
The Parliament of Poyles

"Right of a parte, walled with grene aboue"

"The grene and lusty May shall ever endure"

"Eche in his kind, of colour fresh and grene"

"Upon a morn, in a grene meade"

"Made in the leves grene a noyse sey";

"That I of spake, that was so swete and grene"

Ariel and Ariel

"Not I nor whether in whyte, red, or greene"

"He's herte was elles where, newe and grene"

"With faire deeds, between pale and greene"
The Former Age

"No ship yet harp the waves grene and clene"

Fortune (1346)

"My hertes woundes, whyl that hit is grene"

Against Women: Unconstant

"In stead of claw, this may ye were al grene"

Timon of Athens

"With new grene, of lusty her the psyume"

"May, may, but ever in son be fresh and greene"

"It made his heue a day ful of the greene"

"And shadowed well with bloomy twyes greene"

"A nightingale, upon a cedre grene"

"Downward a styte into a herber greene"

"As man, bird, beast, fish, herte and grene tree"

"Reveutien here in grene, when that is May"

"And after winter solvesti grene May"

"That noptless, most grene zone seyse"

"And thus she lyfth with hewes pale and grene"

"De lyfthe in hit songe in leues grene".
"Y-brought again the tendre leaves greene"

A piteous pale and greene.

Chaucer loved nature and never wearyed of green leaves and bright flowers. He tells it in Legende of Good Women when he says.

"And as for me, though that I knowe but lyte,
On boles for to rede I me slepte,
And to hem give I feyth and ful credeence,
And in myn herte have hem in severence
So hertely, that ther is game noon
That for my boles maketh me to goon,
But yet be seldom on the holy day,
Save, certynly, when that the mone the of May
do comen, and that there the foules syringe,
And that the flource gyreme for to apoynge,
Farewel my boke, and my devotione."

While Chaucer used yet more frequentlty
than he dodes green and oftein association
with other coloure - frequently of things same.
"Al. ful of fresch flores, whyte and red" 1010
"His whete whyte was as the flour de-lyfe" 1011
"Whyte was his bird. as is the dayes wyfe" 1012
"Here at his girdel, whyte as morne sylk" 1013
"A whyte cote and a blowe hood wered he" 1014
"That him might helpen of his whelne, whyte," 1015
"The Knights Tale" 1016

"So sheyneth in his whyte tauer large" 1017
"The gaderell flores, partly whyte and rede" 1018
"That frothen whyte as foome for ice wood" 1019
"At ward ther stood a gate of marble whyte" 1020
"Of alabaster whyte and red coral" 1021
"With four whyte toles in the trace" 1022
"Aboute his chare ther wentyn whyte a launte" 1023
"Bouched with pearlwhyle and sound and grete" 1024
"An egle laime, as any lyle whyle" 1025
"With taner whyte, and hardy chere and face" 1026
"Upon his hondes hadde he glowe whyte" 1027
"Upon thre stedes, that were grete and whyte." 1028
"The Nonnes Priestes Tale" 1029

"No wine me dranke she, nether whyte me seed." 1030
"This bord was served most with whyte and blak" 1031
"His myles whytter than thur filie flour" 1032
"The Millers Prologue and Tale" 1033

"A barm-clooth eek as whyte as morn sylk." 1034
"Whyt was her smoth" 1035
"The tapes of her volupiper" 1036
"As whyte as is the bloome upon the ryg" 1037
"The whyte pater noster" 1038
"As doth the whyte drake after his drake" 1039
"Not doth whether in whyte, rede, or green"

"And avoyle amelle flowers whyte and rede"

"Eek whyte by blak, by shame eek worthinesse"

"That freshe flowers, blew, and whyte and rede"

"Right in the whyte Bole"

"Ye wis, goud fresh Antigone the whyte"

"And whyte things waxen dimme and donee"

"Now that an egle, fethered whyte as boone"

"So apease it; and thow, Minerva, the whyte"

"But zijze him with a few words whyte"

"They shal forge the whyte and she the rede"

"This I, goud she, for alle your words whyte"

"Her whyte breast she bet"

"Where is his whyte breast, wher is it, wher?"
House of Fame

35. And also on her head, pardess, her nose glistned whyt to read."  
1935. "And green eek, and some were whyte"  
The Legend of Good Woman
119. "Then brought I most these flowers whyte and red."  
216. "And upon that a whyte corone she set."  
219. "Hee crowned is with whyte freske styte."  
221. "So were the florrons of his coroun whyte."  
224. "Her whyte coroun was y-made al."  
242. "Corouned with whyte."  
299. "His whyte coroun berthe the witnes singe."  
303. "With the whyte coroun, clad in green."  
327. "His whyte coroun berthe of hit witnesse."  
332. "Crowned at with whyte, as men may see."  
The works of Ovid
148. "Upon a thinkle palfrey, paper whyte."  
335. "Right as good she as that the whyte swan."  
A Treatise on the Faciatlute
80. 83 II. 29. "Faire white storie that is eloped Alhazar."  
The book of the Duchesse
260. "Of dowe of pure dowe whyte."  
730. "As a whyte wal, or a table."  
942. "Hit was whyte."  
953. "Right whyte hands and mayles red."  
1238. "A long castel with wallers whyte."  
The completest of Mars
54. "Deeplyt was with whyte bolds grete."  
The parliament of foules
186. "With flowers whyte, blue, yellowe and red."  
237. "And on the temple of doves whyte and faire."
The Seconde Nomres Tale.

89 "Or, for she whytesse, had of honesste."
115 "Right so was Juyre Ceciie, the whyte."
121 "An old man, clad in whyte clothes close."
123 "Snow-whyte and rose-red, that rhynem close."

The Canonis Yeomanis Prologue

5 "And under nethe he had a whyte purphi."

The Marieples Prologue Tale

19 "What was the crowe, as is a snow-whyt awan."

The whyte crowe, that hung ay in the cage."

142 "And sith the whyte feathers everichon."
200 "And pulleth his whyte feathers everichon."

The Parsonis Tale

1424 "in departinge of his hores in whyt and reed."
1426 "as is whyt- and blake, or whyt-and-she, or sackle and shee."
605 "for thou mayest nat make an heer whyt- or blak."
634 "loth-by a whyt wal."

The Reves Prologue and Tale

16 "This white top wroth hath myn olde yeres"

Man of Law - Prologue & Tale
357 "For though his wife be christened never so whyte"
361 "The whyte lamb, that hurt was with the speare"

The Prioress's Tale
9 "and of the whyte lily flower"
128 "The whyte lamb celestial, guid she"

Chancer's Tale of Thopas
137 "Whyte was his face as pynende mayre"
147 "He sate next his whyte lye"
156 "As whyte as is a lily-flour"

The Monk's Prologue & Tale
478 "Of rubies, saphires, and of perles whyte"

The Physician's Tale
32 "For right as she can paynte a litle whyte"

Pardoner's Tale and Prologue
198 "Whan man ye drinkeith of the whyte and reed"

234-5 "Houe hepe you fro the whyte and fro the rede
And namely fro the whyte wyne of Drap.

Prologue & Tale of the Wife of Bath
624 "Al were he short or long, or blak or whyte"

The Clerk's Tale
388 "Upon an hore, snow whyte, and wol anthing"

The Merchant's Tale
907 "Come forth, my whyte to spouse"

The Pardoner's Tale
409 "Denide a lute for drye, as whyte as chalk"

The Frankelyni's Tale
426 "Sometimes a syne, and grapes whyte, and rede"
Red, too, was a favorite color; as less than eighty-eight times he makes mention of it and associates it with impurity, sensuality and grossness quite frequently.
Red

Prologue

"A full of flowers, white and red"
"Not mouth fill aykez and fwy as slyt and redd"
"Twenty boxes, clad in black or red"
"Bold was her face, and fair, and red of hewe"
"This bird as any sowe, or fox was redd"
"Reed as the bristle of a sowe's ears"
"And for to drinken strong wyn, sneed as blood"

The Knight's Tale

"The sede statune of Mars with spere and lansage"
"The gatunest fowles, partly whyte and rede"
"Ye shalle be deed, by mighty Mars the rede"
"Of alabaster whyte and sneed coral"
"Withinne the tempole of mighty Mars the rede"
"The cruel ice, as sneed as any glede"
"With synne rede, and of a man the eat"
"They groaseden betwixe yellow and sneed"
"Brest full of melies sneede, as fyre sparklinge"
"With saine sneed is entered night anon"
"Out brest the blood, with slime shining rede"
"Our nearest blood on bothe our eyes rede"
"With slate pas and synne rede and wolde"

The Worne Priestes Tale

"As wyn we drank she, neither whyt we seyd"
"His count was redder than the fyre coral"
"His colour was twixt wyte and redde"
"Of youre rede colora, pardyee"
"Of armes, and of fyre with rede leynes"
The Miller's Prologue

4. "His presse y-covered with a falinding red"  
131. "His rode was red, his eyen grey as gow."  
135. "Er hors red he went jestly."  

The Reeves Prologue and Tale

3. "And she came after in a gyte of red."  
236. "Ful pale he was for-dronken, and nat red."  

Tale of Gamelyn

424. "Of the rede wyn."  

Man of Law Prologue and Tale

37-4 "She shal have neede to washe away the rede."  

The Shipman's Prologue and Tale

111. "And of his owene thought he were al red."  

Chancer's Tale of Thomas

16. "His lippe red as rose."  
87. "That beresh the rede, hope."  
154. "His shield was all of gold as red."  

The Monke's Prologue and Tale.

173. "Or in a frounysys ful of flambys rede."  

534. "That sleyne by a fyn ful greet and red."  

The Physician's Tale

33. "And need a rose."  

Pardoner's Tale and Prologue

230. "Now kepe you from the whyle and for the rede."  

The Wife of Bath's Prologue

540. "That made his face ful of dreyn rede and hoot."  

The Clerk's Tale

317. "That red he were, atayst, and al quaking."  

The Squire's Tale

313. "With both her winge, til the rede blood."  

The Friar's Tale

85. "An hat upon his hed, with genges black."
The Franklin's Tale

"Some times a vine, and grapes white and red"

The Second Nun's Tale

"Men shoulde him trenten in a jyre as need"

"Brenne his root in a bath of flamine to reede"

The Canon's Yeoman's Tale

"And when my colour was both fresh and reed"

"For shame of him my chekes waxen redde"

The Wife's Tale

"For wednesse have I newe, right well I knowe"

The Pardoner's Tale

"This care that was ful pale and nothing reed"

"In de partinge of his hose in white and reed"

House of Fame

"And also on her heede, pardee, His nose-garland white and red"

"Be hit clothed reed or blak"

"Was made of twyges, falswe, rede"

Legend of Good Women

"Thus long I must thine horses whihte and rede"

"Agayn the soure, that rood as rede as rose"

"Die with a heart of rede rose-leves"

"Two fly wyerly, as the glades rede"

"And Mars yaf to his avarous need, pardee"

"Thus with this greme new reed for shame a lyte"

Legend of Beo

"With ocel redde"

Legend of Ariadne

"Be reed for shame! now I thy lyf beginne"

Legend of Hesperostra

"And rede Mars was, that time of the yere"
In A, B, C

"Moses, that saw the bush with flames red,
The Book of the Duchess"

"It was not rede.
The Compleye of Mars"

"Lo! Venus seen among you moves rede?
Venus seen among you moves rede"

"With flowers whyte, blawe, yelowe, and rede.
The Parliament of Fowles"

"With stones red and pales silver brighte.
"Right as the freshe, rede rose newe"

"The turtle seyde, and we for shame al rede.
Aenid and Aeneid"

"Thou freue god of armes, Mars the rede
Froissart and Froissart"

"And sweete smellen flowers whyte, and rede.
For he was hit, and we for shame al rede"

"That fresse flowers, blawe, and whyte, and rede.
And well the bower been the glades rede"

"For which he wex a little rede for shame.
For of his owene thought she wex al rede"

"Nay, nay, quos she, and we as rede as rose.
But Lord, as he we redeynliche rede"

"Godly alayat, and now his themes rede.
But Lord, as he we redeynliche rede"

"They shal forgo the whyte and she the rede.
With the wheel, and we for shame al rede"

"For alas, weex as rede as every fyr.
And witt, that word he gan to wex rede."
Some of Chaucer's Tales, and many of the shorter poems have no color in them. The Tale of Melibee, The Sommer's Tale, and several of the prologues are colorless. Of the shorter poems, The Complaint to Pity, Chaucer's Words unto Adam, Mercile of Beautye, Balade to Rosamonde, Truth, Gentiltee, Salt of Steedfastniss, Lenvoy to Sogan, Lenvoy to Pulles, The Complaint of Venus, Proverbe of Chancer, An Amorous Complaint, A Balade of Complaint, Balade Chancer Made, Complaint to my Mortall For and Complaint to my Lord, Stane, are all colorless—only once in the Astralake is color referred to. Once a 'whitestar' is spoken of. On the other hand some poems are replete with color. The Knight's Tale leads the lead with fifty-seven color references and Troilus and Criseyde follows with fifty-six. The Legend of Good Women has thirty-one. These three are the brightest in color of all Chaucer's poems. The Knight's Tale uses red thirteen times, green fourteen and yellow six. In Troilus and Criseyde, red is used fourteen times and green twelve. After examining all Chaucer's references to color I am lead to think that our ancestors of the Chaucerian period regarded color much as we do—perhaps made free use of bright colors in articles of dress—at least the men did. Chancer at least was not color blind in any respect. To conclude, I give a tabulated statement of all the references to color in his works.
The Prologue

The Knight’s Tale

Miller’s Prologue

Tale

Reeve’s Prologue

Tale

Cotehele Prologue

Tale

Introduction to Man of Law’s Prologue

Man of Law’s Prologue

Man of the Man of Law

The Shipman’s Prologue

Tale

Prioress Prologue

Tale

Prologue of Sir Thopas

Prologue of Meliboeus

The Tale of

Monks Prologue

Tale

Prologue of the Monne Paret’s Tale

Prologue...Prologue...Prologue...

The Physician’s Tale

Worces of the Hort...

Prologue of the Pardoner’s Tale

...Prologue...Prologue

Wiife of Bath’s Prologue

Tale of the Wiife of Bath

Froissard’s Prologue
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The A B C

Complaint unto Pite
Book of the Duchesse
Complaint of Mars
Parlement of Forlés
Complaint to his Lady
Cida and Orsini
ancient Words unto Adam
the Former Age
Fortune
Hercules Beati
Balade to Rosemounde
Truth
Sentences

Of Pilgrimage
Complaint of Venus

" of Charitable Vertue
Proverbs of Chaucer
against Thomas Marciel

In Complaint of Mars
Balade of Complaint
Forlés and Cida

Hone of Venus

Legend of Good Woman

Blade that Chance in haste
explained the mystery to

Legend of Hypolegus