

WHO'S FLAITHBERTACH MACLOINGRY?

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In the November 1989 *Word Ways* George H. Scheetz presented a list of 51 words ending in **-gry**. His fascinating article piqued my interest and I immediately set out to find some additions to his list.

Modifications to the Scheetz List

Some of Scheetz's "Spurious and Doubtful Words" can be rescued and added to the list. The *English Dialect Dictionary* does give **haegry**, but not (as Scheetz noted) as a form of **haigrīe**. It is found instead as a form of **hagery**. **Overangry** can be found in both editions of the unabridged Random House Dictionary of the English Language. **Depelegr** is in the Catholic Encyclopedia after all, but as **Raymond de Pelegr** it is listed under the P's in the index. Perhaps the word **hoagry** which was reputed to be in Webster's First was instead **hogry** which can be found (under **huggerie**) in the *English Dialect Dictionary* and in *Chambers Scots Dictionary*. The missing **madiungry** is almost certainly a misspelling of **mad-hungry** which is in the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Presumably a solid word is better than a hyphenated word and a hyphenated word is better than a phrase. If so, **higry pigry** can be improved to **higry-pigry** which is in *Chambers English Dictionary* and *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*. Scheetz lists **hongry** as from the *English Dialect Dictionary* and the *Oxford English Dictionary*; it is also in Webster's Second, below the line.

In the three different editions of Lippincott's *Pronouncing Gazetteer* that I consulted (1861, undated edition from the late 1800s, 1902) I could not find **Shtchigry** as shown on Scheetz's list, but I did find **Shtshigry**.

Since the original puzzle referred only to words ending with the letters **-gry**, I have a little difficulty in accepting the word **gry** twice on his list, just because one is derived from Latin and Greek and the other from Romany. I agree the two words have different meanings and derivations, but since they are spelled the same I would count them as only one word for purposes of answering the original question. If **gry** is listed twice, why not list **The Angry** from Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* (13th edition, about 1883) and **Hungry**, a town in Alaska listed in the *Times Index-Gazetteer*, since in both cases the word is capitalized? Many would consider a difference in capitalization to be a difference in spelling and thus these would be two more words to add to the list.

New -Gry Words

Many of these new -gry words were found by consulting the 50-odd volumes of word lists in my possession that were compiled years ago by formists (constructors of word-squares, diamonds and other geometric forms) in the National Puzzlers' League. The words on almost all of these lists are arranged in reverse alphabetical order, making look-up of -gry words quite easy.

Scheetz noted that five of his words -- bewgry, bowgry, malgry, ulgry, vergry -- were not actually found but were inferred. Although it would be nice to actually find those spellings in some reference, I can't argue with his methods. Two of the words on my list are also inferred, but I doubt that anyone will complain. Under *yird* in Chambers English Dictionary we find "Also *eard*, *yeard*, *yerd*, ... *eard-*, *yeard-*, *yerd-*, *yird-hunger* ... adjs. *eard-hungry*, etc." Chambers Scots Dictionary also gives *eard-hungry*, and *yerd-hungry* is found explicitly in Chambers Scots Dictionary and the Oxford English Dictionary. Clearly *yeard-hungry* and *yird-hungry* are indicated by that "etc."

My favorite new -gry find was *Flaithbhertach MacLoingry*, bishop of Clonmacnois in 1038. Since he was just one of the -grys, his friends probably called him Mac.

I found four -gry terms that I did not include on my list. There are three different meanings for GRY: a delisted NYSE symbol for Gray Drug Stores, Inc.; the symbol for an airport in Granada, Spain; and the US Geological Survey seismograph station code for a former station at Greymouth, New Zealand. Then there's WGRY, the call letters of a radio station in Grayling, Michigan.

With over 80 words on the -gry list now (86 if everything on both lists, including two gryes), perhaps it is possible to find an even 100 -gry words. I hope others will join in the hunt.

More Words Ending in -Gry, With Sources

01. Badagry: Ind Geog
02. Bugry: TIG
03. Chockpugry: Worc
04. Croftangry: DFC (as "Chrystal Croftangry")
05. Dshagry: Stieler
06. Dzagry: Andrees
07. eard-hungry: CED (see "yird"); CSD
08. Egry: France; TIG
09. haegry: EDD (see "hagery")
10. hogry: EDD (see "huggerie"); CSD
11. hogrymogry: EDD (see "huggerie"); CSD (as "hogry-mogry")
12. huggrymuggry: EDD (see "huggerie"); CSD (as "huggry-muggry")
13. kaingry: EDD (see "caingy")
14. Langry: TIG
15. MacLoingry: Phillips (as "Flaithbhertach MacLoingry")
16. mad-angry: OED:6/2:14 (see "mad" adj. 9)
17. mad-hungry: OED:6/2:14 (see "mad" adj. 9)
18. Margry: Indians (see "Pierre Margry" in bibliog., v.2, p.1204)

19. overangry: RH1; RH2
20. Pelegry: CE (in main index as "Raymond de Pelegry")
21. podagry: W2 (below the line); OED
22. Pongry: Andrees (Supplement, p. 572)
23. Seagry: TIG
24. Segry: Ind Geog; Andrees
25. shiggry: EDD
26. Shtshigry: Lipp
27. Sygry: Andrees
28. Tangry: France
29. tike-hungry: CSD
30. Tingry: France
31. toggy: Simmonds (as "Toggy", but all entries in this dictionary are capitalized and from its definition it appears "toggy" should be lower-case)
32. yeard-hungry: CED (see "yird")
33. yerd-hungry: CED (see "yird"); OED
34. yird-hungry: CED (see "yird")
35. Ymagry: OED:1:1009 (col.3, 1st "boss" verb, 2. in c.1400 cite)

Andrees = Andrees Handatlas (index volume). 1925. Richard Andree.
 CE = Catholic Encyclopedia. 1907.

CED = Chambers English Dictionary. 1988.

CSD = Chambers Scots Dictionary. 1971 reprint of 1911 edition. Alexander Warrack.

C20 = Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary. 1972, 1983 editions.

DFC = Dictionary of Fictional Characters. 1963. William Freeman.

EDD = The English Dialect Dictionary. 1898. Joseph Wright, editor.

Ind Geog = Index Geographicus. 1864. Keith Johnston.

Indians = Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico. 1912.
 Frederick W. Hodge.

France = Map Index of France. 1918. G.H.Q. American Expeditionary Forces, General Staff, First Section, G-1.

Lipp = Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World. 1861, undated edition from late 1800s; 1902.

OED = The Oxford English Dictionary. 1933. [Form: OED:volume/part number, if applicable:page]

Phillips = Dictionary of Biographical Reference. 1889. Lawrence Phillips.

RH1 = Random House Dictionary of the English Language, The Unabridged Edition. 1966.

RH2 = Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition Unabridged. 1987.

Simmonds = Commercial Dictionary of Trade Products. 1883. P.L. Simmonds.

Stieler = Stieler's Handatlas (index volume). 1925. Adolf Stieler.

TIG = The Times Index-Gazetteer of the World. 1965.

Worc = Universal Gazetteer, Second Edition. 1823. J.E. Worcester.

W2 = Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged. 1961.

Curiously Andrees Handatlas has no apostrophe in the title even though the compiler's name is Andree, not Andrees.