WHO'S FLAITHBHERTACH MACLOINGRY?

MURRAY R. PEARCE
Bismarck, North Dakota

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 haigr—re:-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. Depelegry is in the Catholic Encyclopedia after all, but as Raymond de Pelegry 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 madhungry is almost certainly a misspelling of madhungry 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 in 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 Shitshigry as shown on Scheetz’s list, but I did find Shitshigry.

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, yer'd, ... eard-, yeard-, yer-d-, yird-hunger ... adj.s. 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 yerd-hungry are indicated by that "etc."

My favorite new -gry find was Flaithbhertach MacLoingry, bishop of Clonmaconis 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 grys), 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. Seagry: TIG
23. Segry: Ind Geog; Andrees
24. shiggry: EDD
25. Shtshigry: Lipp
26. Sygry: Andrees
27. Tiggry: France
28. Tiggry: France
29. toggry: Simmonds (as "Toggry", but all entries in this diction-
ary are capitalized and from its definition it appears "toggry"
should be lower-case)
30. yeard-hungry: CED (see "yird")
31. yerd-hungry: CED (see "yird"); OED
32. Ymagry: OED:1:1009 (col. 3, 1st "boss" verb, 2. in c.1400 cite)
34. CE = Catholic Encyclopedia. 1907.
36. CSD = Chambers Scots Dictionary. 1971 reprint of 1911 edition. Alex-
37. ander Warrack.
41. Indians = Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico. 1912.
42. France = Map Index of France. 1918. G.H.Q. American Expeditionary
43. Forces, General Staff, First Section, G-1.
44. Lipp = Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World. 1861, un-
dated ed.; Simonds, late 1800s; 1902.
45. OED = The Oxford English Dictionary. 1933. [Form: OED: volume/part
number, if applicable: page]
46. Phillips = Dictionary of Biographical Reference. 1889. Lawrence
Phillips.
47. RH1 = Random House Dictionary of the English Language, The Un-
48. RH2 = Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second
49. Simmonds = Commercial Dictionary of Trade Products. 1883. P.L.
53. W2 = Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Lan-

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