

Mosaic Colour Scale

Publication/Creation

1870

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Feb 3/1870



pl

Contain ~~some~~ scientific enquiries in which I am engaged
have brought forcibly ^{before my notice the great desideratum of} ~~the want of a~~
being able to obtain ^{acceptance} ~~the~~ a standard scale of colours by referring to which
a person's exact meaning ^{expressed with precision} ~~is~~ ^{he} ~~wishes to describe~~
any particular colour ~~is~~ ^{the exhibition of such a standard} ~~is~~ ^{it would} have a tint.
a subject that would be fall as I venture to say,
most legitimately within the province of the South
Kensington Museum ~~to exhibit such a standard~~
& I am now shew how very easy, & efficient,
this desideratum ~~it~~ ^{might be} ~~supplied~~ ^{supplied}.

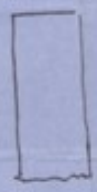
In the 'Fabbrica' of mosaics ^{at the Vatican} ~~at the Vatican~~ ^{with Rome} there
are no less than 25 thousand trays or bins, each
of numbered consecutively, ^{the trays are} ~~each~~ ^{filled with}
cakes of ^{the mosaic} ~~material~~ ^{of different colours}, & a different
colour to each different bin. The workers in the
mosaic, ^{in the Fabbrica} ~~as~~ ^{send} as they require, to the superintendent
of their department, for so many pounds weight from
such & such ^{specified} ~~trays~~ ^{the colours} ~~being~~ ^{being} ~~entirely~~ ^{entirely} ~~known~~
by the ^{attached to the} ~~numbers~~ ^{trays}. I have ^{read} ~~seen~~ cursory accounts
of their large & most remarkable factory & I have
viewed it myself as ^{ordinarily} ~~though~~ ^{though} much interested
sight seen but I cannot find any full description
of it ^{anywhere} ~~in the~~ ^{in the} ~~library~~ ^{of the} ~~of the~~ ^{South Kensington} ~~or elsewhere~~ ^{or elsewhere}
it may be taken for granted that the facts ^{of the case} ~~are~~ ^{are}

substantially as I have stated them.

Now I beg to propose that the authorities of the South Kensington Art Department should make application to the Pope for mosaic tablets containing in order, specimens of each of their 25 thousand bits to be suspended in the Museum ^{for the purpose of reference} as a standard color reference. The grant ~~is~~ ^{is} not a very serious

one for if we take as a minimum size for each bit of mosaic, a surface of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length & breadth then a tablet 25 inches long & square would contain 10,000 bits & 2 1/2 inch tablets would expand the Vatican series.

Presume that



for if we take as the unit of size for each bit of mosaic an oblong of 1 inch ^{long} by 1/2 inch wide the whole 25 thousand specimens would occupy

25,000
12,500 square inches $\frac{1}{4}$
12/111.8 inches square

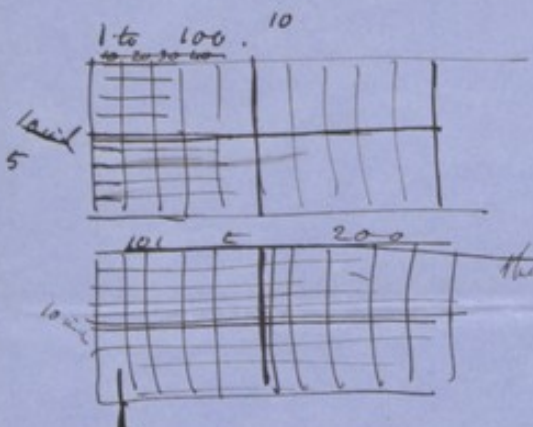
or 9.25 feet square
space ^{would be} contained in
left than ~~10 feet~~ a square of 10 feet in the side.

^{mosaic} The might be disposed as a frieze running along the wall at a height convenient for reference, the bits of mosaic ^{perhaps arranged in tablets} ~~being disposed in rows~~ ¹⁰⁰ contained in 10 ranks of 10 tiles if the convenience of immediately with dark lines at the ~~50~~ ¹⁰⁰ divisions each way

Capitaining & of each several to
ascertaining these numbers

them.

The drawing shows that
the wire-appearance of one of
these tablets would be as there
would be 250 of them



Each such tablet (would cover)
exclusion of the legend at the top &
there of ~~grid~~ to each, & there would
be 250 of these tablets.

The Fabbrica at the Vatican is maintained by
the Papal Government solely for the purpose of
mosaics for the public buildings in the Roman States & ~~other~~ gifts to
make presentations ~~mosaics~~ foreign Potentates.

Present ~~artworks~~ of mosaics are given ~~to the Pope~~ that required I am
afraid to say how many ~~separate~~ pieces of mosaic ~~material for their completion~~ & that
the life time of a skilled artist ~~to complete~~ But
~~these tablets to which I allude~~ ~~the tablets~~ would
be built up as ~~ready~~ as building a wall with bricks.
Even if it took ~~occupied~~ a man a whole day to make ~~one~~
tablet the entire affair would ~~be~~ ^{be} left them a
year ^{of his lifetime} ~~work~~.

It is not to be supposed that the ^{Patrician} scale is identical
regular in the interval between its several gradations
~~sections~~ ^{have} ~~do~~ ^{not} know that any ^{scientific} ~~special~~ pains have
been taken to keep the ~~tints~~ & hues of each ~~from~~
as nearly identical ^{in their characters} in the consecutive ^{centuries, & even to short periods}
generations, but this at least is certain; - that
the ~~scale~~ ^{series} is ~~incomplete~~ as minute ^{as} as it is comprehensive
as it is possible to be; that it exists in the most durable ^{all} materials

that it would be exceedingly useful as would further
~~hereafter~~ ^{first class to much credit} ~~English scale, designed as a~~
~~serve as a basis for some future~~ ^{more scientific}
~~scale principles.~~ ^{that it might be had}

that it might be had
almost for the asking & that
it would be ^{very} highly interesting
apothecary & ornamental ad grand
to the South Kensington Museum.
& finally that it ~~was~~ ^{is} a lot better.

It might well be a subject for the subsequent
consideration of the authorities of South Kensington
whether they should not select ^{by means of the large amount of} ~~all the~~ ^{the} ~~series~~ & science at their disposal
the Vatican series to ~~form~~ ^{create} what might be
called a South Kensington series, ~~scale~~ ^{of colour} ~~& which~~
~~a distribute~~ identical copies of ~~which~~ ^{it is mosaic}, which would
occupy as they w^d
on the above calculation a space of ~~not~~ ^(according to above calculations) rather less
than 10 feet by 1 foot, & might be distributed
among the art schools of the United Kingdom.
~~& a unit~~

Permit me to add a
 postscript to my letter of
 Feb. 3. viz.

Supposing that difficulty or delay
 is feared in obtaining the mosaic
 tablets ^{from Russia} it would suffice to ask
 for specimens from each of the
 bins with the number of the
 bin written on the backs of them;
~~with~~ ⁱⁿ some suitable ink. Each
 specimen to be large enough to admit
 of a mosaic oblong of the required
 size being cut out of it. These
 roughly shaped ^{fragments} ~~pieces~~ could be
 rapidly cut & ground to the
 required sized by machine-worked
 saws or grindstones, such as do not

exist in Rome but are to be
found in abundance in English
factories & the whole series
of mosaics might be ^{very easily} built up
at South Kensington

26.5/20.



41r



4 3 2 1

	Bitolana		Ropo
Pastini		Macella Paonazza	
	Setta base		Paonazzetto
Semegault groppo		B Caravazza	
	Albarolo Niello		Verd Antico
Alabastro d'Egitto		Paon Mandolato	
	Preceia di Aleppo		Porto Santo
Ropo di devanti		Brocattello	

Mosaic Table

5	h	7	8
Africano bruno	Porto Santo	Preceia mandolato	Carnazione
Macella bianca	Paonazzo	Cippolino Rupo	Paonazza mandolato
Alabastro Fasciato	Porto Santo Lumacella	Ropo Antico	Alabastro Reto
Lumacella orientale	Algetta	Giello Antico	Cippolino Bruno

Prof. Chamber
Gordon
Hawley
Shelton

- asked.
- 18 Sat: Chienhale ^{comes} 2 Aide ^{comes} 2 Porten ^{comes} 3 } 7
- 20 M. ~~Aide~~ ^{not come} Shaky ^{comes} 2 ~~cooker~~ ^{asked} 2 } 4
- 21 Tues Aide ^{not come} Shaky ^{comes} 2 } 2
- 22 Wednes ~~asked~~ ——— } 0
23. Thurs. Denman ^{asked} } 1
- ~~24. Thurs.~~
- 25 Sat. Chienhale ^{comes} Aide ^{comes} — } 4
27. Mond Porten ^{comes} 3 Cooky ^{asked} 2 } 5
28. Tues Chies ^{not come} Barclay ^{comes} 2 Cantley ^{comes} 3 Shaky ^{asked} 2 } 9



ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

*Invoice Colours
S. W. L.*

Francis Galton Esq. F.R.S.

42 Rutland Gate.

S. W.



Science and Art Department,
South Kensington.

All Communications to be addressed to the Secretary, Science and Art
Department of the Committee of Council on Education,
South Kensington Museum, W.

f/v



July 1869. No. 358.

N.B.—1. All communications relating to the business of this office should be addressed to—
"THE SECRETARY,
SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT,
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON, W."



2. Each communication should relate to one subject only.
3. In referring to this letter, its number should be quoted.

AM No. 4585

Science and Art Department, London, W

5th day of February 1870

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and to inform you that the subject to which it refers will receive consideration.

I am, *Sir,*

Your obedient Servant,

Samuel MacLeod
Asst Secretary



D
To Francis Galton Esq^r F.R.S.
42 Rutland Gate
W.

Am

July 1869. No. 358.

1. Each communication should relate to one subject only.
2. In referring to this letter, its number should be quoted.



N.B.—1. All communications relating to the business of this office should be addressed to—
“The Secretary,
Science and Art Department,
South Kensington,
London, W.”

No. 4557

Science and Art Department, London, W

7 day of February 1870

fr,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5. Feb, and to inform you that the subject to which it refers will receive consideration.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

James Douglas
Secretary



To Francis Galton Esq
42 Portland Gate
S. D.

N.B.—1. All communications relating to the business of this office should be addressed to—
"THE SECRETARY,
SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT,
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON, W."



2. Each communication should relate to one subject only.
3. In referring to this letter, its number should be quoted.

All
No. 4583

Science and Art Department, London, W.

9th day of February 1880

Sir,



I have read with much interest your valuable suggestion for the exhibition, in the South Kensington Museum, of a frame of mosaic tablets for purposes of reference as a standard of Colour, and I will take an early opportunity of bringing the subject before the Lord President.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

Francis Galton, Esq., F.R.S.
42 Rutland Gate.

Henry Cole

Jan. 1870. No. 358.

N.B.—1. All communications relating to the business of this office should be addressed to—
"THE SECRETARY,
SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT,
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON, W."



2. Each communication should relate to one subject only.
3. In referring to this letter, its number should be quoted.

No. 21559

Science and Art Department, London, W.

16 day of

May

1870

Jr,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of

your letter of the 14th inst., by which

reply will be sent as soon as possible.

I am, Jr,

Your obedient Servant,

William de la Rue
Secretary



Francis Galton Esq. FRS
42. Rutland Gate
J. W