

# Red-Haired Woman Tells The Story Of Her Origin In Her Tresses And Eyes

Helen Of Troy And The Trojan Horse Were Responsible For The Amusing Idea That When A White Horse Is Spied Search Should Be Made For The Red-Haired Woman, And Vice Versa

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ.

"From out of the wreck of a past long dead,  
From out of oblivion's night,  
James a cry: 'Fair Helen's hair' was red.  
The Trojan Horse was white."

SINCE 1887, when some American humorist set the above descriptive gem afloat, men, passing a red-haired girl, have smiled significantly and looked for the white horse. Because Helen's hair was supposed to be red, because, according to legend, her beauty and flaming locks precipitated a war that resulted in the destruction of the city of Troy, men have associated red hair with beauty and exciting events.

Helen of Troy was in reality one of those ideal creatures of fancy over which time, space, circumstance and moral probability exert no sway. "She moves through Greek historic legend as the desired of all men, the possessed of many." Theseus bore her away while yet a girl from Sparta, and even after death, Achilles clasped her among the shades upon the island of Leuke.

But in reality, Homer, the only quasi-contemporary authority concerning either Helen or the Trojan Horse, tells nothing of the hair of either. The only red-haired person mentioned in the Iliad is the repulsive defeatist agitator, Thersites, whom the poet describes as having a head shaped like an onion with a tatch the color of a fox's coat. Contrariwise the late Greek poet, Colluthus, who describes at length, as Homer does not, the construction and appearance of the wooden horse built before the walls of Troy, reports that he was painted white and finished with a mane and tail of horsehair dyed scarlet.

While red hair in either men or women does not figure in Greek literature, curiously enough archaeologists state that burnt sienna is the usual color on the hair of ancient Greek marbles and of Greek terra cotta figurines when their coloring has not weathered away altogether by long burial or by that mania of modern collectors for excessive cleaning which still leads many persons to imagine that the masters of Greek statuary completed their masterpieces in unpainted bronze or in pure white marble. Titian and the Venetian painters betray the same inclination to introduce warm colors in the hair of the portraits of Venetian beauties and contemporary records assure us that the aristocratic daughters of Venice were fond of dyeing their dark chevelures red on the rims of wide crownless hats.

## Red Is Emotional Color.

Thus for centuries red hair has exercised fascination for the beholder and with reason, according to latest scientific research in relation to the effect of colors upon the human being. Red and yellow are said to be stimulants, while magenta and scarlets are said to produce emotional effects. Accepting this theory it is easy to accept the emotional effect of red hair. Its vividness seems to have caught the glow of the sun, which is the source of light and life. Its color suggests vitality and excites emotion.

To the ethnologist, as well as the lover and artist, hair is a subject of interesting study, because of the importance of hair as a racial criterion. Hair and eyes are the longest surviving of any of the racial characteristics of the human body and the former is divided into four great racial divisions. First, the short and crisp hair generally termed "woolly," the color of which is jet black and which is characteristic of all black races, except the Australians and aborigines in India. This includes the "peppercorn" and "crested" hair of Hottentots and Bushmen.

Second, is the long, lank, straight and coarse hair, almost without exception black, which is the hair of the yellow races, Chinese, Mongols and Indians of America.

Third, come the curly and wavy, or smooth and silky hair of Europeans, which is chiefly fair; although black, brown, towy and red varieties are found.

Fourth, is the hair described as "frizzy," always thick and black and characteristic of Nubians, Australians and certain of the Mplattos.

There are no red-haired races. Red hair is an individual anomaly associated generally with freckles.

Perhaps another reason, in addition to the legend of the Trojan Horse, associates the red-haired girl of light eyes with the color white, and that is that when the red-haired woman becomes eligible to cast a vote, she can in very truth take oath that she is white, because her eyes and hair bear witness to her unalloyed descent from the Nordic subspecies of races of Northern Europe that inhabit the country about the North and Baltic Seas. These include the great Scandinavian and Teutonic groups and also the ancient peoples who first appeared in Southern Europe and in Asia as representatives of Aryan civilization.

Eye color is of infinite importance in race determination, because all the blue, gray or green eyes in the world today came originally from the same source—the Nordic race of Northern Europe. The light-colored eye has appeared nowhere else on earth. It is a specialization of this Nordic subspecies of man only and is therefore of extreme value in the classification of European races.

The Nordic race is usually distinguished by great stature, almost the tallest stature on earth being found among the pure Nordic populations of the Scotch and English borders. Dr. John Beddoe, an eminent ethnologist, has said that there are 16 blondes out of every 100 Scotch; 13 out of every 100 English and only two out of every 100 Italians. Madison Grant, in "The Passing of the Great Race," states that in Upper Canada and in the United States, up to the time of the Civil War, the white population was purely Nordic.

According to him the range of blond hair and color in pure Nordic peoples runs from flaxen to reds and shades of chestnut and brown. In general the Nordic race in its purity has an absolutely fair skin, and is consequently "the Home. Thus, the white man par excellence." "The so-called red-haired

branch of the Nordic race has special characteristics in addition to red hair, such as a greenish cast of eye, a skin of peculiar texture, tending either to great clarity or freckles, and certain peculiar temperamental traits. This was probably a variety closely related to the blondes, and it first appears in history in association with them.

## Temperamental Traits.

As for temperamental traits, red hair is usually associated with tendency toward high temper. There are those who go so far as to say that a red-haired woman is usually shrewish, which is manifestly unfair. Spirited ladies are limited to no type of woman. Indeed, William Overton, Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, even went so far as to say: "There is but one shrew in the world, and every man hath her."

Queen Elizabeth of England was a shining example of a red-haired woman, whose temper matched her flaming tresses. To read in the British Governmental annals an autograph letter, written by Elizabeth in reply to one emanating from the British Parliament relative to matrimony, is to realize this. Parliament had suggested, most tactfully and humbly, to good Queen Bess, that it might be well for her to marry. It proved a most unfortunate suggestion. Elizabeth promptly let them know that, along with the throne of England, she had inherited the hot temper of her father, King Henry VIII.

"Like Mary," of Harford county, whose sampler has become historic, she might "be loved," but she couldn't be "bossed." Like Katharine, in Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," Elizabeth intimated to the British Parliament that she would, so to speak, see them hanged before she would permit any subject or subjects to dictate to her in matters of the heart. This flaming missive was dictated to no efficient secretary with bobbed hair and drop-stitch stockings, but writ by Elizabeth's own hand. She stayed not for correct spelling; she stopped not for rules of grammar, but dashed along in headlong wrath to a signature that went with a bang! like the explosion of a bomb.

Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, one of the fair ladies of Hampton Court during the reign of King Charles II, had brilliant auburn hair and a fiery temper as well. She married Roger Palmer in 1659 and was one of the many loves of King Charles II. Pepys writes of her in his famous diary upon one occasion, "It is a great pleasure to see so many great beauties, but above all Mrs. Palmer, with whom the King do discover a great deal of familiarity. Indeed, I can never enough admire her beauty."

It was said of Barbara that her complexion was of that peculiar transparency which is seen only in the faces of golden blonds. Her portrait is included among the fair women of Hampton Court, but it was written of her that she found a violent, masterful temper the best weapon to use in governing her kingly lover.

## Titian Baltimore Belles.

In fashionable circles of this city are found a few examples of notably beautiful red hair, among them Miss Fredrica Fulton Leser, Miss Ellen Beck, Mrs. Thomas B. Harrison, Mrs. Ellen T. C. Boone Fisher, widow of the late Alfred Fisher, and Mrs. Felix L. Sullivan, Jr.

## Mme. Caye An Authority.

Mme. M. Caye, who has had 40 years' experience in beautifying women through artistic coiffures, who is acquainted personally with almost every fashionable woman in Baltimore, and whose supervising eye has watched over innumerable debutantes socially introduced at the Bachelors' Cotillions, said a few days ago that red hair is rather a rarity in Baltimore at the present time. As examples of the gloriously red hair which artists delight to paint, she cited among fashionable Baltimore debutantes of the past Mrs. J. Lee Tailor, of New York, formerly Miss Marie Stirling and granddaughter of the late Admiral Stirling. She recalled also the hair of Mrs. Clarence McDowell, daughter of the late Mrs. Robert C. Barry, but among debutantes to be presented this season at the Monday German, neither she nor her corps of assistants could remember any girl possessed of the much-desired tint of hair save Miss Alice Lee Thomas, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Douglas H. Thomas.

"To be sure, red hair can be artificially produced by henna," continued the hairdresser, "but it is easily detected by an experienced observer. In our professional work we constantly say of a woman: 'She is just like her hair.' Perhaps we could not exactly define what we mean, but we do know that a woman's hair is usually indicative of her personality. I have found red-haired women are either distinctly witty, and bright or just the reverse—there seems to be no medium type, and as a general thing nature is very kind to her red-haired daughters in other respects. They are usually endowed with a glorious physical vitality that other types of women often lack, and if, as is frequently said, their tempers are hot they are quickly over their wrath. Red hair usually grows in luxuriant abundance and my experience with such women is that they have good, healthy appetites and vigorous strength as a result."

"Through long experience, I have learned to distinguish German hair from English, Italian from Spanish, etc. As an example of racial survival in hair I recall a lady, with whose ancestry I was unacquainted, coming to me to procure some little curls to be worn upon her forehead. Naturally, she wanted a perfect match to her own hair. I told her I was doubtful if I could secure the desired shade, since hair the exact color of hers was only imported from Denmark and Sweden and was not being shipped to America. Those governments had forbidden by law peddlers going through the country and cutting off and buying the hair of peasant women. It was considered dishonoring to the womanhood of the race to have girls thus shorn of woman's crowning glory. Hence, such hair was not being received in America and my only means of securing a match was if some person accidentally brought a bit of such hair in to sell—which now and then happens."

"She listened in silence and then exclaimed, 'How very strange! My ancestors came from Denmark.'"

"The Marquise de Pompadour, favorite of Louis XV, had most unusual ash-blond hair. I noticed it in her picture, which I saw at the Louvre in Paris and afterward in reading her history I remember that the author laid stress upon her ash-blond hair."

According to the Encyclopædia Britannica, no test has proved, on repeated experiments, to be a safer one of racial

purity than the quality of the hair, because a single hair of an individual bears the stamp of his origin. It is interesting also to know that the hair of men will never grow as long as the hair of women. The average length of the hair of women is from 18 to 24 inches, while exceptionally long hair may be 36 or even 50 inches long, whereas men's hair will seldom grow longer than from 6 to 8 inches. Also hair is exceedingly sensitive to electricity, stronger in proportion than any other portion of the body and extremely sensitive to touch—even more so in animals and insects than in human beings. Scientific records indicate that black, curly and stiff hair indicates melancholy temperament; fair hair either a sanguine or phlegmatic temperament, and red hair either a very cunning or a very good character. Dr. Francis C. Nicholas, curator of the Maryland Academy of Science, who has had somewhat unusual opportunity to study different races, says he has found in intercourse with red-haired people that they are steadfast and peculiarly dependable.

Yea, verily, "Man glories in his strength and woman in her hair," and if she lacks the desired Titian tint, surely it is her privilege to assume this glory even if she have it not. The age of powder puffs and panniers and dainty porcelains bent the knee to another pure convention of the mode when it made white the only stylish color for the curls and queues of old and young alike. A few ultrafashionables are now returning to this eighteenth century ideal, if report speaks true. And why not, since Paris ballrooms and drawing rooms managed to give a momentary vogue to blue, green rose and lilac wigs 10 years ago? Why did our painters neglect the opportunity of consigning that fleeting charm of the passing show to immortality?