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Memorized Definite Article

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A speaker of Serbo-Croatian has nothing in his language to signal the necessity of using the definite article when trying to speak or write English. This absence of the article concept makes it hard for speakers of Serbo-Croatian to ever master the articles, particularly the definite article, in English. However, there are certain uses of the definite article which are quite frequently accompanied by some features, not necessarily directly connected with the article system. As these features exist also in Serbo-Croatian, they can be memorized by the speaker of Serbo-Croatian and utilized in the production of certain subclasses of the definite article in English. This article defines and classifies some of the most productive of these features.

The simplest cases of the use of the definite article (henceforward "DA"), at least from the point of view of a learner whose mother tongue has no article system, are those where the DA can be used without any knowledge of the complicated English article system. These are cases where lexical, structural or other features can be utilized as more or less reliable article signals. Such features can be isolated and then memorized by the learner. In such uses of the DA, the learner is not required to decide for himself, on the basis of what he knows of the functioning of the article system, whether the DA is required or not. He does not generate the article. Instead, some memorized formal item is utilized as a signal that the DA is probably the required form. This type of the DA does not presuppose any knowledge of the functioning of the DA; it does not account for the appearance of the DA from the article system, as the need for the use of the article is signaled by some external feature which is not

a feature figuring in the article system. This approach to the DA is similar to the explanation of the use of the preterit tense when the student is told that the preterit can be safely used whenever "ago" can be used, although the occurrence of this particular adverb is not regulated by the same considerations that regulate the occurrence of the English preterit and it has nothing to do with the English tense system. This approach shifts the necessity of making decisions from what is considered more difficult to some supposedly easier feature. The student still has to decide whether to use "ago" or not; but teachers rightly believe that this decision is easier to make for a speaker of Serbo-Croatian (SC) than the decision whether to use the preterit or some other tense, such as present perfect or present. For a similar approach to some types of the DA, what is required is a reliable and exhaustive list of easily recognizable features — resembling those in the learner's mother tongue — which, with a high degree of reliability, signal the necessity for the appearance of the DA — supplied by the teacher or the textbook; and a retentive memory — supplied by the student. This is, basically, a lexical approach, supplemented with some easily recognized structural and distributional features.

Essentially, cases of the memorized uses of the DA constitute a list of situations in which there is little possibility of choice, the DA being almost the only article acceptable.

English grammars, particularly those for foreign students, concentrate most of their efforts in explaining the uses of the DA precisely on a limited number of environments to be memorized, although statistical data seem to indicate that such uses of the DA account for an almost negligible proportion of the occurrences of the DA. The low frequency of the occurrences of the DA which can be attributed to some easily recognizable enviromental feature does not mean that they should be neglected, but neither should they be overemphasized. One reason for he undue prominence accorded to the memorized DA is its theoretical simplicity, or absence of any necessity for a theoretical explanation, as it does not require any theory to turn the student's attention to the fact that names of rivers usually take the DA.

The other reason for the prominence given to the memoriezd DA in most practical grammars is that the absence of a general theoretical explanation requires a number of various and lengthy lists listing the situations where the DA is most likely to occur. In this way, the unavoidable considerable space required by the lists and illustrations can

create, by its physical prominence, the wrong impression of the importance of this use of the DA.

Even in this simplified approach to the DA, the distinction of what is fairly reliable and what is rather whimsical is seldom made. Practically in the same breath, the student is told to use the DA with names of rivers, which yields satisfactory results in a very high percentage of cases, and to use the DA with certain other classes of connotative proper names (such as names of buildings, bridges, etc.), which produces satisfactory results in a considerably smaller number of cases. The result is often an endless and confusing list of subcategoris with a small membership abundantly sprinkled with "buts" (*the Crystal Palace* but *Buckingham Palace*), and information on the local use of the names of most unlikely places. To a number of such individual cases, the best answer was given by one of my American informants. When I asked her whether she would use the name of a university with the DA or without it, she said something to the effect, "I don't know; I've never been there. Ask me about places I am familiar with." The logic of this is that certain uses of the DA do not seem to follow any rules and are best learned on the spot as the occasion arises.

Some of the cases of memorized uses of the DA listed below could be explained on the basis of what is said in the article on "generated" uses of the DA. They are included in these lists because the environments in which they occur can be limited to a small number of easily recognized items, such as lexical sets. Thus, the fact that names of rivers occur with the DA includes them in the list under the lexical category label "Names of Rivers" — a subgroup of Connotative Proper Names. These names could be also explained as an instance of relevant structural environment, regardless of the lexical set. Such an approach would probably cause certain difficulties and therefore the lexical-set (list) approach seems to be preferable. The teacher can, at a convenient moment, introduce other explanations of these, and similar, memorized uses. From this it is obvious that there will be borderline cases and overlappings between the memorized and the generated uses of the DA. This is probably due to the fact that the division of the uses of the DA into these two basic categories is rather artificial as it is prompted by purely practical reasons. In some instances, a group of nouns will appear under both the memorized and the generated DA headings. Our approach to the DA may seem unsystematic also because items that seem to belong logically together may appear in several different

places. Thus, proper names of persons and things will appear in at least two different places. The justification we can offer is that not all proper names are the same in their meaning, their structure, their history and their response to the DA. A similar explanation could be made for other cases of repated appearances of what seems to be one and the same type of item.

A far more serious reason for the arrangement of the material we have adopted is the fact that this is no theoretical treatise on the DA in English. This is a series of, we hope, simple and effective hints to speakers of SC about the most frequent uses of the DA in English. Here the solutions do not have to be either very general and all-embracing or expressed with an elegant minimum of words.

The lists of memorized uses of the DA also contain cases where the DA is frequent but where some other article is also possible when the meaning is changed or the noun is used atypically. Thus, the lists contain cases of nouns modified by "only" ("the only possibility") although there are cases like "an only child". Wherever possible or necessary, such "deviant" uses are mentioned and explained.

On the other hand, the lists do not contain those cases where the DA is frequent if the DA is obviously a result of the operation of one of the basic generative principles, or, at least, what we have isolated as one of the basic generative principles. Thus, cases of *of* apposition like "the city of London" are not included in the list, although it is hard to imagine an actual situation which would permit the substitution of *a* for *the*. The DA in this example is best explained by the structural-environment principle which applies to a large number of other similar cases, where it becomes apparent that the DA is due to more general considerations and not to the fact that this is a construction with *of*.

TENTATIVE LIST OF MEMORIZED USES OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

> «Whether a name requires *the* or not is largely unpredictable."
> J. Algeo (p. 27)

Proper nouns and proper names. First of all, we would like to call the reader's attantion to the distinction we make between a proper noun and a proper name. A proper noun is a grammatical class label for a noun that typically has

only one referent. A proper name is a semantic notion and it means that a noun or a noun phrase refers to one referent only. These two terms may seem to stand for one and the same thing, but a few examples will help to clarify the difference we are trying to make. Thus, "Napoleon" is a proper noun, usually it is also a proper name; "the Big Dipper" is a proper name but it is not a proper noun, rather it is a noun phrase consisting of a modifier and a head noun. "The Sudan" is a proper noun and a proper name; "the Armada" is a common noun but a proper name.

Most proper nouns are also proper names, but this is not an invariable rule. Thus, in "He is a Napoleon of finance" the noun "Napoleon" is a proper noun but it is not a proper name.

Proper nouns

Individual cases. There is a group of proper nouns, mostly with a geographical reference, which occur preceded by the DA for which there is, at least synchronically, no systemic explanation. An English child must learn them individually as a list in the same way as a speaker of SC must. With some of them, the DA imitates foreing usage and with others the DA is a relic of an original connotative use:

A list of such proper names includes cases like:
the Labrador (but "in *Labrador*") / (the) Congo / The Hauge / the Mall / the Strand / the Antarctic (obviously an abbrevitation of the connotative name "the Antractic Region"; the synonymous true proper noun "Antractica" occurs without an article) / the Arctic / the Argentine (but when the native form "Argentina" is used there is no article: "still farther southwest and down into *Argentina* and Chile the Adean chain breaks into a tangled mass of mountains") / the Ruhr / the Saar / the Ukraine / (the) Lebanon: "any interest in *Lebanon*, Spencer?" / (the) Sudan / the Tyrol / the Deccan / the Palatinate / the Piraes / the Matterhorn / we climbed *the Jungfrau* / the Cameroons

The DA appears also with names of foreign fortresses:
the Bastille / the Kremlin / the Alcazar / the Alhambra (an ancient palace and fortress of the Moorish monarchs of Granada)

Domestic fortresses seem to require no article:
Fort Knox / Alcatraz / Fort Gibson / the parade ground at *Fort Meade*

Names of prima donnas and, less frequently, names of leading men are in certain styles used with the DA:

last night *the Siddons* and *the Kemble,* at Drury Lane, acted to a vacancy / the Dietrich / the Garbo

Generally. A proper noun is characterized by its typically having one referent. We assume that this one-reference-for--one-referent relation is present also in cases where there are several bearers of the same name (such as the name of "John") but where it is not necessary to distinguish among the bearers; as well as in case swhere there is only one bearer (such as the cases of the proper noun "Zagreb").

The characteristic one-to-one relation of a proper noun to its referent can be disrupted in a number of ways. One of them is seen in instances where a typical proper noun is used not to refer to its original referent, but rather its function is to refer to some outstanding characteristic or characteristics of the original referent. In this use, the proper noun indicates that the new bearer of the name has the caracteristics of the original bearer in a high degree:

he is *a* regular *Hitler* / he is *a* second *Machiavelli* / by A. D. 79 Pompeii had become a fashionable resort, *an Atlantic City* of its day / *an Alexander the Great,* born into an age of profound peace, might scarce have troubled the world / the archipelagoes of spots on this pointer puppy are just as importantly isolated from one another as they could be in *any Adriatic*

In some cases there is little difference between a proper noun used as a proper name and the same noun used as a common noun:

he has the courage of of *(a) Nelson* and the tenacity of *(a) Churchill*

Although with proper nouns used in this way any article is possible, it is obvious, from the examples, that the most frequent will be the indefinite article.

In a similar way, some more-or-less arbitrary trademark names (such as "Frigidaire" or "Primus") have come to be used as common nouns; which is illegal, especially in the written form.

The following list contains instances of proper nouns behaving like common nouns.

A proper noun uses the DA in the same way as a common noun does when the name of the manufacturer or the author is used for his product or production:

he bought *a Ford (Shakespeare, Modigliani) / the Rembrant* was picked up for me by Bredius / A Wellington

(boot) / *the Bentley* would get you into town in fifteen minutes / over the desk was *a Ford Madox Brown* / he looked closely at *the Brown* / he had seen similar *Browns*

Names of cars and other locomotive machinery behave as common nouns:

the Ford Cortina is a popular car / he sold the Ford and bought *a Volkswagen* ("he bought Volkswagen" means he boght the company)

The proper noun can also be the name of a species of dogs:

a/the Saint Bernard

The proper noun can also be the name of a song:

why don't you sing *the Horst Wessel?*

There are also other similar situations, as when the name of a place is used for the most outstanding event taking place, or that took place, in that locality, as when the geographical proper name Goodwood is used for the annual horse races taking place there:

I hear you had *a* bad *Goodwood*

Another example of this type:

when you win *the Marathon* at the Olympic Games

The name of the pirate flag is "the Jolly Roger"

In a number of cases, the average speaker is no longer aware that the common noun he uses was originally a proper name:

mac(intosh), watt, pullman, boycott, amper, sandwich, browning, colt, etc.

Proper nouns used as common nouns have plural forms:

we started selling *Pontiacs* / an exhibisition of *Renoirs*

Notice that with these plural proper nouns the DA is used as with common nouns whereas plural proper nouns used as names usually take the DA as in "*the* three *Johns* in my class."

All these cases have the common denominator that the proper noun is not used as the name of its original bearer. As an example, taken from a s. f. novel, a simulacrum of Edwin M. Stanton is referred to as "the Edwin M. Stenton".

Another way in which the typical one-to-one relation of a proper noun and its referent is neutralized is seen in situations where there are obviously more than one bearer of a particular proper noun. This fact can be either stated explicitely (as in "the three Johns in my class") or implicitely (the John down the street).

There follows a list of the most common situations in which a proper noun used as a proper name appears preceded

by the DA because it refers to several bearers of the name.

The proper noun is in the plural number

Names of persons in the plural number: the three *Johns* in my class / *the Carraways* are something of a clan / *the Cummingses* have always been on the side of good government / one must keep up with *the Joneses* / Mary Raeburn was rich enough to buy and sell *the Hershalls* many times over / the way she looked at him, fortright and without desing, in contrast to *the Connie Andersons* / *the van Eycks* have mastered the light and air of the natural world / Mr Rock and *the* two Mr *Rosens*
Also with plural proper names in the Saxon genitive form: *the Foresters'* house

The above examples illustrate two types of situation. In one type, there are actually, severae persons having the same name (the van Eycks); in the other type, there is only one person of that name but the name is used as a standard of description of other people, bearing different names, who show the same characteristics as the original bearer (the Connie Andersons), so that this second type is in fact a variation of the non-name use of proper nouns as illustrated by the sentences of the type "He is a regular Hitler", "He bought a new Ford" and many others. The difference between the two types is restricted to the fact that, in the case of the "a Hitler" type, the name is a household word and the noun occurs either in the singular or in the plural whereas in the other type, the noun is always in the plural and the name is known only to the readers of a particular book or another such restricted situation.

In cases like "the Smiths", the reference is to all the contextually relevant members of a Smith family, not to all Smiths of all Smith families. If the reference is to all Smiths, there is no article, as in "Smiths are distiguished from Joneses." (Of course, if the reference is generic, that is, to a characteristic of a particular Smith used as a standard of comparison with other people having that characteristic, the DA will occur: "The Smiths of this world.")

The DA occurs with family names also when the name itself is singular but the title preceding it is plural:

the Misses Show (all the unmarried daughters of a Show family) / the house belongs to *the Misses Tinker*

The construction "the Miss Smiths" is generic, meaning "the kind of persons having the characteristics of a definite Miss Smith we are acquainted with."

We have already stressed that a plural proper noun of this subclass modified by the DA typically refers to all the relevant members of a family, or members of a certain kind, rather than to individual members. Thus the plural of the sentence

you will find *a Cummings* active in each benevolent activity of our city

will be something like

you will finds *Cummingses* active in the various benevolent activities of our city

Occasionally, the fact that what is involved is a family is indicated by naming the head of the family:

I drove over there to have dinner with *the Tom Buchanans*

The DA is also used when the name of the family is used as a proper adjective modifying the noun "family":

the Horner family

Names of nations, tribes and other ethnical or politico-geographical groups

the Germans are different from *the English* / *the Cretans* were conquered and their palaces destroyed / *the Bellovaci,* a tribe of *the Belgae*

The article can be ommitted:

Americans like to keep their government on a short leash / this is the time *Americans* must think hard about their government / those hard-won rights that *Americans* have been enjoying since 1776 / questions about which *Americans* are quite as much concerned as *English* / *Chinese* appear to be in constant fear that the manufacturer will take advantage of their faith and palm off inferior goods

The absence of the DA in the above examples is perhaps due to the absence of insistence upon totality. It seems possible that *Americans* means something like "most Americans or all Americans" while *the Americans* means only "all Americans".

Geographical names in the plural

the Straits (the passageway between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea) / the Bermudas / the Netherlands / the Adirondacks / the Alleghenies / the West Indies / the Everglades / the Midlands / the Hebrides / the

Canaries / the Balkans / the Himalays / the Alps / the Pennines / the Sierras / the Abruzzi (the DA is due either to the fact that in Italian this is a noun in the plural, or the DA translates the Italian article "gli", as in numerous other names of foreign localities) / we named the valley Happy Valley and named the mountains south of it *the Pauline Peaks*, over Paul's protests / the Ozarks

Geographical names that are typically singular and articleless become plural when combined and take the DA. Thus, we can refer to North Carolina and South Carolina as "the Carolinas", and South America and North America become "the Americas". Another example:

Charles of Bourbon, king of *the Two Sicilies*

With some of these names, the plural morpheme actually belongs to the omitted common nouns; thus, the Bahama Islands become the Bahamas.

The DA appears with proper nouns functioning as names when the DA is used with the meaning of "famous" or some such descriptive adjective:

any relation to *the John Thomas Stuart?*

Modified proper nouns in the singular

Generally, modified proper nouns in the singular take no article:

Southern California / Western Germany / beautiful Spain

The DA occurs when a proper noun is modified in order to avoid ambiguous reference to two or more bearers of that particular proper noun. Thus, the proper noun "John" can have a number of referents. Normally this leads to no ambiguous situation because the several referents of the noun are kept apart by means of contexts. But should a situation arise in which the speaker feels that the use of a proper noun is ambigous, there are a number of ways to specify which referent is meant. If there are two Johns in a neighborhood they can be specified as John Brown while the other is identified as John Smith. The two bearers can also be distinguished by means of the respective trades they follow, as John the butcher against John the grocer; or by some distinguishing characteristic as big John as against little John, etc. As we are interested in the DA, we have compiled the following list which contains various ways of identification of ambigous proper nouns employing the DA.

Several bearers of the same noun

Premodification: the Elder Pitt / the Elder Pliny
Posmodification. The modifier is preceded by the DA, rather than the modified proper noun. The function of the post-adjective preceded by the DA, although identificational, is frequently also descriptive of the bearer of the name by pointing out one of his outstanding qualities or features:

> Charles the Bald / Frederich the Great / Richard the Lion-Hearted / Lorenzo the Magnificent / Eric the Red / Hans Holbein the Younger / Agrippina the elder / Charles the Second

A proper noun may be modified in order to distinguish various periods in history or various manifestations of one and the same referent:

> *the young Shakespeare* would not have written it / if we are to obtain any coherent view of the story, we must begin in *the old London* / he has done much to rekindle interest for *the New Turkey* / *the old Pilot Knob* still existed and I was no stranger / the Infant Jesus / and see him there, cool and dignified, in the well-remembered grey morning-coat, was like finding a piece of *the old England* / authentic Arthur it was not, but rather, thirteenth-century Malory Arthurian, seven centuries later than the short-lanced leather-armored bare-headed time of *the real Arthur* / the prewar Yugoslavia

Emotional premodification. Another type of premodification of proper nouns involving the use of the DA has a rather prominent emotional quality. The modifier does not serve to distinguish between several bearers, though it may do so, but rather to express the speaker's attitude toward one bearer of the name:

> the unfortuntate Mary (Mary Stuart) / the cruel Macbeth / *the mighty Count of Hohems* and *the beauteous Barbara Mabon,* his lady fair / the famous Sam Houston / I will meet *the divine Judalon* / the noble Anthony / the celebrated Professor Lister / the abominable Messalina / the great Phineas Barnum / Hilda fixed *the leprous Nigel* with her eye as he shamefacedly slunk away / the Crete of *the dreaded King Minos* / the great Achilles / I have a gratitude to *the good Dean Howels* for helping American letters to come of age / the liquid was blessed by *the good St. Patrick* / countless people would recognize *the Great Lorenzo* in any public place / the mad tyrant Napoleon / the infamous Countess Quebedaux /

the great Alexander von Humboldt / the immortal Alec Guinness / I know *the distinguished Mr. Greenberg* by reputation / this life-size picture was done in 1712 by *the marvelously talented Théodore Gericault*

The DA is more likely with adjectives of a limited collocability. Adjectives of a rather general collocability are less likely to occur with the DA. In fact, the only adjective of a very wide applicability that has been found in this usage is "good".

The DA is frequent when the modifier describes the appearance or condition at a particular moment:

"Come in" said *the grinning Ted* / he returned to *the dying Arthur* / *the disgusted Charles* walked out / *the dreamy Caleb* stood still

This is probably a variation of the situation of two, or more, manifestations of the same referent.

With these modified proper nouns, the DA is not obligatory: both "unfortunate Mary" and "cruel Macbeth" are possible. The function of the DA is to indicate that the epithet, in the mind of the speaker, is totally attached to the proper noun (hence occasional initial capital of the adjective). It is a question of the personal attitude of the speaker whether the DA will be used or not. For some speakers Macbeth would be simply "cruel Macbeth" while his wife is "the cruel Lady Macbeth".

Emotional premodification differs from postomodification (Charles the Bald) in the fact that postmodification is more generally accepted, whereas emotional premodification can be very personal. A speaker may describe former US Foreign Secretary H. Kissinger as "the peripatetic Kissinger", but this does not make the construction "Kissinger the peripatetic (Peripatetic)" readily acceptable to the general public. On the other hand, "Ivan the Terrible" and "the terrible (Terrible) Ivan" are not necessarily the same person.

The DA occurs with *said* (often with a comic effect): this association does hereby return its warmest thanks to *the said Samuel Pickwick Esq.* / *the said Eliza*, John and Georgina were now clustered round their mama in the drawing-room

Emotional postomodification. It seems that with non-personal names the totally attached modifiers occur only postnominally, preceded by the DA:

Jerusalem the golden with milk and honey blest / America the Free / Rome the Eternal

If the modification is not strongly emotional and personal, the adjective precedes the noun without the article:

golden Jerusalem / free America / eternal Rome

Proper nouns with qualifiers

By the term "qualifier", we mean such a modifier as cannot occur prenominally. In connection with proper nouns, some qualifiers are used to distinguish between several bearers of the same proper noun. The qualifier "down the street" in the sentence "the Peter down the street did this" distinguishes between several Peters.

Most of the qualifier types are some form of the relative clause, and the DA signaling identification occurs only with single-statement (restrictive) relative clauses:

John down the street is a good boy — John who lives down the street is a good boy — John is a good boy and he lives down the street

the John down the street is a good boy — the John who lives down the street is a good boy — the down-the-street John is a good boy

An example of the non-distinguishing qualifier is also seen in "Jesus of Nazareth". But the sentence "The Peter down the street did this" implies that the speaker, and the hearer, knows at least two Peters, one of whom lives down the (identifiable) street, and it is precisely this Peter that the speaker has in mind. Some more examples:

the Miss Shaw who lives in Town Row / this is not *the Smith* I was speaking of / if you are *the John T. Stuart* I'm looking for / I wondered idly if this were *the Miss Barlow* Jeremy was supposed to have been fond of

Qualification is used also ni cases where a proper noun has only one referent but the referent is considered as existing in two, or more, contrasted manifestations, either temporal or qualitative, as in:

how different is the impression produced by *the Chicago of today / the Paris of today* is vastly different from *the Paris of the Middle Ages* / Paris now is not so different from *the Paris of then* / in *the England of Queen Elizabeth* / the Shakespeare of the sonnets / in *the Denmark of today* / the Dublin of the time / the Troy of Priam and Hector / the Crete of the dreaded King Minos / the Babylon of Belshazzar

When the qualifying element is a relative clause, the DA approaches the meaning of a demonstrative:

> you can deny that you're *the Frank Oxman he thinks you are / the Philadelphai which Mr. Johnson knew so well* is a heritage of colonial times / *the America Tocqueville describes* was very unlikely that of our day / he had heard of John Ripley at the FBI Academy, of *the Rip who had cracked the Antoine Remarque case alone* / when he came back, he was a broken man, quite different from *the Lecky we had known in his youth;* and *the England he now saw* was not the same as *the England he had left twenty years before* / I must be sad. Not for *the Silas hat I no longer loved,* but for *the Silas that I once had.* Sad for *the Liz and Silas that could have been,* if both of us had worked harder at it / this, however, was the new George — not *the George who kept his distance* when people like Elise Mae and Tim hove into sight, but *the George who had gone out of his way to address them* / I experienced that curious split between *the "Robert Silverberg" who is my own personal identity* and *the "Robert Silverberg" who is the World-Famous Science Fiction Writer / the John I mean* is tall

In the following example, the DA belongs to an omitted element, such as "the kind of"; therefore the relative "which" rather than "who":

> he did not understand *the Mary Gaston* which, as she said, he had made for himself ("the kind of Mary Gaston")

In all these examples, the proper noun refers to the actual bearer of the name, that is, it is a proper name. These cases should be distinguished from the ones in which the reference is to what the original referent stands for rather than to the actual original referent. In such cases, the proper noun behaves like a common noun, as in:

> Boston is somewhat *the Athens of America. There are* two or three U. S. cities that like to call themselves the American Athens / he is *a Napoleon of finance / the* Shakespeare of the 1960s

A somewhat different case is seen when the name of the manufacturer or author is used for his product:

> *the Ford (Shakespeare, Modigliani) that he bought* was very expensive

Here the articles are used as with common nouns.

CONNOTATIVE PROPER NAMES

Typical proper names like "Peter", "Moscow" and others are not connotative in the sense that they are not conferred on account of any attributes of the bearer. One of he characteristics of non-connotative proper names is that they, typically, take no article.

A connotative proper name, on the other hand, is conferred, at least originally, upon the bearer because it reflects some characteristic or property ascribed to the bearer.

At this point it seems advisable to stress one of the characteristics of the use of articles in general. Articles are used for the benefit of the listener. When a speaker says, "I saw the dog" he is actually saying, "I saw that dog which you, my listener, are supposed to be able to identify". This necessity of the listener's being acquainted with the referent of a noun modified by the DA makes a sentence like "Last night I saw the dog" ungrammatical without an appropriate context of cotext. But one can say to a friend "Last night I watched the Big Dipper" without any context to justify the use of the DA and the sentence is fully acceptable. We can now say that a connotative proper name is an unmodified or modified common noun preceded by a DA whose appearance is not justified by the usual cotextual or contextual reasons.

The DA is an essential part of a connotative proper name, as seen from he example from a science fiction novel:

> *The World* was not alone in the Upper Endlessness. There were other *The Worlds*

Here the article is not used as a reflection of a situation but to signal a situation. This use of the DA comes very close to the Interpretative DA discussed in the article entitled "Generated Definite Article."

In "the tower", the noun "tower" is signaled as referring to one such structure known to the listener. If this "unique" reference is not justified by context or cotext, the noun "tower" is automatically interpreted as a connotative proper name — the Tower. In writing, the proper-noun function of connotative names is usually, but not always, indicated by initial capitals.

Antonomastic connotative proper names. By an antonomastic connotative proper name, we mean such a noun or noun phrase as is used as an alernative to a proper name (typically expressed by a proper noun) and which can be sustituted for it in certain situations. If somebody's name is "Charles"

and he is the manager of a company, this person can be unambigously referred to as either "Charles" or "(the) manager (Manager)"; this is an example of an antonomastic proper name as we use the term here. The choice of the two names is regulated by social conventions or reasons of style; thus, the manager's wife will refer to him as "Charles" in their home, but she will use "(the) manager" when asking about her husband at his place of work.

Antonomastic connotative proper names differ from other connotative proper names in that their referents change with the passage of time or change of place, as seen in *"The King* is dead. Long live *the King"*.

Examples of antonomastic proper names:

at the end of the century, the most important French painter was an artist of uncertain name; we call him *"The Master of Moulins"* / the boy was skipping about in a way that rather vexed *the President of the Literary Society* / her papa's *head of the Orange County Patriots* / I moonlight as *System Analyst Expert* for the Kitten Club's Traffic Placement Department / Doctor Harkness, or *Commander* as he preferred to be called.

Examples in which both names are used:

no smile from *Smith* (non-connotative proper name) is visible as *the U. S. Under Secretary of State* (antonomastic connotative proper name = Smith) says goodby to Mendes-France in Geneva / under *Napoleon* a man rose in rank because of what he could do, not because he came from a noble family; here again *the Emperor* set an example to those countries where personal ability was les well rewarded

As antonomastic names are either common nouns or phrases headed by common nouns, they can be used as such and the indefinite article is possible:

it was as if *a Prime Minister* in the House of Commons had blown the whistle for a secret session

Notice that the author of this sentence (P. G. Wodehouse) treats the common phrase "a prime minister" as if it were a proper phrase and uses initial capitals.

In certain situations, an antonomastic connotative proper name may come to be used as a non-connotative proper name and it drops the DA. One of the most frequent of such situations is the predicate position of the noun or noun phrase that has typically only one synchronic referent, as in:

he became *President* / Mr Smith is *headmaster* / Mr. Gladstone was *Prime Minister* from 1892 to 1894 / this

year Mr. Smith is *chairman* of our society / he is *headmaster* of Rugby / when Edward III was *hing* / he became *Bishop* of Durham / West even became *court painter* to king George III and *President* of the British Royal Academy of Painting (notice that the typical noun which has one synchronic referent "president" is written with an initial capital, whereas the untypical antonomastic phrase "court painter" — which has exactly the same function as "president" — has lower case initials) / there was nothing to prevent Lord Mountdrago from continuing to be *Secretary for Foreigh Affairs* / the principal (non-predicate) of the school was *pastor* (predicate) / Agnew was charged with accepting bribes from contractors seeking state business when he was *governor* of the state of Maryland / I want to be *caliph* (predicate) instead of the caliph (non-predicate) / I became *Lord Mayor* and a baronet / he was *chief executioner* of the French capital / you won't be offended if I don't ask you to be *best man* at the wedding / the place on Monmartre where Olga was *hatcheck girl* / Hatsuret, who will yet be *High Priest of Amon* / how can anyone be called "great" if he doesn't get to be *king?* / Professor Masevich, who is *Professor of Astrophysics* at the University of Moscow / he was *tutor* to Ann Clifford

Also as an object complement:

they appointed (elected, made) him *king* / Pius XI declared her *patroness of France* / we call him *chief (boss, editor)*

There is some vaccilation in cases where the qualifying element calls for the DA while the anotonomastic character of the phrase tends to do away with the DA:

he is *(the) Bishop of Durham*

Zero article is found also in other constructions with a predicative meaning, such as:

you'd be promoted to *manager* / in late 1967, George Romney, then *govevernor* of Michigan, ... / he served in the capacity of *legal adviser* / the new constitution empowered Marshal Tito to remain *President* for life / I'm ready to take a vote on the motion to elect *chairman* / the sort of persons who run for U. S. *President* / he was promoted to *assistant principal*

The DA is absent when the antonomastically used common noun or phrase occurs in expressions such as "the office of", "the rank of", "the post of", and others:

the parliamentary system separates *the office of titular chief of state* (*King* in a monarchy, *President* in a republic) from *the office of head of Cabinet*, i. e. the Prime Minister / he gained a further promotion to *the rank of principal* / *the title of Warden of the Marches* has been conferred upon him / he was given *the post of deputy keeper of the archives* / she held *the office of secretary to the company* / in short time he rose to *the rank of major*

When the reference is not antonomastic, a similar construction allows the use of the articles:

he carries on *the trade of a shoemaker* / he carries on *the business of an auctionner* / he likes *the profession of a lawyer* better than that *of a doctor*

The zero article is particularly frequent after *as:*

as *Prime Minister* it is my duty to ... / as *chairman* I must insist that nobody speaks out of turn / as *official team statistician*, I have a few figures to report / an engagement as *leading lady* / after his election as *Vice President* / I had a new boy shoved off on me as *copilot* / he spent his later years as *court painter to King Henry VIII* / she was engaged as *typist* / I assume my new duties as *Chairman of the Board* / as *commander of the 25th Infantry Brigade* / J. Edgar Hoover survived as *Director of the FBI* for thirty years

Notice the difference between "Dr. Arnold was *headmaster* of Rugby" (synchronic — antonomastic proper name) and "Dr. Arnold was *a headmaster* of Rugby" (diachronic — one of a sequance of headmasters — common name).

With not clearly antonomastic names, the DA is usual (according to my American informer) also in the predicate position:

John is the manager of the factory / I'm the governor and you're just a lousy mayor

In the above examples, the nouns "manager" and "governor" seem to indicate a unique office or function rather than the person filling that office or function. There seems to be a certain degree of optionality here; that is, a noun can be represented as antonomastic or not and the signal that the antonomastic possibility has been chose is the omission of the DA. This choice is not possible in other sintactic positions, where the DA is the only possible article whether the speaker has in mind antonomastic meaning or not.

The DA also occurs in the predicate position when a noun, which is typically antonomastic in the sense that it

refers to a unique function, is not used so. In the following example the noun "king" refers to a rôle in a play:

> Do you know what we done 'safternoon, A play! At least, a bit of a play. Shakespeare. And we read it out in turns. And Dad — I was *the King*, I was!

Antonomastic names are common nouns, or common-noun-headed phrases, rather than special nouns for naming individuals. For this reason, sentences can occasionally be ambigous in a number of ways. One of them is seen in the following story where, instead of the more likely referent of an antonomastic noun, the less likley referent is intended, thus creating a comic effect:

> the Harvard secretary who is supposed to have informed a caller that *the President* was in Washington visiting Mr. Taft (J. Algeo)

The status of an antonomastic proper name is lost if the noun is modified by an epithet; compare "Roosevelt was president" and "Rosevelt was a hard-working president."

Qualification (postmodification) occasionally imparts antonomastic value to nouns otherwise non-antonomastic. At a university, there are a number of professors, but only one professor of astrophysics:

> he is *Professor of Astrophysics* at the University of Moscow

Some of the antonomastic names are occasionally treated as proper nouns and in the vocative case take the title "mister":

> Mr. President / Mr. Mayor / *Mr. Secretary General*, it is the past which scares the bejesus out of me / Mr. Postman (a song) / Mr. Tallyman (a song)

This usage is honorific.

There is no article when an antonomastic name used as a title is in apposition with a proper noun:

> Philip I, *King of France* / Shahaji Bavasahib, *Maharaja of the native State of Kolhapur*

The articleless stage can be reached only by such antonomastic names as are emotionally neutral, that is, which do not reflect the speaker's attitude toward the bearer of the name. When this attitude is obviously he reason for the rise of the antonomastic name, the name takes the DA in all syntactic functions. Examples of such antonomastic names, usually called "nicknames", which reflect the speaker's attitude toward the bearer of the name are seen in

> the Iron Chancellor (Bismarck) / the Iron Duke (Wellington) / the Nugget (a rich boy, as regarded by would-

-be kidnappers) / the Turkish Sultan Selim II, known as *"the Drunkard"* / the Rail-Splitter (Lincoln) / Atilla was called *the Scourge of God* / the girl he called *the Grasshopper*

These names are not used as regularly as typical antonomastic names of the "Manager" type. In a factory, Smith will be very frequently referred to as "the Manager"; in a nation, Smith, who is its Chancellor, will be referred to, in addition to "Smith", also as "the Chancellor" and only exceptionally, in rather special emotion-loaded situations, as "the Iron Chancellor". In this way, our second type of antonomastic names approaches the meaning of nicknames, rather than of names, and nicknames are rather restrictively used, especially if they are emotionally colored.

There is a third type of antonomastic names. With this type, the antonomastic name is the one regularly used, while the true name is employed only in formal situations, as when somebody, whose name is John Smith is called — for certain reasons — "Fat Stew", People will refer to this individual, in most situations, as "Fat Stew" — even to his face or when addressing him. This is possible because the name has no longer any emotional overtones and it has come to be considered merely as a name. Such unemotional antonomastic names have occasionally given rise to a proper name such as "Smith".

An extreme case of an antonomastic proper name is seen in:

no name existed for the child. Simpley: Child. With a capital

In normal usage the child's name would be "Betty" or "Len" or some such name, and the antonomastic name would be "the Child" or, more usually, "(the) Baby".

The following examples illustrate a situation in which the antonomastic name is used without the DA. In most of these situations, the DA is dropped as redundant because it would be the only possible article:

four days with Denis in Oxford, and then a nice little run up to *Town* (London) for five days with Margot / *Mother* hasn't come home yet / *Uncle* is coming to dinner / *Baby* is crying / *Nurse* is out shopping / *Teacher* was very angry this morning / she must have some other name besides *Nany*.

The zero article forms are rather restricted in use and they will be discussed later.

Atypical antonomastic names are seen in the following examples:

what does he call me behind my back? *The bad penny? The Family Shame?*

Titles of nobility could be interpreted as kinds of antonomastic names. Excepting formal English, these titles require no article (Prince Valiant); with the exception of those compounded with an *of*-phrase, wich take the DA (notice that this is true also of foreign titles containing an equivalent of the English *of*-phrase):

the Duke of York / his Grace the Duke of Argyll / the Duke of the Abruzzi / the Duke d'Aumale / the Marquis de Sade / the Gräfin of Szegedin / the Compt d'Anoury / Monsieur the Marquis de Beaupertuys / the Contessa di Campello Della Spina

Antonomastic names are mostly used of persons, although occasionally they can be used also of inanimate referents as when the Mississippi is referred to as "the Great Sewer", or New Orleans as "the Crescent City". These cases belong to our second type of antonomastic name.

Absolute connotative proper names. These names differ from antonomastic proper names in that they are the only names their referents have, and they cannot be substituted by other, equivalent non-connotative names. A referent can have two or more non-antonomastic names if they belong to different styles. Thus, one of the constellations can be referred to as "Ursa Major" or "the Big Dipper". One name belongs to astronomy and the other to layman's English; therefore they are not considered to be in an antonomastic relation.

Prasal connotative proper names, whether absolute or antonomastic, can frequently be abbreviated, as in certain contexts a part of the name can be left out without causing ambiguity. Thus, the absolute connotative proper name "the United States of America" can be used without the context-like prepositional phrase "of America": "the United States". The name can be, in an appropriate context, further reduced by the omission of the modifier "united" to "the States". In writing the necessary "context" is provided by capitalizing the initial "S". Speech will require a true context.

The deletion of some of the constituent elements is not always possible; thus, the phrase "the Nations" is not likely to be interpreted as meaning "the United Nations".

The connotative principle is operative also in political names of countries, such as *the United States / the Irish Free State / the Federal Republic* (West Germany) and others

Some more examples of absolute connotative proper names:

a) **Phrasal:** the Milky Way / the Dog Star / the Sugar Loaf / the Ivory Coast / the Crystal Palace / the Cold War / the Southern Cross (*the Southern Cross* is a connotative proper name while *Southern California* is a modified proper noun standing for a non-connotative proper name) / the Detention Barracks / the Carmelo Mission / the Middle West / the Bailey Farm / the West End / the Black Death / the September Massacres / the Union Jack / the Stars and Stripes / the Old Testament / the Holy Virgin / the Holy Land / the Catholic Church / the Counter Reformation / the High Renaissance / the Olypic Games / the Gold Rush / land called *the "Indian country"*, which later became *the Indian Territory* / a candidate for *the County Council* / the Congregational Chapel / the South Pole / the Ross Ice Barrier / the Pole Star / the Orient Express /the Good Book / two chidren of Israel sent in to spy out *the Promised Land* / the Far East / he was awarded *the Victoria Cross* / *the Sunset Strip* in Los Angeles / the Midland County National Bank

Very frequent are phrasal connotative proper names containing an *of-phrase:*

after a long time a few families of squatters moved into *the Pastures of Heaven* / the Office of Works / the House of Commons / the Institute of Phychiatry / the Bay of Fundy / the District of Columbia / the Isle of Man / the Lake of Lucern / the Cape of Good Hope / the Mount of Olives / the College of St Christoper

b) **Simple:** the Continent (the mainland of Europe, as distinguished from the British Isles) / the Protectorate / the East / the City / the Midwest / the Equator / their faith was based on *the Bible,* which to many people is still simply *"the Book"* / the Armada / the Church / the Crown / the State / the Army / the Navy / the Tower / the Battery / he had served with the admiral on and off during most of his time in *the Service* (the British Navy) / the Hereafter / the Renaissance / *the Madonna* and *the* newborn *Child* / each rock has its dangers and its name — *"the Castle", "the Pig",* and the long stretches of vertical strata called *"the Bibliothec"* ... the huge flat stone called *"the Tartar"* or the two finger-like monoliths called *"the Waves"* / for *the Lord's* sake stop bothering

me / the Reformation / there was one thing, however, that the Romans failed to do: they did not give the people within *the Empire* a common religious faith / I am standing in the bar car of *the 5.11* out of Grand Central / the town, which had no proper name — but had always been called *The Meadows,* because it lay in the salt- and fresh-water marshes / *the Cross* (the cross upon which Jesus died)

The noun "Congress" takes no article except when it is specified:

the separation of Presidency from *the U. S. Congress* insures fragmentation, as does the existence within *Congress* of powerful committees

Names of styles and periods in the arts take the DA:

the Biedermeir / the Empire / in many other Florentine pictures we can find echoes of *the International Style* as late as the middle of the fifteenth century

Names of archaelogical and geological periods take the DA although they do not belong to the native stock of words. The reason for the DA is that it belongs to a common noun which is frequently omitted:

the Paleolithic (period) / the Permian

Notice that in most cases the name has to be clearly connotative; if the connotation is obscured the DA disappears and the noun is treated as a proper noun. This principle is convincingly illustrated by astronomical terms where the native name has the DA while the equivalent Latin or Greek version is without the article:

the Lady in (of) the Chair — Cassiopea
the Wolf — Lupus
the Bull's Eye — Aldebaran, Alpha Tauri

But if a learned name (without a native equivalent) indicates an object which in English is referred to by a name preceded by the DA, then the DA is used with it. Thus, names of seas in English take the DA, and names of "seas" on the planet Mars will take the DA: *the Mare Cimmerium.* In this way, "Lupus" (the Wolf) is treated — by experts — as a proper noun rather than as a common noun used as a connotative name. On the other hand, "the Mare Cimmerium" is treated as if it were an English connotative proper phrase.

The name of the planet Earth is the only name among the planets of the solar system that is a native English common noun. All other names are proper nouns: Mercury, Venus, Mars, etc. It is not surpirsing that occasionally the name Earth is treated as an articleless secondary proper noun.

The initial statement that proper names "are not connotative in the sense that they are not conferred on account of any attributes of the bearer" has to be modified in the sense that what were originally attributes of the bearer can come to be no longer considered decisive for the proper-name status. There are cases when a proper name obviously originated as a connotative proper name. In his "Essentials" (1933), Jespersen says that Londoners still hestitate between "the Green Park" (connotative) and "Green Park" (non-connotative but also in accordance with the general tendency to treat names of parks as non-connotative and drop the DA: Battersea Park, Fort Tryon Park, etc.). Today, the name of the park is exclusively non-connotative: Green Park ("Hyde Park and Green Park" 1974). The Crystal Palace is still treated as a connotative proper name, while the parallel case of Buckingham Palace is non-connotative. This and similar cases seem to imply that the greater the opacity of the original connotative name, the more likely it is to reach the article-less stage of a proper noun. For an original connotative proper name to reach the opaque stage, two things are required. Firstly, time must pass for the original meaning to be forgotten. Secondly, the element, or elements, makang up the name must be such that their meaning can be forgotten. When you look at the Milky Way, it is quite obvious where the name comes from — in fact, you are likely to appreciate the aptness of the description of this natural phenomenon contained in the name. (Of couse, other languages will select other features of the galaxy, as when in SC, in addition to a name which closely corresponds to the English, the phenomenon is called "Godfather's Straw.) In the case of Buckingham Palace, the connotative character of the name — or at least of the proper element — is much less obvious.

Connotative names containing a period-of-time noun or indicating a special day of the year, usually a holiday, take no article:

Christmans Eve / National Dog Week / Election Day / Chinese New Year

As the occurrence of a DA with a common noun or a common-noun-headed phrase is interpreted by native speakers as a signal for the connotative proper name status of a common noun or a common-noun phrase, a noun or phrase occurring without the DA and clearly functioning as a proper name will be regarded as a non-connotative proper name, regarldess of its history and how transparent it may be. Where necessary, common nouns in this articleless use are

referred to as "secondary proper nouns", and corresponding phrases are described as "proper phrases".

It seems that connotative proper names containing an *of*-phrase qualifier cannot reach the non-connotative stage when they refer to inanimate objects:

the House of Commons / the Institute of Psychiatry / the Bay of Fundy

When such connotative proper names are used of animates other than humans there is no article, and the phrase is a proper phrase:

(names of pigs) Empress of Blanding / Pride of Matchinham

Notice that "the Empress of Blanding" would be used of a human referent as an antonomastic name, or it would be the name of a ship, hotel, and so forth.

It is true of all proper phrases that when the context-like part of the phrase is left out, the DA appears:

Empress of Blanding (a pig) — he called the Empress a piggy-wiggy
Lizard Point — the Lizard
Cape Horn — the Horn

A case of connotative proper names is seen in the English use of the names of some regions in Yugoslavia, such as the Banat (originally the territory reled by the viceroy called "ban") and the Vojvodina (the territory ruled by the vojvoda (duke)). The English speaking person who used these names was obviously conversant with SC, although he misinterpreted the non-connotative names (now, to all intent and purposes, proper nouns) Banat and Vojvodina as still connotative. A present-day speaker of SC is surprized when he is told that the names are in fact connotative, as there are no longer either bans or vojvodas.

In the case of God and Providence ("He was apt to act as though he were a divinely appointed instrument of *Providence*") the derivation has run its full course. The noun *god* started as an *a/the* noun, then it became a connotative proper name (*the God*) and, finally, it has become a non-connotative proper name (secondary proper noun) *God:*

it was the fighting of *God* against the gods

With the synonymous noun *the Lord,* the derivation stopped, in most uses, at the connotative stage, although also this noun, in certain phrases, has reached the non-connotative stage, probably due to its synonym "God":

in search of *Lord* knows what / *Lord* deliver us!

In this way, English has developed two nouns form the original one noun. There is the common noun "god" which covers the meaning of the original noun but usually does not include the Christian god icluded in the original noun; and the proper noun "God" reserved for the Christian god and, occasionally, for other monotheistic deities.

A similar development can be seen in other common nouns which came to be used as connotative names and, finally, as non-connotative names. In a family "father" is always "the father" and from this there is only one step to "Father" with the loss of the DA, whose informative value in this situation is nil. Other common nouns used in the same or similar circumstances are treated in the same way:

> I hope you're going to behave yourself while *mother* is here / *Mother* hasn't come home yet / *Uncle* is coming to dinner / *Baby* is crying / *Nurse* is out shopping / *Cook* has gone to do some marketing / *Teacher* was very angry this morning / he was bewitched by a girl he could not think of as *aunt* / *sister* had a problem

The situations in which these and similar nouns are used without the DA are limited to situation where the possesives *my* or *our* (or their shifted forms in indirect speech) can be used. In other situations this use is unusual, as seen from a passage from K. Amis's "Lucky Jim":

> Dixon wanted to laugh at this. It always amused him to hear girls (men never did it) refer to "Uncle", "Daddy", and so on, as if there were only one uncle or daddy in the world, or as if this particular uncle or daddy were the uncle or daddy of all those present

A special case or articleless connotative proper phrases is seen in

> Page One / World War II / State Route One / Figure 4 / pursuant to the provisions of *Article B. 2* / Chapter Four / Figure Five / big Diesel trucks are roaring down *route 101* / deficiency of *vitamin B* / the assualt party composed of Tenzing and myself arrived at *Camp Seven* / *Room 223* of the Wilburnhampton Hotel / the train is ready on *track three*

N. B. — A parallel case with the noun "year" takes the DA: one phase of American life up to *the year 1914*

A literary instance of secondary proper nouns from common nouns is seen in personifications:

> Fate / Fortune / Heaven / Hell / Nature / Paradise

LIST OF SOME FREQUENT SETS OF CONNOTATIVE NAMES

Geographical names

Many geographical, as well as other connotative names, contain a proper element, and frequently it is this element that is used instead of the full name. The result is that these names seem to be proper nouns (the Pacific). They differ from proper nouns in the fact that they regularly occur with the DA. This DA does not belong to the proper element, it belongs to the omitted common element of the name. These names are included among connotative proper names by the strength of the fact that they are descriptive of their referents in saying what their referents are: the Pacific Ocean is an ocean. In his way, these connotative names are connotative in identifying their referents as belonging to a class of objects rather than describing them by pointing out one or more of their characteristics, as in the case of the Milky Way, where the connotative name does not say what the referent is but it only describes what it looks like. The classifying connotative proper names (the Pacific Ocean) can, in addition to the classifying element, have a descriptive element, as in the case of the Black Sea.

With geographical names and names of localities, the presence or absence of the DA dependes on a number of considerations, such as the historical background of the name, local use, vacillation between the purely descriptive value of the name and its value as an appelation, and other considerations which we may have failed to isolate. The following list, therefore, contains the cases in which the DA seems, statistically, to be the most frequent article form. Where available, geographical names and names of localities not preceded by the DA are mentioned in such a way that the idea that this is a less usual use is suggested.

Oceans: the Atlantic (Ocean) / the Pacific (Ocean) / rivers tributary to *the* northern *North Atlantic*

Seas, arms of seas, straits, gulfs, channels: the Adriatic (Sea) / the Mediterranean (Sea) / the Black Sea / the Baltic (Sea) / the Kattegatt / the Skagerrak / the Bosporus / the Bering Strait / the Bering Sea / the Kerch Strait / *the* grey *North Sea / the Salton Sea,* that vast inland body of water with its surface more than two hundred feet below sea level / the Bristol Channel / the Corinthian Gulf / the Barrow Strait / the Persian Gulf / *the Golden Horn,* an inlet on either side of

which Constantinople lies / the Dardanelles (cf. "Dardanelles", the town)
Also scientific names of seas on planets:
the Mare Cimmerium / the Mare Erythraeum
Instances without the DA:
Bali Strait / the submarine had penetrated *Tsushima Straits* to the Sea of Japan

Peninsulas: the Yucatán Peninsula / the Crimea / the Peloponnese / it is rumored that the Turks have devastated *the Morea* (the Peloponnese) / the Balkan peninsula / the Alaska Peninsula / the Paracas Peninsula (also an example without the DA: the acropolis of *Paracas Peninsula* in Peru)

Archipelagos and groups of islands: the Bismarck Arhipelago / *the Dodecanes* is the name of a group of islands

Rivers:

In most names of rivers consisting of a proper and a common element, the common-noun element (the noun "river") can be left out, particularly if the river is a familiar one.

When the name of a river does not contain a proper element and the name is descriptive as well as classifying, the name of the river can occur without the DA:
Rocky River / Grand River

The person through whose town Rocky Rivers flows, feels that by using the DA with this name the phrase ceases functioning as a proper name and becomes a description of the river ("a river which is rocky"), but he would readily accept a stranger's use of the DA. The same informer who interpreted Grand River as the name of a town, and only as a second choice admitted that it could be the name of a river, suddenly remembered Rocky River of his home town.

The DA does not have to be repeated if there is already a DA preceing the noun river:
the river was called *Great River* / the river called *Hwan Ho*

The DA is used also with names of rivers accompanied with non-English word for "river":
the Rio Maule / the Rio Pampas

In this case, the retention of the foreign word "rio" is due to the fact that it is, in the original, frequently used as an inseparable element of the name of the river.

It could be argued that names of rivers, and some other connotative names containing a proper element in the at-

tributive position are not cases of nominal groups where a common-noun head is modified by an attributive proper element. Supporting this is the fact that, in a nominal group like "good people who wark hard", the only obligatory constituent is "people". If "the Atlantic Ocean" is a nominal group, then "ocean" should be the obligatory element, which is not the case. (The only instances where the common noun is obligatory are those whose first element is not proper, as the Black Sea: "The passageway between *the Mediterranean* and *the Black Sea*".) What we have here is probably an appositional construction, which seems to be indicated also by the freedom in the position of the common lement, as in the cases of the names of rivers: the noun "river" can precede or follow the proper element

the river Drava / the Drava River

This is not possible in a nominal group: *a good man* — **a man good*

However this may be, these proper names resemble connotative names so much that we think it useful to include them in the same category.

With names of less known rivers, the noun "river" is frequent:

a Bantu people on *the Kasai River*

When the name of a river is part of a place name, no article is used:

Stratforrd-on-Avon / Newcastle-on-Tyne / Berwick on Tweed / Frankfurt on Main

Flows of water other than rivers do not take the DA:

Rock Creek / the nameless muck of *Canarsie Creek*

Names of rivers used in a figurative sense behave like common nouns:

every man has, one time or another, *a little Rubicon*

Gorges: the Avon Gorge

Canals: the Tauton-Exeter canal / the Suez (Canal) / the Panama Canal / the Erie Canal / the Tisza-Danube-Tisza Canal / the Canal du Midi / the Aranthu canal

Channels: the (English) Channel / the Bristol Channel

Deserts: the Gobi (Desert) / Sahara (Desert)

Plateaus: the Armenian plateau / the Ozark Plateau

Swamps: the Okefenokee Swamp

Coasts: the Ivory Coast / the East Coast

Zone: the Canal Zone

Chains of mountains and mountain ranges: the Penine Chain (the Penines) / the Himalaya / the Sierra Madre

All geographical names containing an of-phrase: the Cape of Good Hope / the Bay of Fundy / the Lake of Geneva / the Gulf of Mexico / the Bay of Naples / the Isle of White

All geographical names with a plural geographical noun (expressed or suppressed):

the Rocky Mountains / the Muscarene Islands / the Channel Islands / the Phillipine Islands / the Low Countries /the Atlas (Mountains) / the Middle Atlas / the High Atlas mountains / services by A. A. A.'s BC-7B aircraft via Mauritius and *the Cocos Islands* / the Ural Mountains / the North Downs

This usage probably includes also the plural geographical noun *the tropics,* although it is usually not capitalized:

the luxuriant vegetation of *the tropics*

Plural names of smaller localities, or man-made ones, are frequently used without the DA:

Embankment Gardens / Trinity Square Gardens / Kensington Gardens / Pounceby Gardens / Burnham Beeches

When a plural geographical noun is not used in its true sens but functions as the name of a place, there is no article:

I slept in a motel a *Forest Hills*

With the following geographical head nouns there is no article:

bay: they sank his boat in *Deep Bay* / Hambrooks Bay / Santa Monica Bay

But with an *of*-phrase: *the Bay of Naples*

canyon: Lost Indian Canyon

cape: Cape horn / Cape Columbia

But: *the North Cape* / they rounded *the Horn;* with an *of*-qualifier: *the Cape of Good Hope*

country: Yellowstone country

falls: Niagara Falls / Victoria Falls

forest: Helena National Forest

But without a proper element: *the Black Forest*

head: they passed *Diamond Head* and came to pier of Honolulu

hill: Bredon Hill / if it were *Richmond Hill* they ought to have been at the top long ago / *Capitol Hill* in Washington (But: *the Capitoline Hill* in Rome, Italy)

With the noun "hill" in the plural, the DA occurs:

in daylight you can see right across the valley to *the Withe Hills*

island: Parris Island

lake: Geneva Lake / Lake Michigan
But with an *of*-qualifier: *the Lake of Lucern*
Names of lakes not containing a proper element take the DA:
the Great Salt Lake / the fomous *Black Lake* below the peaks of Durmitor
The DA occurs also if the noun "lake" is used in the plural:
the Great Lakes / the Bitter Lakes
land: the north coast of *Grant Land*
mount: Mount Everest / Mount Hymettus / Mount Vesuvius
mountain: we swing past the big white M of Montana State University on the side of Montana State University on the side of *Sentinel Mountain*
pass: you go over *Dead Wolf Pass*
But: *the Kasserine Pass / the Brenner Pass*
point: Lizard Point
But: they sighted *the Lizard*
ridge: Cemetery Ridge
saddleback: Dead Prospector's Saddleback
valley: *Vinegar Valley* is the name of that valley. Got its name from one of the early settlers who liked to make cider and let it turn into something stronger. His wife wasn't so minded, and used to doctor it so it wouldn't arrive at that intermediary stage but would turn into vinegar / we named the valley *Happy Valley* / Death Valley
River valleys take the DA:
the Yangtsze Valley / the Indus Valley / the Nile Valley
The DA is used with an *of-phrase: the Valley of the Kings*
The occurrence of the DA with geographical names depends chiefly on the particular "geographical" noun used, or implied, rather than on the physical properties of the geographical object referred to. "Aral' 'is occasionally described as a lake, in which case there is no article; but the same body of water can be classified as a sea, in which case the DA is used.

The DA typically does not occur with names of localities and administrative units containing as the second element such locality and administrative nouns as
Avenue: Madison Avenue / Garrison Avenue
Base: during the Antarctic winter night of 1934 Admiral Byrd manned alone *Bolling Advance Weather Base*
Camp: this is actually *Camp Delmar,* one of the subsidiaries of *Camp Pendleton*
City: Atlantic City

Close: Aubrey Close / Longwood Close / Grandison Close
Common: Wimbeldon Common
County: Franklin County / Cuyahoga County
Court: Hampton Court
Crescent: *Arlington Crescent* stands at the very heart of England
Garden(s): Covent Garden / Kensington Gardens / Embankment Gardens / Trinity Square Gardens / Ponceby Gardens
But: *the Boston Gardens*
Green: the broad expanse of *Glouster Green*
Heath: Putney Heath
Junction: White River Junction
Lane: Park Lane / down Court Lane / the intersection of Maple Street and *Spruce Lane*
Mews: Little Charton Mews
Parish: New Orleans Parish
Park: Battersea Park / Fort Tryon Park / Wood Buffalo Park / he drove wildly up Broadway and into *Central Park*
A connotative name of a park not containing the noun "park" can take the DA:
down *the Long Warf*, the municipal park / a park ... *the Gardens*
Place (a square or court in a city, a short, usually narrow, street): Portland Place
Row: Paternoster Row / Town Row / he found himself alone in his little bedroom in *Church Row*
Square: Leicester Square / Market Square / Soho Square / Trafalgar Square / Jack London Square
When the name of a square does not contain the noun "square", and the name is connotative, the DA can be used:
a wide stairway that leads to "*the Gardens*", which is the main market place and square
Street: 42nd Street / Oxford Street / he came to *Greek Street* / Old Compton Street / they drove to *New Inn Street* / *St Giles* in an immensly broad street / Hollywell Street / George Street
In the following examples, the name is purely descriptive and lacks a proper element:
the chemist in *the High Street* / staggering up the long curve of *the High Street* / *the Cornmarket* is one of the busiest streets in Oxford
In a passage containing *Broad Street* and *Long Wall Street*, there was also found *the High Street* (all in Oxford). The articless *High Street* is quite frequent.

When the adjective modifying the noun *street* is arbitrary in the sense that, although it is descriptive, it does not actually describe the street involved, there is no article, as *Maple Street* could be the name of a street in which there never has been one single maple tree.

What distanguishes these names from geographical names is the fact that they do not refer to natural localities but to man-made ones.

There is some vacillation with the noun "road". There is no article if the name of the road is arbitrary (non-descriptive):

Telegraph Road / Big Beaver Road

Otherwise the general tendency now seems to be to use the DA when the descriptive meaning is still present in proper names containing the noun "road" as the second element. In this way "the Oxford Road" would mean the same as "the Oxford road", that is, the road leading to Oxford and lacking any nondescriptive name. On the other hand, "Oxford Road" is a road named after Oxford but not leading to Oxford. (In some traditional names of roads, this principle is disregarded and they are used without the DA although they are clearly descriptive.):

streams of traffic were reported at Tonbridge on *the Hastings Road,* Swanley on the *Folkestone Road,* and Beaconsfield on *the Oxford Road* / the Buckingham Park Road / the same author: he found himself in *the Iffley Road* ... you own the shop in *Iffley Road*

Names of roads in addresses are always used without the DA:

I live at 25 *Oxford Road*

In conclusion, it seems that the DA can safely be used with names of roads if they actually lead to the place their proper element indicates. Exceptions (like *Broughton Road, Grosvenor Road*) will be memorized as the occasion arises.

Purely descriptive names of roads without a proper element take the DA:

up ahead of me loomed the warning sign for the exit to *the Old Military Road* / the Great North Road / the old man who walked up *the King's Road*

When the name of a road does not contain the noun "road", the DA is used:

the Pennsylvania Turnpike / the Lodge Freeway

Foreign names of localities. English usage usually imitates the usage of the original language. If the original language

has the DA, English will, in most cases, also use the DA; otherwise there is no article:

la rue da la Provence — the Rue de la Provence
la place de la Concorde — the Place de la Concorde
a travel agency on *the rue de la Paix* near *the Opéra* / Monsieur Dupont, the proprietor of *Les Troix Moineaux* ... *The Trois Moineaux* was built just outside the encircling wall of the little town of St. Pierre
Piazza Venezia — Piazza Venezia
il Colosseo — the Colosseum
la Via Sistina — the Via Sistina / the Via Veneto / *the Via Salaria* — the route of salt — was one of Rome's oldest roads
il Vaticano — the Vatican
la Place d'armes — the Place d'Armes (in New Orleans)
standing on *the Arc de Triomphe* in the center of *the Etoile*, in Paris / the Schwindgasse / the place Saint-Paul / the Gare du Nord (English railroad stations are used without the DA: Grand Central / Barker Street Station) / the Parc Monseau (but English parks: Hyde Park)

Anglicized names of foreign localities follow English usage:

Red Square / Republic Square / Constitution Square (in Athens)

Deletion of the common noun. Connotative geographical names containing a proper element usualy can drop their common element: the Atlantic, the Adriatic, the Thames, the Suez, the Gobi.

With names of localities taking the DA, the common-noun element cannot be deleted. We cannot very well say "the Oxford for "the Oxford Road" as the structure "the + poper noun" serves to name rivers, ships, hotels, and so forth. Of course, we can say "the road" to refer, in an appropriate context, to the Oxford Road, but in this case the noun "road" (although occasionally spelt with a capital initial letter) is not the name of the road but it is a common noun used in a situation which requires the DA. In the same way we can speak of "the bridge (the Bridge)" when referring to Westminster Bridge in an appropriate context, but the occurrence of the DA with the noun *bridge (Bridge)* does not make us use the DA with the connotative proper name "Westminster Bridge".

The learner will be well advised to use the DA with names of public places and institutions (see the list below).

The exceptions are confined almost entirely to London (or, more likely, they are the only exceptions we have a knowledge of) and the learner can pick them up on the spot, together with a great many other expressions he will never learn from his textbooks. The teacher's duty is to insist on what is regular while opening the learner's mind to the fact that deviant uses are possible.

The following list contains the most frequent names of public places and institutions taking the DA. Notice that the actual noun carrying the concept on the basis of which the classification is made need not be present; thus a name takes the DA not because it contains the noun "hotel" but because it *is* a hotel.

Other names of localities usually taking the DA

art galleries and museums: the British Museum / the Ashmolean Museum / the De Young Museum / the National Gallery / the Victoria and Albert Museum / the entrance to *the Fitzwiliam Museum* / the Metropolitan (Museum) / the Emil Hart Historical Museum

auditoriums see **halls**

bridges: the train roared over *the Saltash bridge,* with the Tamar twisting below / the Sharpness Bridge / the Triboro Bridge / the Shady Creek bridge / the Golden Gate Bridge / the George Washington Bridge (in the same source also without the DA) / from *the George Washington Bridge* to the Verrazano / the Brooklin Bridge / he sailed up the Choptank to Cambridge, to dedicate *the* just-completed *Harrington Bridge* across the river
But: Westminster Bridge / London Bridge / George Washington Bridge (N. Y., N. Y.) / Robert E. Odlum's epic leap from *Brooklin Bridge*

clubs: the Lyceum / the Athenaeum / after an early dinner at *the Aphroditeum* to which Helmholz had recently been elected / I am not a member of *the Victoria Club* / at *the Mermaid Club,* founded by Raleigh / they passed *the Harvard Club* / I was elected a member of the club to which Jorkens belongs. *The Billiards Club* it is called, though they don't play much billiards there / the Senior Service Club / the Tiverton Golf Club

foundations: the Ford Foundation

hospitals and health institutions: the Cancer Hospital / the St. Edward's Hospital / the Lafayette Hospital / the Royal Free Hospital / the Wilcox Receiving Hospital /

Dr. Havering was discovered to live near *the Radcliffe Infirmary* / the Royal Morsden Hospital / the Jenny Fields Infirmary (the fictitious name of a school infirmary) / the Ospedale Generale (in Rome, Italy) / the Plymounth General Hospital / the Harry Stack Sullivan Clinic / the County Hospital

Without the DA: Bellevue Hospital / at *Massachusetts General Hospital* / at *University College Hospital in London* / near *Hopkins Hospital* / Citizens Hospital / he was brought to *Charing Cross Hospital* / St. Mary's Hospital / Phelps Memorial Hospital / was your baby sister born at *Ace hospital?* (fictitious name)

The DA seems to be the more usual form of article with names of health institutions, particularly if they are not famous. The DA is also the usual form if the name of a hospital is abbreviated.

Notice the uncertainty of the occurrence of the DA in the following passage:

Boston Mercy Hospital, which was called *Boston Mercy;* there was also *Massachusetts General Hospital,* which was called *the Mass General.* And another hospital was *the Peter Bent Brighton,* which was called *the Peter Bent*

There is usually no article with names of health institutions containing common nouns other than "hospital", "clinic", or "infirmary":

Fairways Mental Home / McLean Asylum

Notice the vacillation in the following passage from the same author occurring in two consecutive lines:

the Fromm-Reichmann Clinic ... Samuel Anderson Clinic

There is usually no article if the name of the hospital contains a proper noun in the Saxon genitive form:

Queen Charlotte's Hospital

But also: *the St. Edward's Hospital*

hotels: the Bedford (Hotel) / the Majestic (Hotel) / the Grand (Hotel) / the Waldorf Astoria / the Savoy / the Hotel Guelf / we are staying at *the Brittania* / the Le Flore Hotel / it had the finest hotel west of St. Louis, *the Patee House* / *the Montgomery House* was the most expensive hotel in town / *the "Mace and Sceptre"* is a large and quite hideous hotel / he was at *the Mount Lavinia* / like all hotels, *the St. Gregory* accepted more reservations than it had rooms available

While it is possible (although not usual) to leave out the DA with the name of a hotel when the noun "hotel" is used as in

it was as far as possible from *Hotel Eisenhower*

the DA is obligatory when the noun "hotel" is left out, especially if what remains is a proper noun or when the name of a hotel is abbreviated in any way:

the Eisenhower is just as unlikely a hotel for a spaceman as Casa Mañana ... fortunately *the Eisenhower* is not too far from *the Casa*

inns, pubs, restaurants: the Blue Boar / the Fox and Hounds / they are dining at *the George* / he had visited in turn *the Emsworth Arms, the Wheatsheaf, the Waggoner's Rest the Beetle and Wedge, the Stitch in Time, the Jolly Cricketers* and other hostelries / this particular argument was being held in the bar of *the Long Dragon* / I was at *the La Fonda,* I had a dinner date with René (notice that, in addition to the DA, the original article has been retained; in a parallel case, the original DA is dropped, probably because French is more widely known in English speaking countries than Spanish: Monsieur Dupont, the proprietor of *Les Troix Moineaux ... The Trois Moineaux* was built just outside the encircling wall of the little town of St. Pierre) / *the Lord Nelson,* the pub near the Temple / the Café Budapest / *the Platterhof,* an inn near Bechtesgaden

libraries: the Library of Congress / the Ashmolean (Library) / the Bodleain (Library) / the Free Library / when the foundations of *the New Bodleian* were laid / the Eisenhower Library

There is no DA with other determiners: *Duke Humphry's Library*

motion picture theaters see **theaters**

museums see **art galleries**

organizations, institutions, business firms, etc.: the United Nations / the United States Marine Corps / the I. W. W. / the Royal Institute for the Blind / the Harrel Institute / the Literary Society / the Orange County Patriots / the Handel Society / the American Express Company

public buildings: the Albert Hall / the Royal Exchange / the Mansion House / the Taj-Mahal / the Clarendon Building / one of the greatest buildings of Oxford / *the Radcliffe Camera* / the Sheldonian Concert Hall

But: you can discover datails yourself from *Somerset House*

pubs see **inns**

theaters, motion picture theaters, opera houses, places of entertainment: the Mermaid (theatre) / the Criterion / the Globe / the Royal Italian Opera / the Covent Garden Theatre (but: Covent Garden) / what's on at *the Apollo?* / the Haymarket Theatre / he was in a box of *the Royalty,* and he looked across the theatre and saw her / the Ritz Theater / the Sheridan Theatre / the Sheldonian (Theatre) / *the Bannister,* which was a motion picture theater / I find myself going to older films at *the Symphony* or *the Thalia* / the Metropolitan (Opera) / a well-known Paris night club, *the Moulin Rouge*

But: last night the Siddons and the Kemble, at *Drury Lane,* acted to a vacancy

With the proper element in the genitive form there is no article:

Wyndham's Theatre

tunnels: the St. Gotthard Tunnel / the Lincoln Tunnel

There is usually no article with the following names of public places or large private buildings known to the public, and private homes:

Airports, airfields and similar: Kennedy Airport / the Constellation took off from *La Guardia* / at Madison airport / I took off from *Ketling aërodrome* / Will Fairchild Memorial Airport / when I arrived at *Nixon Spaceport* (from a s. f. novel) / at Kennedy International / Amman airport / Manchester airport / Detroit Metropolitan Airport / Templehof Airport

Auditoriums: Philharmonic Auditorium

Casteles: Windsor Castle / Traquair Castle / Caerphilly Castle

Cameteries: Mount Olivet cemetery / Woodlawn Cemetery

Churches, chapels and other places of worship: I crossed diagonally against the traffic — to the corner of *Christ Episcopal Church* / St. Christopher's chapel / Westminster Abbey / Canterbury Cathedral / All Saints Church

The DA occurs with an *of*-phrase: the foundation stone of *the Church of Christ the King*

Halls (at a college or university; auditorium): Grant Hall / Cullum Hall / Lady Margaret Hall / Symphony Hall / Carnegie Hall

Private homes: he dropped in at *Glebe Cottage* / Sanstead House / the boy who resided at *Agathox Lodge* / I recall the square solidity of *Brassington House* in Mayfair /

that's Little Dorrit's house, that's where Sam Weller lived, that's *Bleak House* / I was at a party at *Connemara House* / I requested him to come at once at *Sunset Cottage* / *Reed Court*, a large Georgian country mansion had been in the family for donkey's years

The DA occurs with connotative names without a noun of the "building" set;

the Grange / the Elms

There is no article if the name of the building is a proper noun:

the wall of *Ivanhoe*

There seems to be no article also when the name of a building is a foreign phrase:

the wall of Ivanhoe and *Bella Vista*

Railroad stations: Grand Central / he lived in Great King Street, which is a cheap residential road near *Oxford Station* / Barker Street Station

Schools: Mark Twain school / Peterhouse College / Bernard College / Montana State University / the precincts of *Trinity (College)* / Balliol College / New College / *St. Mida's School* near Boston / Westminster School / Baylor Medical School (the same author: at *the Baylor Medical School*) / Centerville High / CalTech / (the) Harvard Business School / Oxford University / Bernard College / California Institute / Lacing College

But: the Harvard Medical School / the FBI Academy / the Dibbs School / the Steering School / the US Military Academy / he was a graduate of *the Cornell Hotel School*

It seems that the DA is more likely when the name of a school contains an indication of what the school teaches:

the Harvard Medical School / the Cornell Hotel School / the US Military Academy

The DA is always used with *of*-phrases:

the College of St. Christopher / the University of Harvard / the State College of Washington / the California Institute of Technology

The DA occurs with names of **newspapers, news agencies** and the like: the New York Times / the Daily Mail / the Yale News / the Monday Times / the Observer / the Guardian / the military gentleman snatched up *The Times* and settled down to read it / The United Press International / the Economist / the Providence Journal / the Chicago Gazette / the Daily Telegraph / the Listener / the Fort Smith Evening Call / the St. Louis Republican / the St. Joseph Morning Herald / the interviews granted

to *the Galactic Press* (from a s. f. novel) / the Washington Star newspaper / old copies of *The Times*

A paper will sometimes omit the DA on its front page even though the name requires the DA in connected speech:

SPECTATOR and against: *the Spectator* had an interesting article last week

The DA is either included in the name (*The Times*), in which case it is spelt with a capital initial letter, or it is taken as a determiner and its initial letter is small; but this principle is not consistently observed.

With an orticle equivalent, the DA is dropped:

today's New York Times

When individual copies of newspapers are referred to, articles other than the DA may occur:

a girl read *a Daily Express* headed "A Commonwealth Tour for Tony?" / I bought a paper. It was *a Times*

titles of books and literary and artistic products: The Golden Treasury / Jean-Baptiste Greuze did *the Village Bride*, a subject from the daily life of the people /one or the other of the two probably did the miniature of *the Baptism of Christ* / it was painted only a year or two after *the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry* / about the time he did *the Three Musicians* he also painted Neo-Classic pictures such as *the Mother and Child* / *the Mona Lisa* is an idealized portrait of a woman / *the Madonna and Child* (when the reference is to the frequent subject of painting rather than a particular painting the *a/the* choice is possible: the fine altar piece of San Barnabo — *a Madonna and Child* with six saints and four angels)

Of course, the title can be such as to require the indefinite article:

A Study in Scarlet / A Family Man

Even in such cases, the DA may be used to indicate the uniqueness of the reference at the expense of correct quotation. If somebody is the author of "A Handbook of Phonetics" he can refer to his book as "in *'The Handbook of Phonetics'* I have stated that..."

Names of **magazines and periodicals** normally occur without the DA:

Language / Life / Time / English Language Teaching / New Scientist / Vogue / Country Life / I read in *Time magazine* that there was going to be an opening in Denver and sent some stuff over / I bought a copy of *Time*

The DA seems to appear if the noun "magazine" precedes the name of the magazine:

Pippin's celestial photographs have appeared in *the Magazine Match*

There is no article with plural names (with the exception of the noun "times"):

Homes and Gardens / Tit-Bits / International Affairs

There is no article with proper nouns used as names of newspapers and periodicals:

he loved the cartoons in *Punch* / Robin / Oxford / West Africa

There is no article if the title is such that it cannot take the DA:

She / Do It Your Self / Look and Learn / Peter and the Wolf / *Mein Kampf* sold a milion copies

There is no article if the proper element appears in the Saxon genitive form:

Blackwood's Magazine / Dalton's Weekly / Harper's Bazaar

NOTE. — This is true of most connotative proper names containing a Saxon genitive:

Wydham's Theatre / a sailor was sitting on the pavement near *Queen's Hotel* / at *Queen Charlotte's Hospital*

Foreign newspapers take no article:

in Moscow *Pravda* crowed that the Geneva truce was a great triumph for the Soviet Union / Da Cunha sat on a fine antique carpet reading *Hoja de Lunes* — the Madrid paper

The DA occurs with names of **surface ships, submarines, airships, spaceships,** etc.: I was out on a ship once, *the General John F. Kay* was her name / the Mayflower / nuclear submarines such as *the George Washington* / *the Edwardic* was a stoky-looking liner / the ship ... She was *the* twenty-seven-thousand-ton *M. V. Edwardic* / two tugboats moored alongside, *the Pamlico and the Albermarle* / each titanic airship named for a world-famous German scientist — *the Mach, the Nerst, the Humboldt, the Fritz Haber* / the Britania 312 / the galleon was *the Mary of the Tower* / the moon shuttles Evangeline and her sister ship *the Gabriel* / the intention of the company is to send their ship which they call *the Nuntia,* to Venus

With names of ships the word "ship", which precedes the name of the ship, is almost always left out. It occurs when the name of the ship is so unusual, or the context so scanty,

that there is a danger of the reader's not realizing that what is involved is a ship:

the Argonauts salied from Iolcus in Thessaly, in *the ship Argo,* to Colchis

When the name of a ship is modified by an article equivalent, there is usually no article:

HMS Tiger / H. M. S. Victorious (cf. the MS Southern Cross, the US. S Ankletooth)

The DA is possible even in these cases if the speaker forgets what the abbreviation stands for:

the H. M. S. Redundant (the Her Majesty's Ship Redundant!) / their ship, *the H. M. S. President*

The DA occurs with **political names of countries:** The United Arab Republic / the Transvaal Republic / the Congo Free State / the Soviet Union / the Federal Republic (West Germany)

Used attributively, such political names of countrnies can drop the DA:

the Johnson-Humphrey ticket rolled up the largest popular plurality in *United States* election history

Typically, names of **diseases** have a choice of Ø / *the,* depending on the context:

the characteristic symptoms of *lead poisoning* are severe *colic* . . . / *leprosy* is an ancient and awesome disease / *leptospirosis* is a disease caused by a disease caused by a spirochete / any wound that brings the tetanus bacillus into the body can bring on *lockjaw* / patients suffering from *multiple sclerosis*

With other deseases there is an *a/the* choice:

a/the cold a/the plague

Popular names of some diseases take the DA:

I was coming down with *the flue* / the Spanish grippe / the gout

Names of decorations: I awarded him *the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Soldier's Medal, the Good Conduct Medal*

Common nouns as common names, used with the DA

Common nouns without modification or qualification

Period-of-time nouns. Parts of day preceded by the prepositions "in" or "during" take the DA:

owls cannot see well *in the daytime* / he was a proud Indian potentate *in the daytime* and a highay robber at night / early *in the morning*

Otherwise there is no article:

he got up *at dawn* / it was about half an hour *after sunrise* / they had to remain in the darkness *from sunset to sunrise*

N. B. A part-of-day noun followed by an *of*-phrase takes the DA, regardless of the kind of the preceding preposition: we saw how men lived at *the dawn of history*

Names of seasons in the same environment often take the DA:

cricket is played only in summer — the harbour, where *in the summer* yachts lie often three abreast

the foliage of the tree turns shades of yellow in autumn — the leaves of the oak turn a reddish brown *in the autumn* (both examples are from the same author)

Names of periods of time take the DA when the point of reference is a moment in the past. In this environment, they are frequently preceded by modifiers such as "next", "last", "following" and similar:

I returned to school *the following Monday* / he arrived on a Monday; on *the Tuesday* he got married / he arrived on a Thursday, and already on *the Sunday* he could report that everything had been settled / Edmonds had come in the town to see his uncles and had stayed the night with them ... *the next morning* he went home / the day before Edmonds had come in the town to see his uncles and had stayed *the night* with them / their prospects for *the morrow* were excellent / what had *the morrow* in store for us

With the predeterminer "all", the DA is optional with nouns such as "day", "morning", "night":

all (the) day

The DA cannot occur with these nouns when they are used in a negative context:

I haven't seen him all day

The DA with names of seasons means "last" or "coming": if the weather was bad, or they did things the wrong way, they would not have enough food for *the winter*

Modified or qualified common nouns preceded by some modifier types always, or nearly always, occur with the DA. It is hoped that the following list contains most modifiers of this type.

Sets of modifiers

Relative superlatives of adjectives: the smallest things / one of *the strangest* communities in North America / the nicest people / the most beautiful girls / Pin had never *the least idea* / *the best English* combines the use of short sentences with sentences that are long drawn out / at the end of the century, *the most important French painter* was an artist of uncertain name

The DA occurs also before superlative adjectives used predicatively:

flight in these stratojets is *the smoothest and quietest* ever offered to air travellers

Absolute superlatives do not influence the occurrence of the DA one way or other:

a/the most beáutiful garden / *a most víle,* stinking Whig / the face was a mask of *extrémest grief* / he is *a most dángerous man*

There is a choice of articles in "a/the best man", "a/the best suit", "a/the best seller". These combinations are best treated as kinds of compound nouns, constituting a single lexical item.

The use of the DA with relative superlatives is easily explained from the semantics of the superlative idea and of the DA. In most cases, the superlative describes the referent of the noun it modifies as being different from all other such referents in the possesion of the highest degree of a quality. Obviously, there can be only one such referent, or only one group of such referents. The referent is presented as the only one of its kind, as unique in terms of the degree of the quality it possesses; and the DA is used with referents thought of as unique.

The DA occurs also with superlative equivalents:
he had taken twice *the maximum dose* of a potent preparation of choral / this was *the main reason* why he liked Guanadera

Ordinal numerals. The same principle of uniqueness of the referent explains the DA with nouns modified by ordinal numerals. If something can be described as the twenty-first member of a series of members, the description can refer to that member only and none else:

he would always tell it to *the first person* he met / in many other Florentine pictures we can find echoes of the International Style as late as the middle of *the fifteenth century* / Athens became the most important of these city-states, and it was there, between *the eighth and the third centuries* B. C., that the Greeks produced their keenest thinkers and their finest artists / the First World War (connotative proper name)

Ordinal numerals have also other functions, in addition to indicating individual members of a series, and in a number of them the speaker must decide whether the meaning of

uniqueness is present or not, although there is great likelihood that it is. The noun phrase "third witness" can take the form of either "the third witness" or "a third witness". If the speaker knows that a number of witnesses is involved, he will speak of "*the third witness* testifying to the accused innocence." But if the existeice of more than two witnesses is uncertain, the speaker will use the indefinite article: "Two witnesses are not enough. We must find *a third witness.*" This modifier class is included among modifers requiring the DA on the strenght of the statistical frequency of situations where the DA is required with ordinals.

Other examples with articles other than the definite:
outwardly at least the Communist rebellion had been ended before it could ingnite *a third world war* / *a second major* concern of Americans is secrecy in government

The case of "a first child" can be explained in a similar way as "an only child." Notice that in SC the equivalents of "a first child" and "an only child" are unmodified nouns: "prvijenac", "prvorođeni" or "prvorođenče" (with unmarked gender), and "jedinac" for a boy and "jedinica" for a girl. The same is true of "a/the first night" ("premijera", "praizvedba"). The situation in SC seems to strees the compound-noun character of these noun phrases, an explanation a SC speaker will readily accept.

First also has other meanings, as in
a first difficulty ("one of the principal difficulties") of the Arab movement was to say who the Arabs were

In this and similar examples, the articles are generated according to the requirements of individual situations.

There are a number of cases of nouns modified by ordinals which it is hard to explain as manifestations of working of the article system, and for which the catchall labels like "idiomatic expressions" or "set phrases" are usually employed. A few instances of such untypical zero realizations of the article are:
surprising as it may seem *at first thought* (historically "at the" ⟶ "at"?) / winning *first place* in a track event / first base / *first thing* in the morning / *first thing* to do

The DA is not automatically used if "second" means "another":
in *a second sense* this book will be a summary of man's knowledge / a second deluge / a second nature / there will not be *a second time* / to stay in a form for *a second year*

Names of meals take no article (*Breakfast is ready*), but the DA occurs when the name of a meal is modified (attributively or predicatively) or qualified:

at *the diner* given in honour of the French Ambassador / *the dinner* was a frugal one (= a frugal dinner) / the whole conversation ran on *the breakfast*, which one and all abused roundly / right after *the sumptuous dinner* given in his honor, he rose and sang a few songs / I had *a big breakfast* this morning.

The semantic explanation for the articles usually offered is that the articles are used when the quality of the meal is refered to.

Names of languages have no artiche (*He speaks French*) unless the noun "language" is added:

the French language

The DA occurs also in expressions like:

translated from *the French* / what is *the French* (= the French expression) for monkey business?

Individual modifiers. The meaning of uniqueness can be imparted to a referent by modifying it by one of a number of modifiers that do not constitute either a semantic or a formal group. Among these are

same: the same book(s) / the cart proceded at *the same* unvarying *pace* as before / I am the identical man you met twenty years ago, but I am not *the same man* any more / they believed that the spirit of the dead needed *the* same material *things* as a living person

This, in fact, is the normal use of the article with the repeated reference to the same referent. This type of the DA is discussed in detail in the article entitled "Generated Definite Article".

very: the very person(s) / you are *the very man* I was looking for

half (predeterminer) with plural nouns: *half (of) the pages* were missing from the dictionary

only: the only person(s) / *the only sounds* were his terrible invitations. When "only" is used as a descriptive adjective rather than a limiting one, indefinite article is possible: *an only child.*

next: — space: I went into *the next room* / last night I said to the clown who sleeps in *the next bunk*, " . . .

next — time: With names of days, months, seansons, with nouns "day", "month", "season", "year", "time" there is usually no article:

next week (month, year, Monday, January, summer)

"Next" can follow the temporal nouns:

come to tea with us on *Wednesday next*

When "next" refers to some time in the past, the DA is frequent:

Alan Darley was coming down *the next day*, for the week-end / in both leters he had written that *the next time* he came to New York he would give me a ring / the child was bad in school so he was told to bring a parent with him *the next day*

"Next" used of order takes the DA:

the next train

last: the last day of September

Here again, we must distinguish at least two different "last's". The DA occurs with the one meaning "coming at the end of a series", "coming after others in time", "the only remaining", "the most recent", as

the last house in the street / *the last day* of the year / this will be *the last change* / *the last news* I head

The "last" meaning "immediately before the present, or before some specified time" usually requires no article, as in

last night / last week / last month / last year / last summer / last Sunday / last time

or postpositionally

on January last / on Sunday last

With "last", as with other modifiers on this list, determiners other that the DA may occur in certain meanings:

at the door of her hotel she stopped and took *one last look* at the rearing, noble mountains / Charley took *a last gulp* of his coffee / the cathedral bell gave *a last expiring jangle* and fell silent / the women took *a last look* at the limp, pitiful body

The explanation is that in the expanded predicate of the type "he yelled ⟶ he gave a yell", the noun has to be preceded by the indefinite article.

other: on the other side / on the other hand / one of them is my brother. I don't know *the other boy*

It seems that the DA is not due to the word "other" but to the fact that a choice beween two possibilities is involved. The choice between two possibilities also explains the DA in the following examples:

I must be in the *wrong (right) pew* / Charles stood on the *far (near) side* of the threshold / if the weather was bad, or if they did things *the wrong way*, they would not have enough food for the winter / it was a Cadillac and placed noticeably on *the wrong side* of the street /

the climbed the sidewalk on *the opposite side* / the line between necessary secrecy and abuse is a delicate one, but Americans continue to search for *the right balance* / this is *the right (wrong) answer* / the lower (upper) lip / the lady realized that she had *the wrong party*

See also *"second"* meaning "another".

late (deceased): *the late* Byron Jones / *the late* President Kennedy / *the late* American writer Henry L. Mencken

The DA occurs with the adverb *just* meaning "exactly", "precisely":

visit your dealer, he'll be able to show you more than a dozen diferent models including one at *just the price* you want to pay

APPOSITION

An appositive noun used to identify or to describe the referent of the preceding proper noun takes the DA:

Smith *the oil man* / Cyrus *the Persian* / Covier, *the great French zoologist* / Cuthbert *the cat* / Sidney *the sunbeam* (the name of a nasty little boy) / Suleiman *the Eunuch* / Mr. and Mrs. Berry, *the famous goitre surgeon* / the foundation stone of the Church of Christ *the King* / Jack *the Ripper*

If the appositive common noun, or phrase containing the common noun, is totally attached to the preceding proper noun, there is usually no comma. If, on the other hand, the appositive noun or phrase is a nonce description of the preceding proper noun, the comma is usual.

The DA is deleted mostlz with appositive antonomastic names:

Charles, *fifth Earl of Tranquair* / Shahaji Bavasahib, *Maharaja of the native State of Kolhapur* / Philip I, *King of France* / Henry Heath, *manager of the great Kendall-Sudwich mills* / Dr. William L. Hughs, *head of the Oklahoma State team* / John Gardner, *chairman of the citizens' lobby Common Cause*

N. B. — A postnominal adjective used for the same purpose of identifications takes the DA:

Agrippina *the younger* / Peter *the Second*

The DA also appears in other types of apposition, such as the following.

The common noun is one of the following titles (there is a great deal of vacillation here):

emperor: the Emperor Claudius / the Emperor Napoleon / the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria / he presided at

Mass at *the Emperor Charles V's* visit to England / the Emperor Charlemagne
But also: the time of *Emperor Titus*

empress: the Empress Eugénie

archduke: these were his comments on the murder of *the Archuduke Ferdinand*
But also: She married *Archduke Anton of Austria*

caliph: the descendant of *the caliph Ali*

infante: the idea of replacing King Alfonso by *the Infante Don Juan*

czar: (the) Czar Alexander

reverend: (the) Rev. Smith / that is *the Reverend Mr Wingham* / the Reverend Dr. Bransby

abbé (a title of respect for any ecclesiastic or clergyman): the Abbé Liszt

honourable (title of children of peers below rank of Marquis): the Hon. Galahad

Notice that most of these titles are used with first names, the only expection being "reverend" and "abbé"; they probably form a subclass of their own.

More common titles take no article:
King Arthur / Dr. Smith / Lord Nelson / private Walker / Professor Crock / Mr. Boyd / Father Theobald Mathey / Viscount Cave / Earl Amherst / Governor Bradford / when *Director Hoover* agreed to permit a look behind the scenes

Some of these titles, especially those of nobility, take the DA in heavily articled formal English.

American English generally treats all titles alike:
President Johnson / Emperor Hirohito / Archduke Ferdinand of Austria

More recent titles, or old titles applied to contemporary personages, usually have no article:

Emperor Haile Selassie / Chairman Mao

That the omission of the DA is the prevailing tendency is seen from a science-fiction example:

Administrator Ford

The DA with titles seems to be honorific, of the type found, for instance, with names of universities. The name "Ohio State University" will be used without the DA in most situations, but a certificate or diploma issued by the University will, to give it dignity, very likely refer to the University as "The Ohio State University". And it is this use that we have in mind when we speak of the "honorific" meaning of the DA.

The common noun is not a title. With nontitles as the common-noun part of the apposition, the DA is usual in British English. In American English, the DA is less frequent. The common noun preceding the proper noun identifies or describes the bearer of the proper noun:

the widow Osborn / I believe Mrs. Langdon, *the Widow Langdon* was next / the pilot Smith / the executive Samson / the apostle Saint Paul / the Virgin Mary (with this name, the proper noun may be left out: "may *the Virgin* and all the saints pity me") / the planet Mercury / she watched *the servant Mary* remove the breakfast things / the Spainard Joan Miró / you are the farmer Morgus? / the philosopher Aristotle / the stupid book written by *the American J. H. McLeod* / the chump Cyril / the prophet Daniel / the Angel Gabriel / the name Charles / the letter B (there is no article with the non-appositive construction: *vitamin* B / *Page Five*) / the artist Renoir / the constellation Taurus / the Jew Kondit / the prophet Jeremiah / the Lord God / the Infant Jesus / the Jesuit Barnabé Cobo / this illustration shows us *the hero Hercules* wrestling with a lion

The DA seems to be obligatory when the common-noun element is mofied:

the American painter John Marin / the American linguist Whithey / the German chemist Robert Wilhelm Bunsen / "Melancholy and Mistery of a Street" by *the Italian painter Giorgio di Chirico*

The DA actually belongs to the first noun rather than the second, which becomes abvious when the second element is not a noun at all, as in

the play "I Remember Mama" / the subjects "I and you" or when the order is inverted: (the) critic Paul Jones: Paul Jones the critic.

The name Polonius is a different kind of construction. The function of the noun "name" is not to identify the bearer of the name "Polonius". The transformation shifting the common noun to a position after the proper noun is not applicable: *Polonius the name. On the other hand, this construction tolerates the insertion of the preposition *of* (the name of Polonius) which is not acceptable with the identification apposition (*the pilot of Smith).

This construction differs from the construction with titles preceding names (Mr Smith) in that, with this construction, the common noun serves to identify or describe the proper noun, while titles have no such function — they are purely honorific.

There is no article with names of family relations followed by a given name:

cousin Agie / brother Peter / uncle Stanley

When the appositive element is not a noun, the first member, a noun, usually take the DA:

the fact **that he wrote a letter to her** suggested that he knew her / we heard *the news* **that the team had won** /

I agree wiht *the old saying* **that absence makes the heart grow fonder**

The DA is frequent also with "quotation" appositions, as the following:

the word if / the subjects I and you / the expresion how do you do?

DEFINITE ARTICLE AS IMPLIED EPITHET, INTENSIFIER OR AS DEMONSTRATIVE

The DA occasionally appears in the funkction of a determiner followed by an implied epithet meaning something like "typical", "best", "ideal", "famous", "one and only" "well known", "the only one worth mentioning", and similar other meanings of uniqueness. This limiting and descriptive function of the DA is usually signaled by its strong form:

televison is *the* medium ("the ideal")
she was *the* landlady ("the typical")
London is *the* place, the centre of the world ("the only")
it is *the* boot for present wear ("the ideal")
he is *the* pianist of the day ("the best")
that is *the* hotel of the city ("the best")
I never want a word, but he never wants *the* word ("the most feliticious")
A: "I know Smith." B: "You don't mean *the* Smith" ("the famous") / any relation to *the* John Thomas Stuart? / "It belongs to M. Max Kahlenberg." She stared at him, her eyes widening. "You mean the millionaire? *The* Mr. Max Kahlenberg?"

Definite article as an intensifier. The same strong form of the DA is used as an intensifier:

he was one of the first, if not *the* first, to use a typewriter / we've no water to douse fires if anyone starts one, and fire is *the* big hazard

Definite article as a demonstrative. This use of the DA, if it still is the DA, is found most frequently in temporal indications:

I am occupied for *the* ("this") moment / tell him I am busy at *the* moment / I could not rembember it at *the* ("that") time / nearly all the characters are recognizable to anyone who knew Dublin of *the* time / Lord Peter will be staying *the* night

Also in other expressions:

lend you money? No, I shall do nothing of *the* kind / *the* sort of woman she was / he said, "See you later", or something of *the* kind / we must not take from those that have little *the* little that they have / this book is more interesting than *the* one I lent you last time / "How much are these melons?" — "Sixpence, and cheap at *the* price" / a dozen different models including one at just *the* price you want to pay

The meaning of "that" is also present with qualified proper names:

this is not *the* Smith I was speaking of / if you are *the* John T. Stuart I'm looking for / I wondered idly if this were *the* Miss Barlow Jeremy was supposed to have been fond of

In a number of translation equivalents of the above English examples, SC would use the demonstratives "to" or "ono", while SC usually has no equivalent for the English DA; which seems to suggest that "the" as used here is no longer the DA.

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