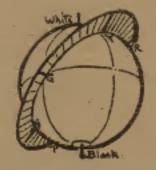
OF.

The Munsell Color System

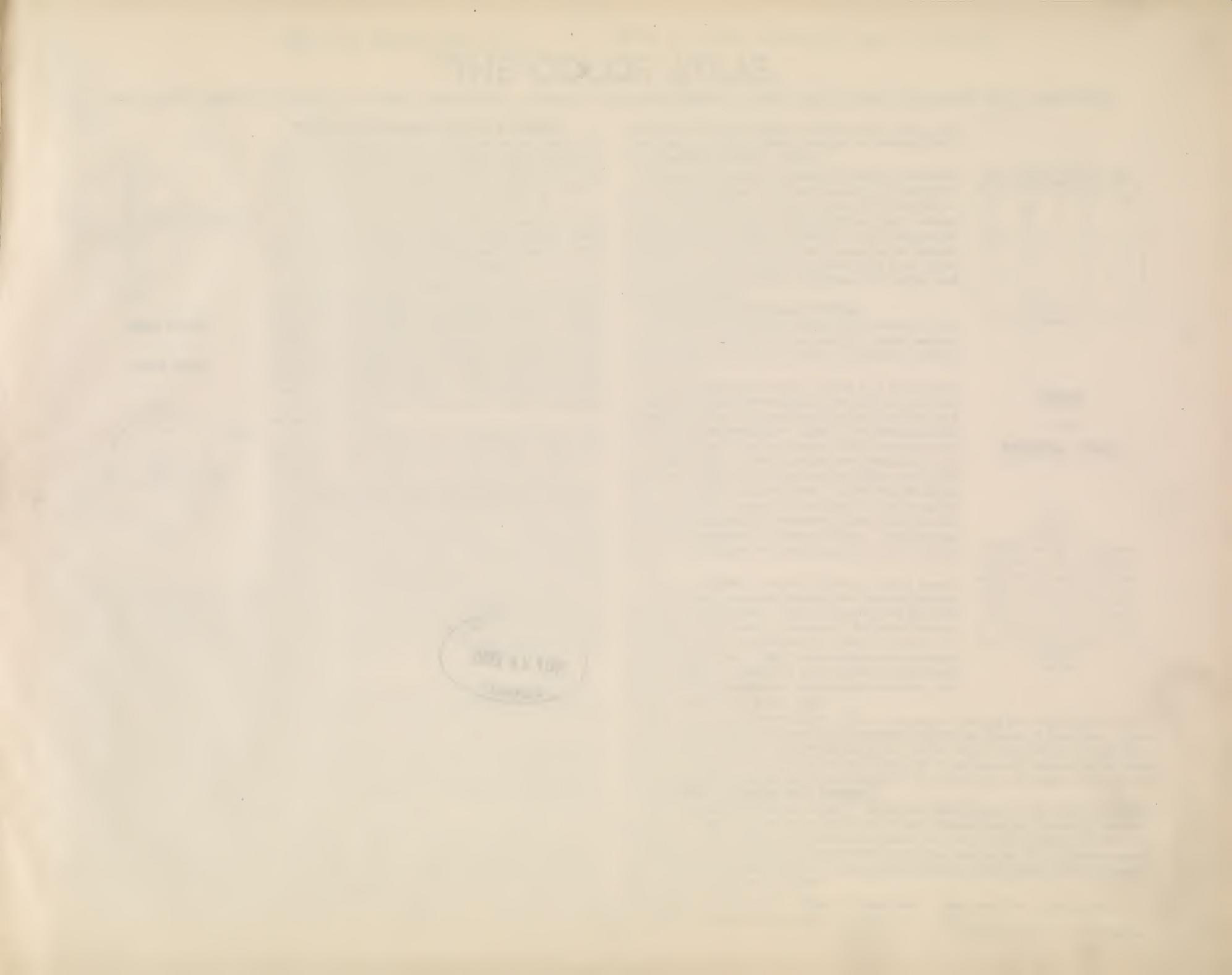


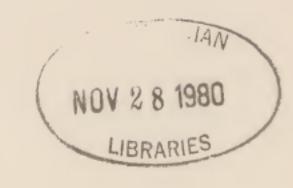
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Walter C. Frankle





THE COLOR ATLAS

THIS ATLAS CONSISTS OF TWO SETS OF CHARTS, ILLUSTRATING A SYSTEM OF COLOR MEASUREMENT OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS GIVE A DESCRIPTION.*

1. THREE COLOR SCALES UNITE IN A SPHERE.

Imagine a colored sphere with white as its north pole, black as its south pole, and its equator ringed about by a circuit of red, yellow, green, blue and purple hues—each of which melts imperceptibly into its neighbors, Fig, 1, Thus the equator traces the horizontal scale of hues: H.

Imagine each equatorial hue as graded upward to white and downward to black in regular measured steps. Each hue then presents a scale of values over the surface, while the axis traces the vertical scale of gray values: V.

Imagine surface colors weakened by additions of neutral gray as they pass inward to disappear in the vertical axis. The sphere is thus filled with gradations of color,—lighter degrees above the equator, darker degrees below; stronger degrees outward, and weaker degrees inward to the axis, where all color is balanced in neutrality. The degree of color strength at any point is known as *chroma* and is traced by radii at right angles to the axis. It represents the gradual emergence of each hue from grayness. Each radius serves as a scale of chromas: C.

Every color sensation may be measured and defined by these three scales of hue, value, and chroma. Neglect of either scale—that is, failure to state either the hue, the value, or the chroma of a color—creates doubt and confusion.

2. A COLOR TREE SURROUNDS THE COLOR SPHERE.

Were all pigment colors of equal chroma then a sphere would present an ideal of their relations. But pigments are very unequal in strength, Vermilion red,† for example, being twice as strong as its opposite complement, blue-green Viridian. This is shown in chart 40. The unequal scales

of pigment chroma may be treated as branches of a Color Tree whose trunk is the neutral axis, while its branches of various lengths and at various levels blossom out with the strongest colors. This tree is imagined as compact of colored leaves—darker leaves below, lighter leaves above; most chromatic leaves on the surface and grayer leaves inward to the trunk, which is colorless. The tree also encloses the Color Sphere, which would appear were the longer branches lopped off to equal the length of the shortest branch. Fig. 2.

3. NOTATION OF COLORS BY SYMBOLS.

Scale of 5 Chroma - 10

COLOR SPHERE

AND

COLOR TREE

The place of each leaf of the Color Tree is determined by the measured scales of hue, value and chroma. These scales also furnish an expressive notation, made by the five color initials with their combinations and ten arabic numbers.

The scale of hue is a sequence of red (R), yellow-red (YR), yellow (Y), green-yellow (GY), green (G), blue-green (BG), blue (B), purple-blue (PB), purple (P), and red-purple (RP). The five principal hues melt perceptibly into intermediates by ten steps, of which the middle or fifth step is typical of that hue. The scale of values is also decimal from 0 (black) to 10 (white), and the scale of chromas likewise from 0 (neutral gray) to 10 (the strongest permanent pigment so far obtained).

A symbol completely describing the character of any color sensation is composed of its degrees of hue, value, and chroma. The symbol for what is commonly known as Vermilion is $5R_{10}^4$ ("five red, four over ten"):—the numeral before R showing that it is the fifth or typical step of red in the hue scale, without tendency either to yellow-red or purple-red; the upper numeral

showing that its luminosity equals the fourth step in the value scale, and the chroma numeral ten showing that it is of maximum strength. Chart H.

Should the Vermilion be changed by fading or admixture with another pigment, this would appear in the symbol:—
thus a tinge of yellow in the red is written 6R while 4R indicates a tinge of purple; a slight addition of gray reduces the chroma to R_{θ} , while the addition of white changes the value to R_{θ} . Grouping all these changes in the symbol, $6R_{\theta}^{\delta}$, shows that the original Vermilion $5R_{1}^{4}$ is no longer pure, but tinged with yellow, lightened with white, and weakened with gray.

4. CHARTS OF THE COLOR SYSTEM.

The measured scales of hue, value, and chroma are presented in two sets of charts, one made by vertical sections of the Color Tree, and the other by horizontal sections. Figs. 3 and 4.

There are eight vertical charts. Chart H is the hue scale arranged as an index for recording colors singly or in groups. Vermilion appears in the column R at the level four and with the chroma symbol ten. Chart V is the value scale upon a hinged and perforated card, behind which to test the value of a color sample. Thus Vermilion seen through the perforations is darker than value five and lighter than value three. It matches value step four. Chart C bears the chroma scales of red, yellow, green, blue and purple as tree branches whose levels and lengths describe the relation of these maxima to the extremes of white and black. Vermilion appears as the strongest red chroma, and the color is written $5R_1^4$.

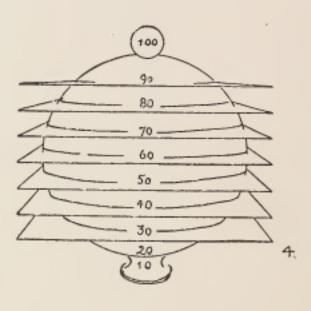
The five remaining vertical charts are planes passed through the axis, on opposite sides of which appear the complementary fields of color. Chart R shows the red field with its complementary field of blue-green. By noting the symbol $5R_{10}^{4}$ Vermilion may be balanced with any degree of its opposite blue-green. Chart Y shows yellow with its opposite purple-blue. Charts G, B, and P show green, blue, and purple with their appropriate complements, red-purple, yellow-red (orange), and green-yellow.

PB P R YR

VERTICAL

AND

HORIZONTAL CHARTS.



There are seven horizontal charts. The axis appears on each as the neutral gray centre of a star or radial pattern, the lengths of whose radii indicate the chroma of their hues. These sections present colors at a single uniform level of value:—thus, Chart 50 at the middle of the Color Tree bears only colors which reflect 50 per cent. of the luminosity of white, while Charts 40, 30, and 20 show darker levels, and Charts 60, 70, and 80 show the lighter levels of color.

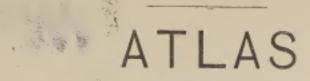
5. BALANCE OF COLOR BY A SPHERE.

The sphere typifies balance of color. White and black balance at the centre on middle gray, N⁵. Balanced colors appear at the ends of any diameter passing through the centre of the sphere. Also, a lighter color balances a darker, but when unequal values or chromas are employed the color of weaker chroma must be given the larger area. The symbols on each step of these color charts indicate the proportions needed to produce balance, as suggested in the text to be found on each chart.

*For fuller information the reader is referred to the author's 'A Color Notation," 3d edition, Boston, 1913. †Vermilion red, the sulphuret of mercury, is the most chromatic of permanent colors.

*See Chapter VI. of "A Color Notation."





COLOR CHARTS.

CHART

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VALUES SCALE SCALE OF OF VALUES

CHART H.

INDEX FOR COLOR NOTATION.

This chart suggests all color paths and records each step by a simple NOTATION. The ten steps of hue are written RP (red-purple), P (purple), PB (purple-blue), B (blue), BG (blue-green), G (green), GY (green-yellow), Y (yellow), YR (yellowred or orange), and R (red).

Initials at the top of the chart trace the Sequence of Hues; numerals at the side trace the Sequence of Values and the small numeral printed on each color step is an index of its Chroma i,e. strength or saturation. The color step made of vermilion bears the chroma numeral 10;- it is at the value level 4:- and in the red column R. This step is written 5R10 as explained in a previous introduction and in chapter VI of "A Color Notation."

If this chart were bent around the equator of the color sphere forming a cylindrical envelope, it would imitate a mercator chart of the globe, each hue taking the place of a meridian and each value level representing a parallel of latitude, while the chroma numerals would correspond to altitudes.

Were this cylinder cut open on the red-purple meridian (RP) it would spread out to form this Hue Chart; - green being at its center with yellow and red (warm hues) to the right, and the cool hues blue and purple to the left.

Colors shown on this chart form the irregular outside of the color tree, between which and the neutral gray trunk are the intermediate degrees of weaker chroma. which appear on the succeeding charts R. Y. G. B. P and 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80. of the system.



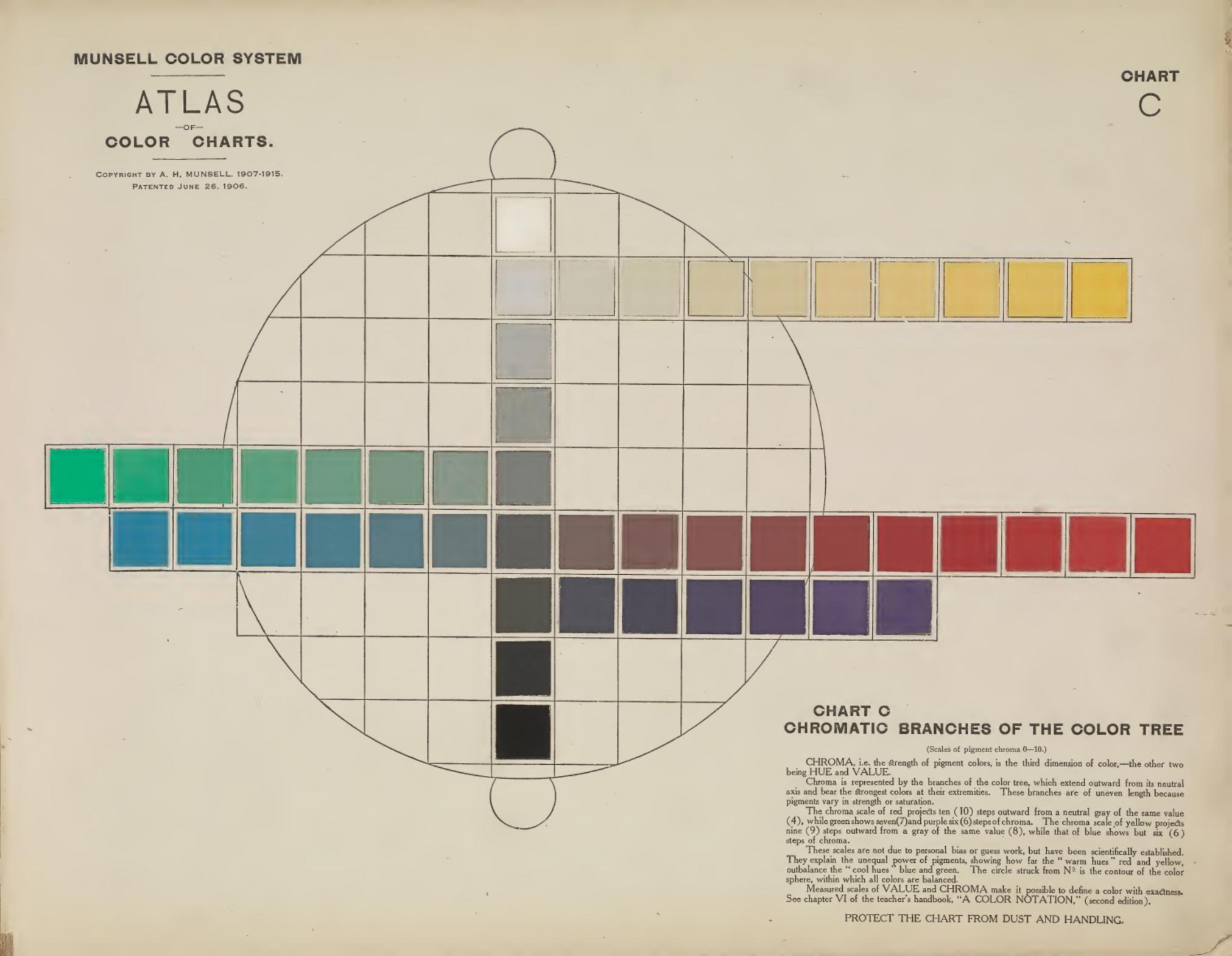
These pigment colors vary not only in their VALUE, but also in their CHROMA,—as fully

shown on Chart C, which explains why the color branches extending outward from the neutral axis are of uneven length. See chapters II and III of the teacher's handbook, "A COLOR NOTATION,"

PROTECT THE CHART FROM DUST AND HANDLING.

(second edition).



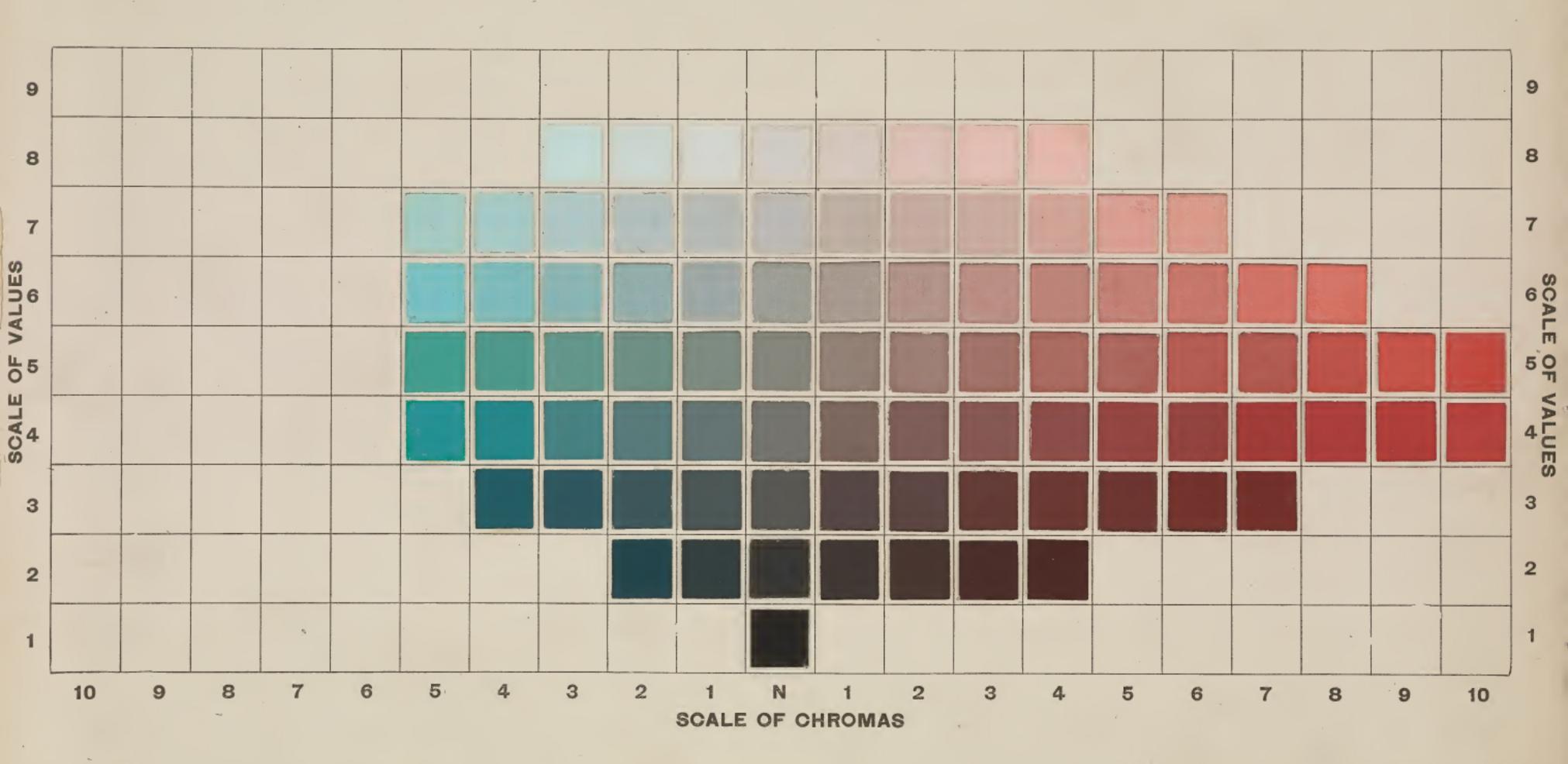




COLOR CHARTS.

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CHART



RED AND BLUE-GREEN CHART.

This chart presents a vertical plane passed through the axis of the color solid and bearing the complementary hues, red and blue-green. This pair of opposite hues is shown in regular measured scales from black to white, and from greyness to the strongest color made in stable pigment.

VALUES of red and blue-green range vertically from black (0) to white (10). CHROMAS or strengths of color range horizontally from neutral gray to the maximum (10).

Each step in these color scales bears an appropriate symbol describing its light and its strength. Thus R_{10}^{4} is vermilion, the standard red of the system, which exhibits 100% of chromatic strength and reflects 40% of the incident light. Its opposite BG $_{5}^{4}$ reflects the same percentage of light but only 50% of chroma. To balance this pair the areas must be inversely as the chroma, i. e., since

blue-green is but half as strong as vermilion red, twice as much is required for a balance. Attention to these measures leads to pleasing combinations.

Any chosen steps of red and blue-green upon this chart may be balanced by noting their symbols:- thus light blue-green (BG₃) balances dark red (R₃) when the areas are inversely as the product of the symbols viz:-six parts of light blue-green and twenty-four parts of dark red.

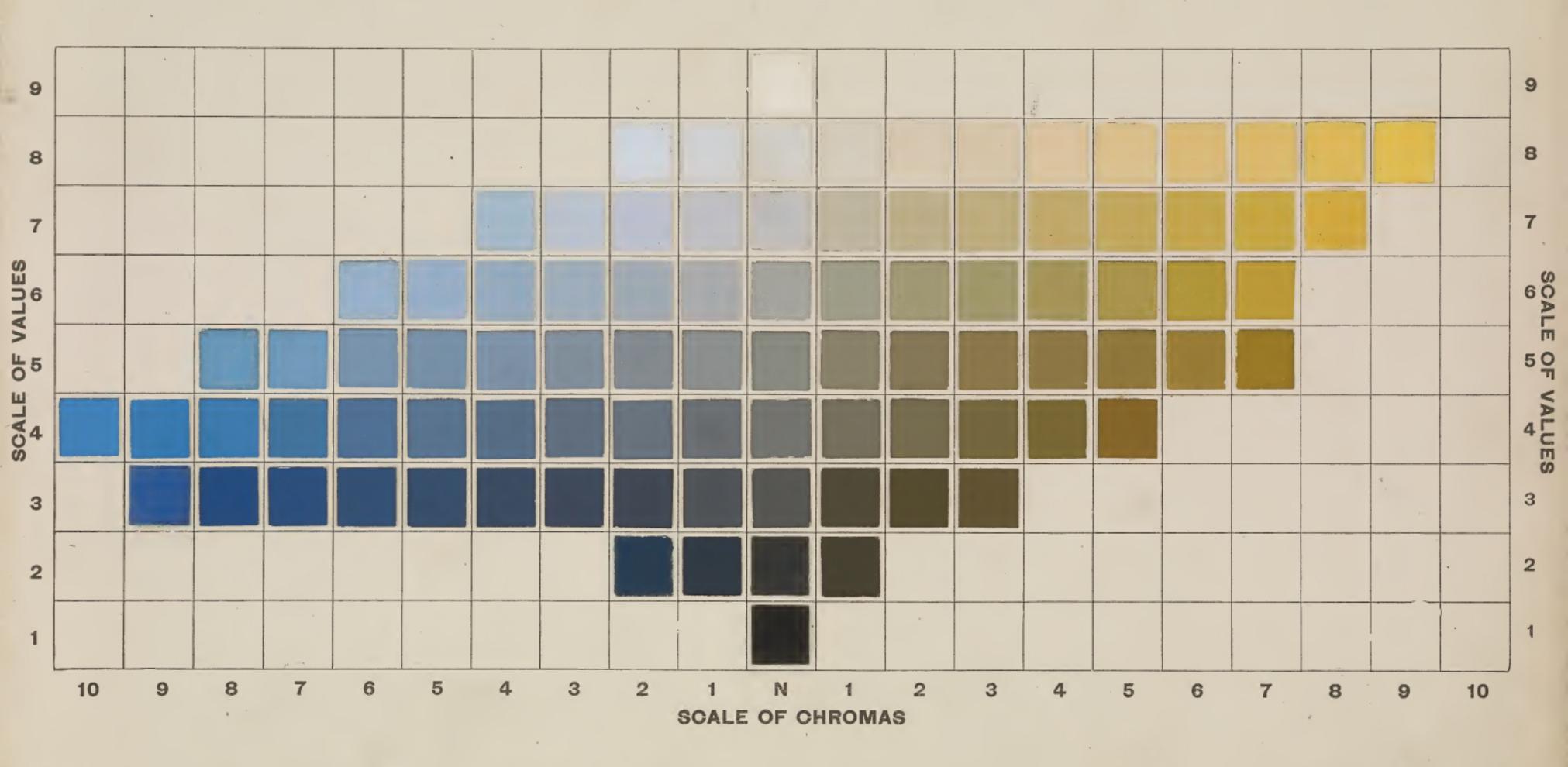
Chapters III and IV of the handbook, "A Color notation," describe these balances and their combinations with other hues. The symbol on each color step is its NAME, a measure of its light and strength by which it is to be memorized, written and reproduced,



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YELLOW AND PURPLE-BLUE CHART.

This chart presents a vertical plane passed through the axis of the color solid and bearing the complementary hues, yellow and purple-blue. This pair of opposite hues is shown in regular measured scales from black to white, and from greyness to the strongest color made in stable pigment.

VALUES of yellow and purple-blue range vertically from black (0) to white (10). CHROMAS or strengths of color range horizontally from neutral gray to the maximum (10).

Each step in these color scales bears an appropriate symbol describing its light and its strength. Thus Y\u00e3 is zinc yellow, the strongest permanent yellow, which exhibits 90% of chromatic strength and reflects 80% of the incident light. Its opposite PB\u00e3 reflects the same percentage of light but only 20% of chroma. To balance this pair the areas must be inversely as the chroma, i. e., since

purple-blue is but two ninths as strong as zinc yellow, it requires nine parts of purple-blue to balance two parts of the yellow. Attention to these measures leads to pleasing combinations.

Any chosen steps of yellow and purple-blue upon this chart may be balanced by noting their symbols:- thus light yellow (Y5)

balances dark purple-blue (PB3), when the areas are inversely as the product of the symbols viz:- twenty-seven parts of light yellow and seventy-two parts of dark purple-blue.

Chapters III and IV of the handbook, "A Color notation," describe these balances and their combinations with other hues. The symbol on each color step is its NAME, a measure of its light and strength by which it is to be memorized, written and reproduced.

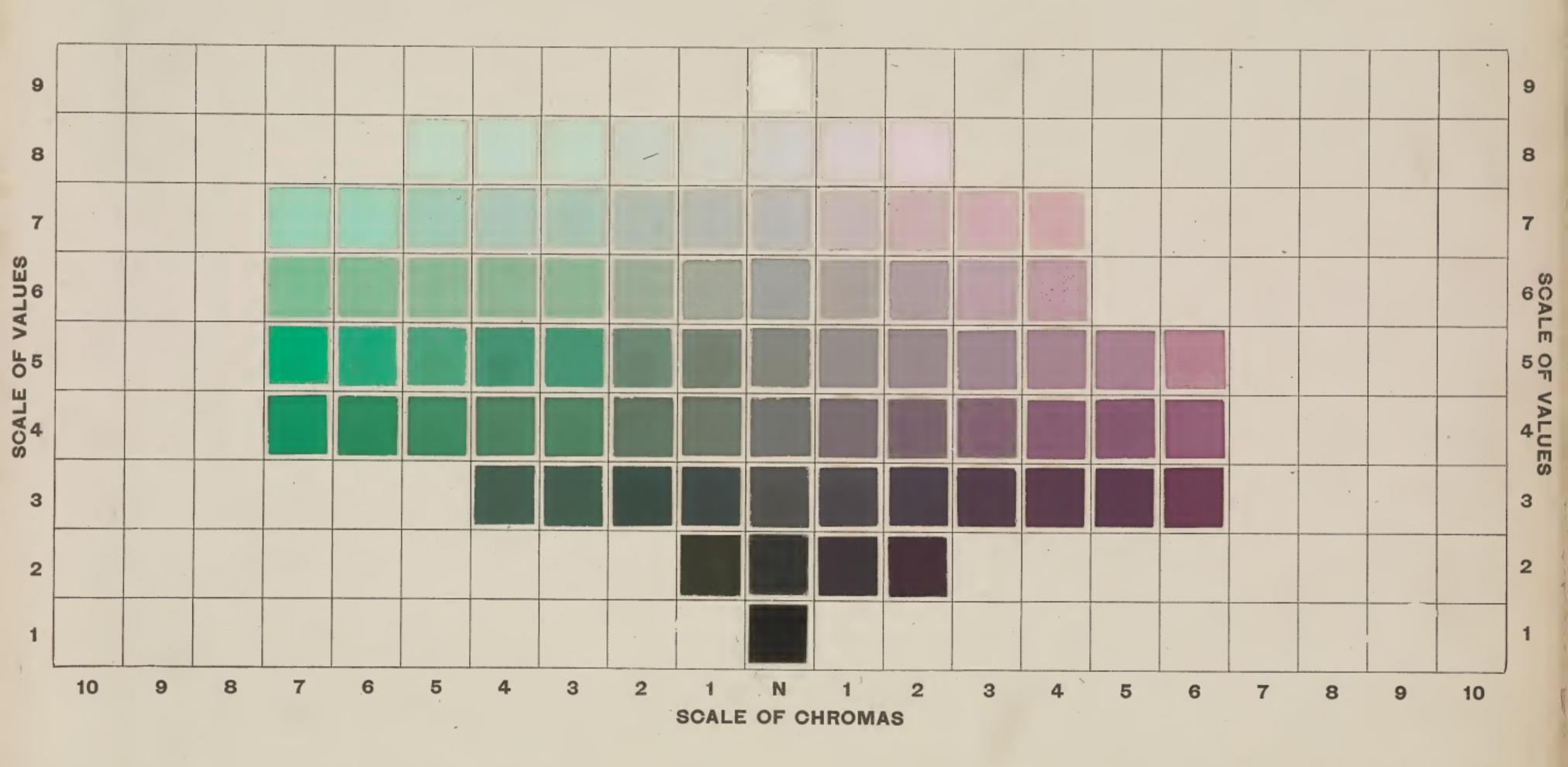


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CHART



GREEN AND RED-PURPLE CHART.

This chart presents a vertical plane passed through the axis of the color solid and bears the complementary hues, green and red-purple. This pair of opposite hues is shown in regular measured scales from black to white and from greyness to the strongest color made in stable pigment.

VALUES of green and red-purple range vertically from black (0) to white (10). CHROMAS or strengths of color range horizontally from neutral gray to the maximum (10).

Each step in these color scales bears an appropriate symbol describing its light and its strength. Thus G₇ is emerald green, the strongest permanent green, which exhibits 70% of chromatic strength and reflects 50% of the incident light. Its opposite RP₈ reflects the same percentage of light but only 60% of chroma. To balance this pair the areas must be inversely as the chroma, i. e., since

red-purple is one seventh less strong than green, seven parts of red-purple will balance six parts of the green, Attention to these measures leads to pleasing combinations.

Any chosen steps of green and red-purple upon this chart may be balanced by noting their symbols:, thus light green (G₅⁸) balances dark red-purple (RP₂⁹), when the areas are inversely as the product of the symbols viz:- forty parts of dark red-purple and four parts of light green.

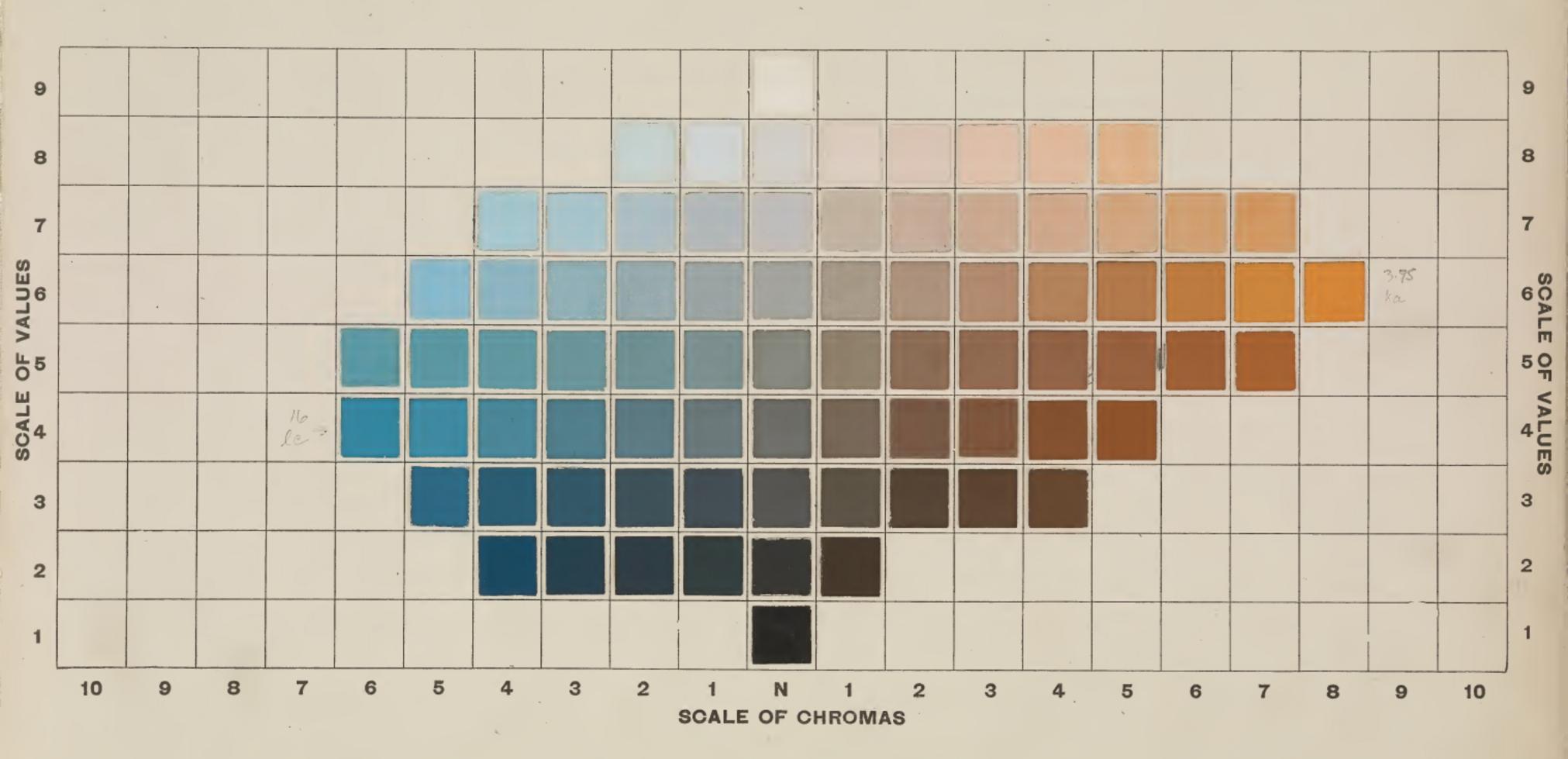
Chapters III and IV of the handbook, "A Color notation," describe these balances and their combinations with other hues. The symbol on each color step is its NAME, a measure of its light and strength by which it is to be memorized, written and reproduced.



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CHART



BLUE AND YELLOW-RED CHART.

This chart presents a vertical plane passed through the axis of the color solid and bears the complementary hues, blue and yellow-red. This pair of opposite hues is shown in regular measured scales from black to white, and from greyness to the strongest color made in stable pigment.

VALUES of blue and yellow-red range vertically from black (0) to white (10). CHROMAS or strengths of color range horizontally from neutral gray to the maximum (10).

Each step in these color scales bears an appropriate symbol describing its light and its strength. Thus B₆⁴ is cobalt, the strongest permanent blue, which exhibits 60% of chromatic strength and reflects 40% of the incident light. Its opposite YR₅⁴ reflects the same percentage of light but only 50% of chroma. To balance this pair the areas must be inversely as the chroma, i. e., since

the yellow-red exhibits one sixth less strength than the blue, six parts of the yellow-red will balance five parts of blue. Attention to these measures leads to pleasing combinations.

Any chosen steps of blue and yellow-red upon this chart may be balanced by noting their symbols:- thus light yellow-red (YR\$) balances dark blue (B\$), when the areas are inversely as the product of the symbols viz:- twenty parts of light yellow-red ("orange") and forty-eight parts of dark blue.

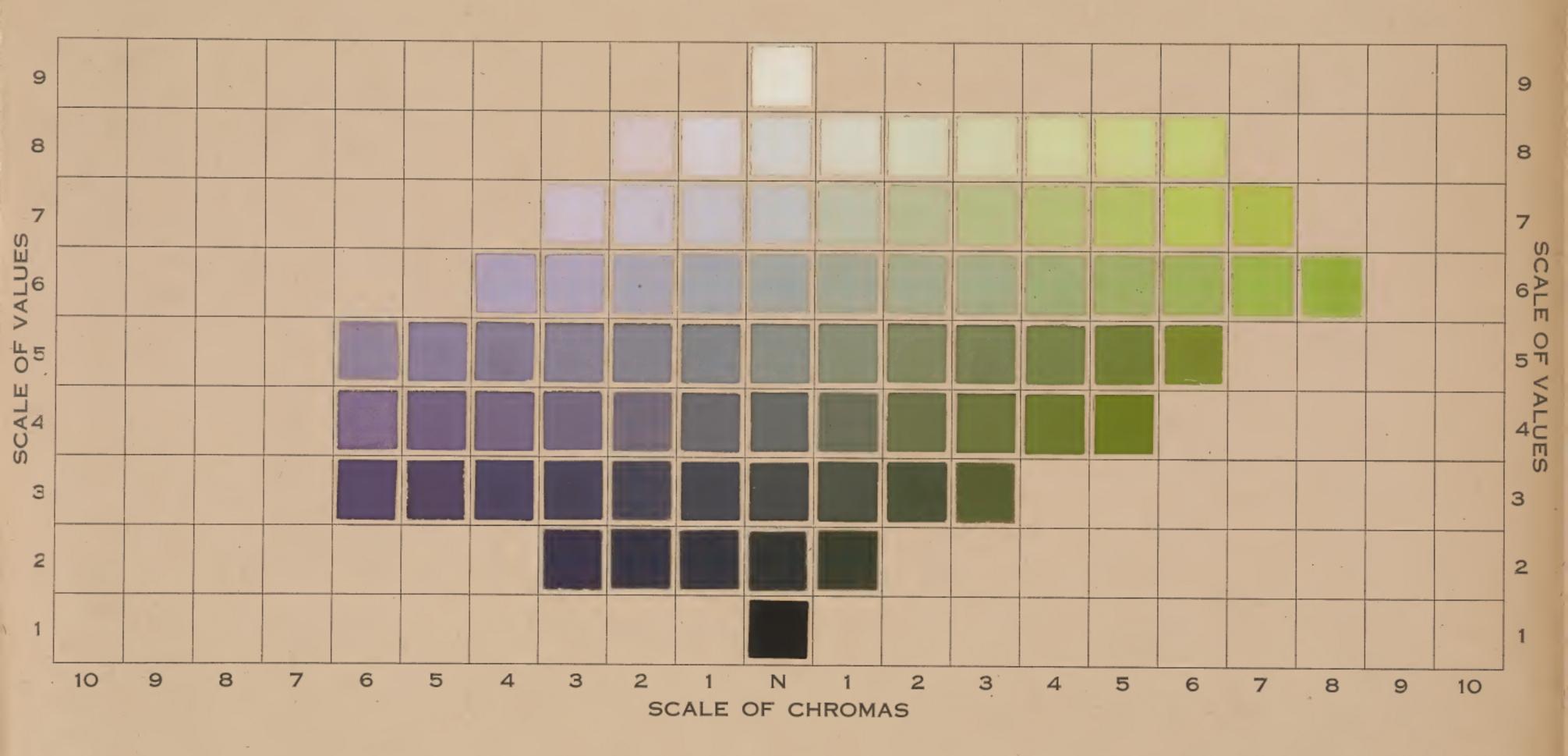
Chapters III and IV of the handbook, "A Color Notation," describe these balances and their combinations with other hues. The symbol on each color step is its NAME, a measure of its light and strength by which it is to be memorized, written and reproduced.



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CHART



PURPLE AND GREEN-YELLOW CHART.

This chart presents a vertical plane passed through the axis of the color solid and bears the complementary hues, purple and green-yellow. This pair of opposite hues is shown in regular measured scales from black to white and from grayness to the strongest color made in stable pigment.

VALUES of purple and green-yellow range vertically from black (0) to white (10). CHROMAS or strengths of color range horizontally from neutral gray to the maximum (10).

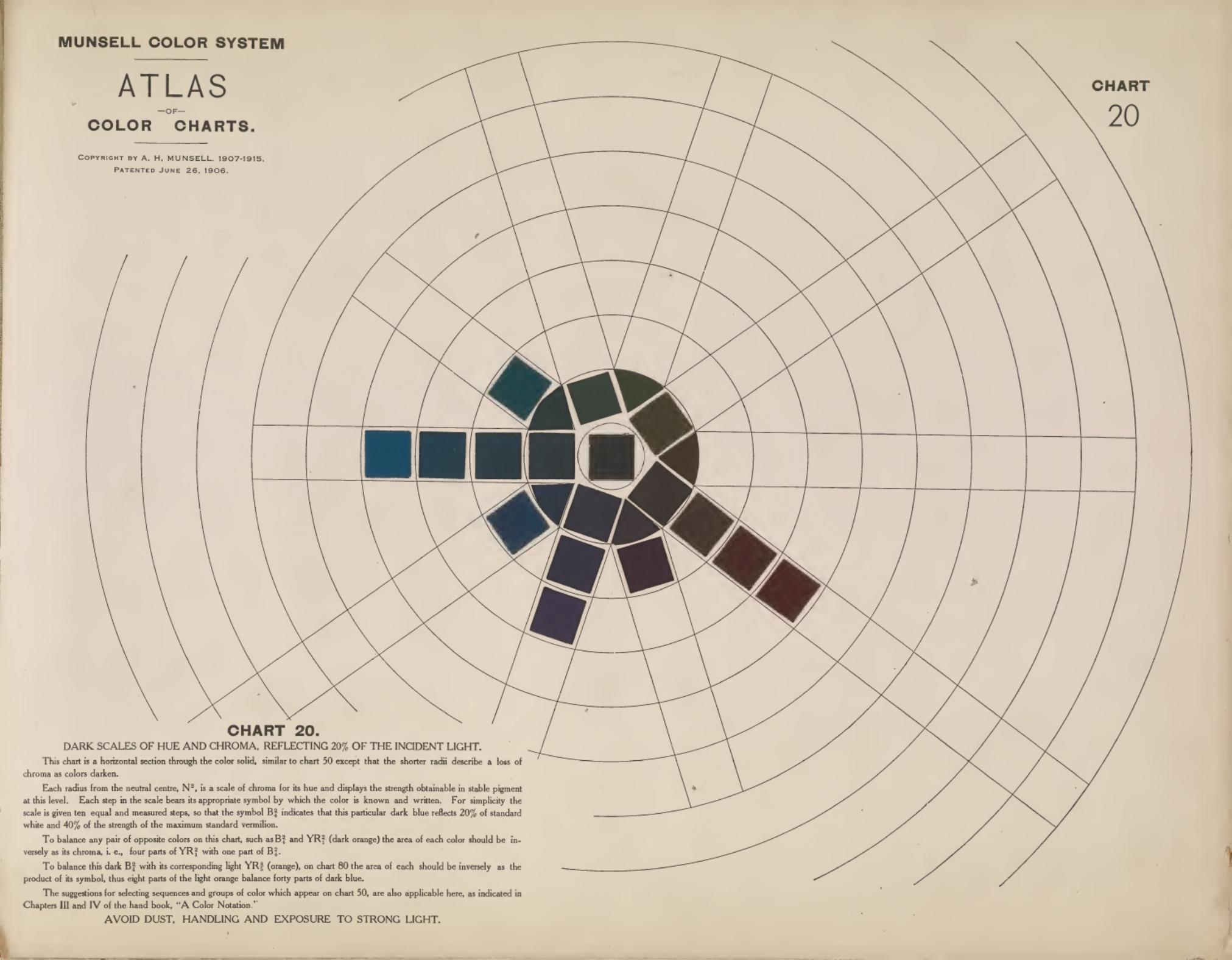
Each step in these color scales bears an appropriate symbol describing its light and its strength. Thus P% is a compound purple, the strongest permanent color, which exhibits 60% of chromatic strength and reflects the same amount of light as N 4/ of the value scale. Its opposite GY% reflects the same amount of light but only 50% of chroma. To balance

this pair the areas must be inversely as the chroma, i. e., since green-yellow is one-sixth less strong than the purple, six parts of green-yellow will balance five parts of the purple. Attention to these measures leads to pleasing combinations.

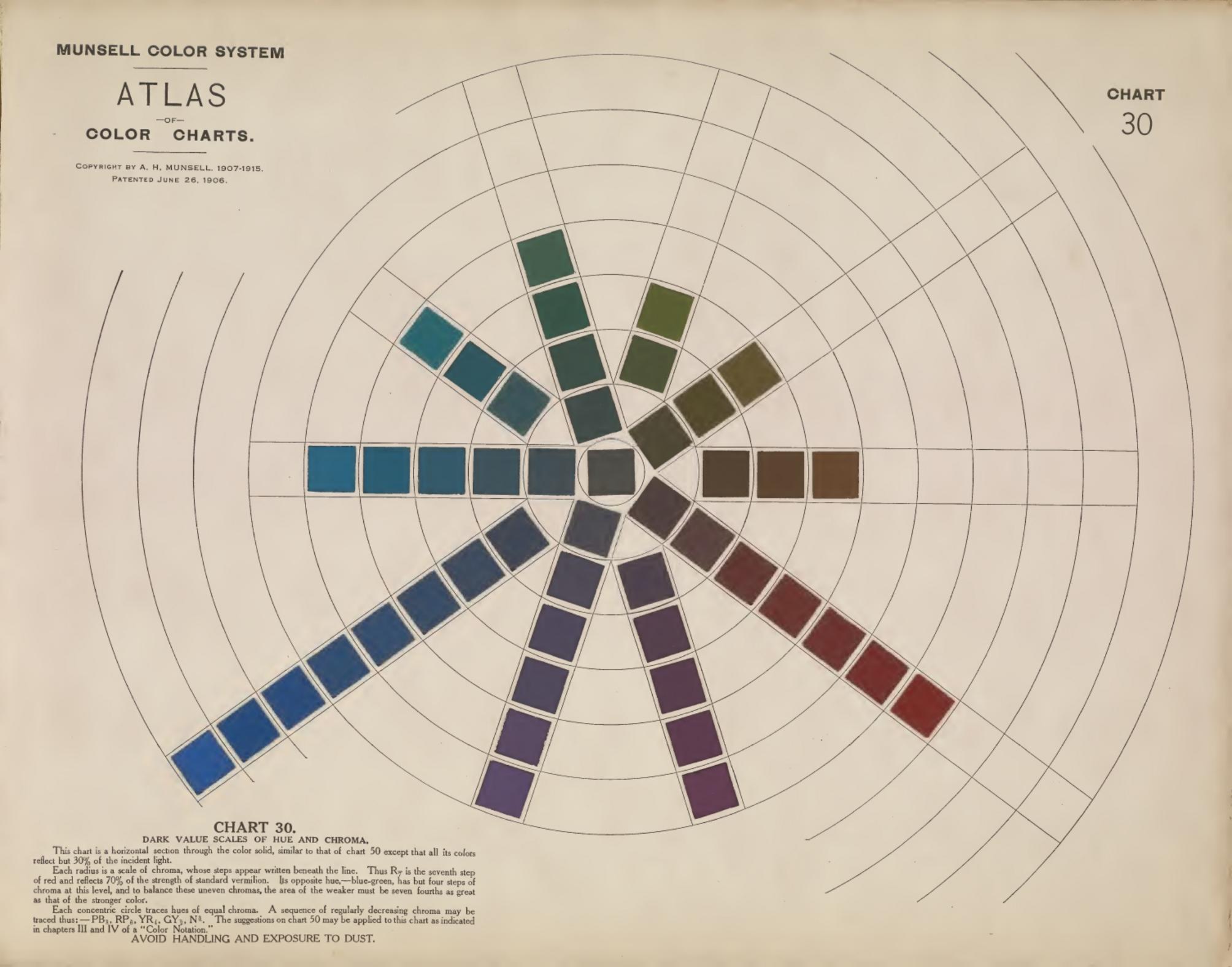
Any chosen steps of purple and green-yellow upon this chart may be balanced by noting their symbols, thus light green-yellow (GY%) balances dark purple (P%), when the areas are inversely as the product of the symbols, viz:-six parts of light green-yellow and forty-eight parts of dark purple.

Chapters III and IV of the handbook, "A Color Notation," describe these balances and their combinations with other hues. The symbol on each color step is its NAME, a measure of its light and strength by which it is to be memorized, written and reproduced.

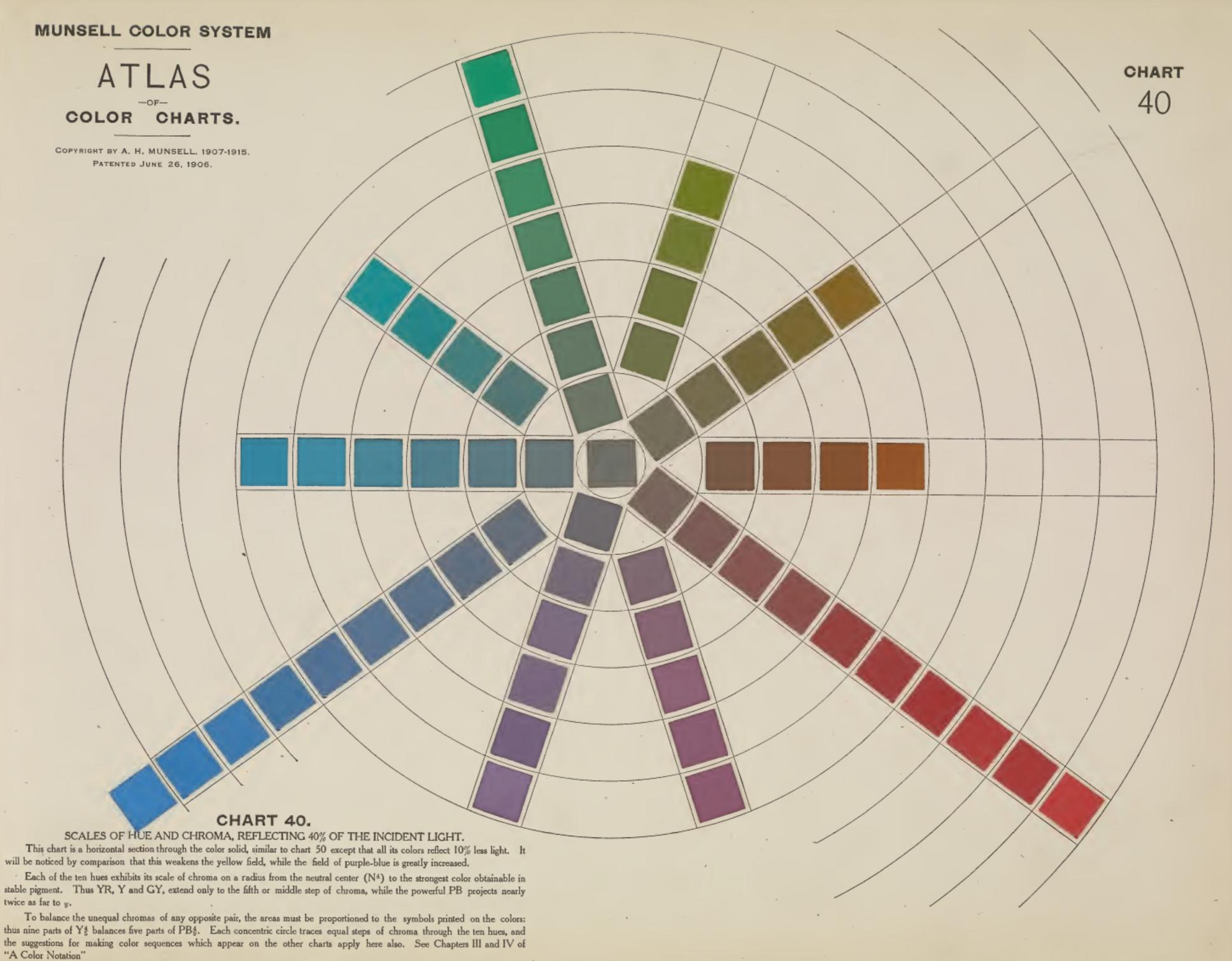






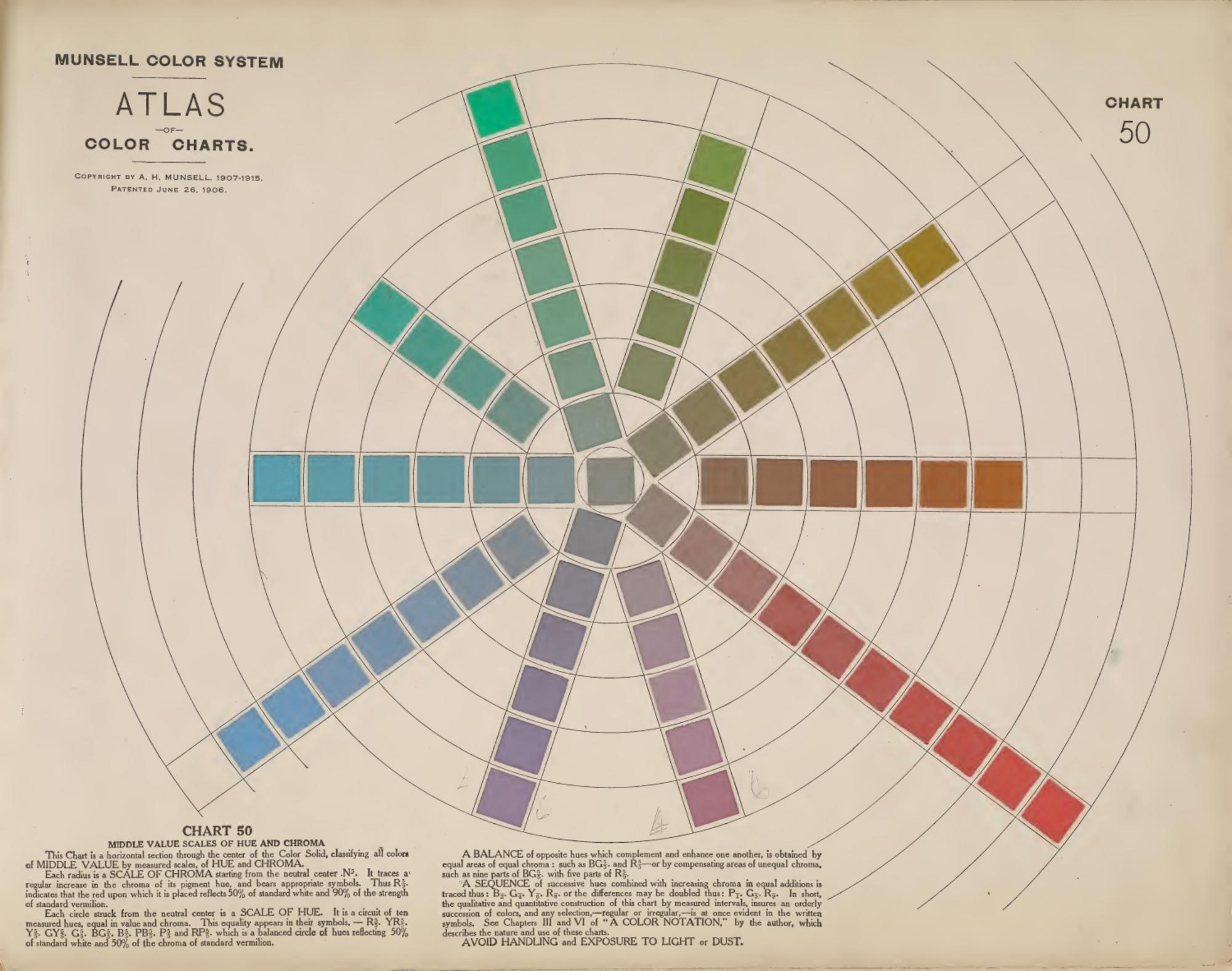




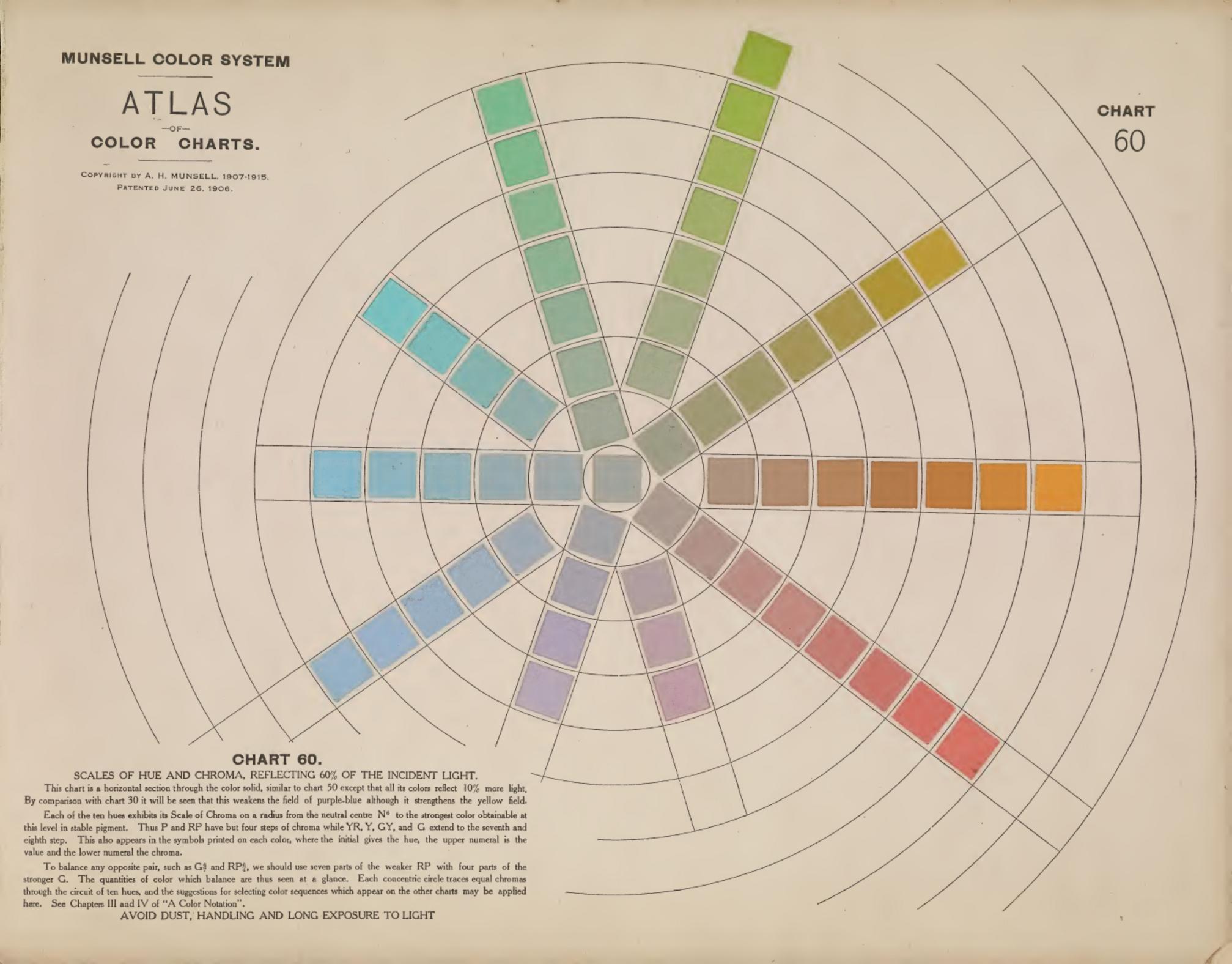


AVOID DUST, HANDLING AND LONG EXPOSURE TO THE LIGHT.

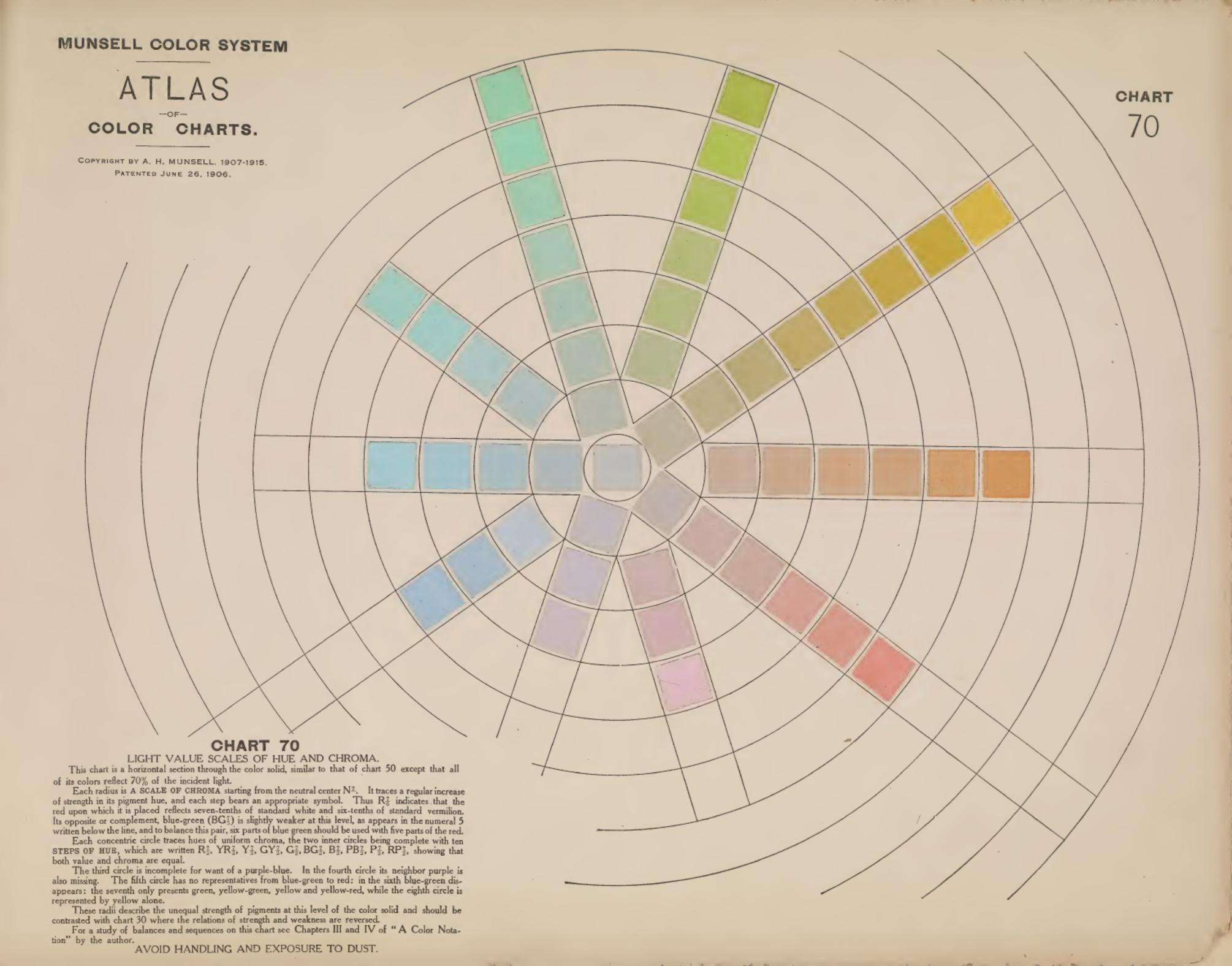




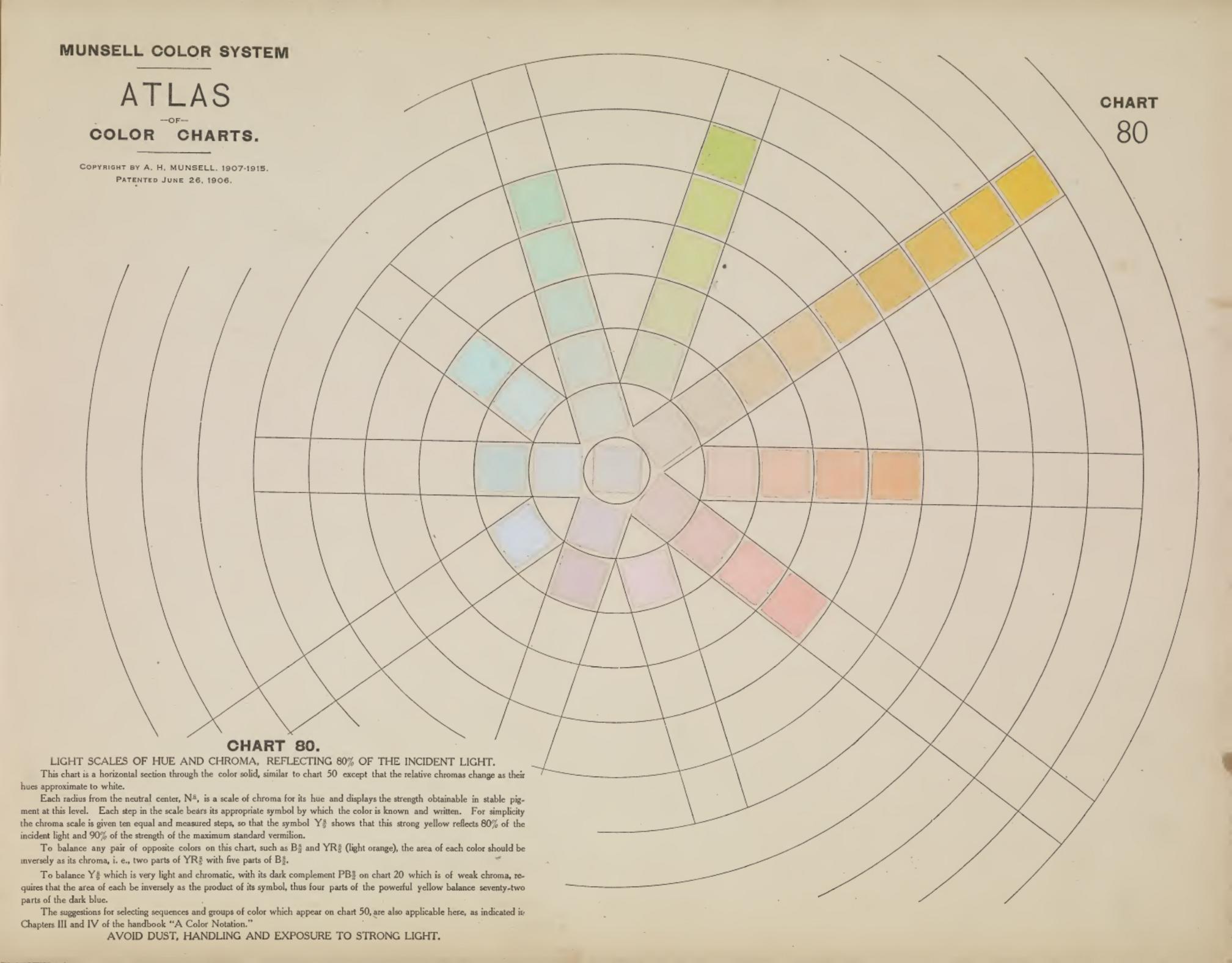


















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