

something in common, whereas the various *Richmonds* do not. So when we say

She's always here on (a) *Monday/in October/at Christmas*.

the items no longer have specific reference, and the sentence can be paralleled with

She always spends her *Mondays/Octobers/Christmases* here.

There are of course no analogies with names of persons, places and institutions:

**Richmonds* are always splendid for a vacation.

On the other hand, it is not only the fact that several places or people may bear the same name that permits determination, number contrast or modification. We have the informal convention that a married couple, Mr and Mrs Johnson, can be referred to as *the Johnsons* (a designation that could also embrace their whole household). Again, we can use a famous name to mean the type that made it famous; the sentence

There were *no Shakespeares* in the nineteenth century.

does not mean there were no people called 'Shakespeare' but no writers who towered over contemporaries as William Shakespeare did over his. Similarly:

Lu Xun is revered as *the Chinese Gorki*.
Every large city should have a *Hyde Park*.

Somewhat akin is partitive restrictive modification:

The young Joyce already showed signs of the genius that was to be fulfilled in *Ulysses*. ('Even while he was young, James Joyce...')
The Dublin of Joyce is still there for everyone to experience. ('The features of Dublin reflected in Joyce's writing are still there.')

But there is also nonrestrictive modification, on the one hand colloquial and stereotyped (as in *poor old Mrs Fletcher*), on the other formal and often stylized (as in *the fondly remembered John F. Kennedy, VISIT HISTORIC YORK*).

Names with the definite article

It is not difficult to see why *the* finds a place in phrases institutionalized as names. We can imagine a group of musicians deciding to set up a *school* where music will be taught: a *school of music*. They decide to enhance its attractiveness by locating it in a *central* position of the city, and they hope that it will not be merely a *central school of music* but the only school meriting this description: *the central school of music*. It is a short step from this to the further decision that this should be not just a description but the

name: *The Central School of Music*. So too a building in the form of a pentagon can come to be called *the Pentagon*, a canal built through the Panama Isthmus becomes *the Panama Canal*. When a president or a prime minister is elected or an earl created, the result is *the President (of France)*, *the Prime Minister (of India)*, *the Earl (of Gwynedd)*.

NOTE

Even where *the* is always present in continuous text (spoken or written), it has variable status as part of the name: *The Hague* at one extreme (and always with initial capital) to *the University of London* at the other (where *the* is never capitalized and is absent from the university's letter-head). Cf also (the) *Asian Wall Street Journal*. Where a name embodies premodification as distinct from postmodification (17.2), as in (*The*) *Lord Williams*, *the* is largely confined to formal and official style.

5.29

It may be convenient to group names with *the* in classes:

- (a) Some titular names of persons and deities:

The Marquis of Salisbury, *the King of Sweden*, *the President of General Motors*, *the Reverend John Fox*, *the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster*, *the Queen*, (*the*) *Prince Edward*, (*the*) *Archduke Ferdinand*, *the God of Israel*, *the Lord of Hosts*, *the Buddha*.

- (b) Geographical names of plural form, notably:

- (i) groups of islands, as in *the Hebrides*, *the Bahamas*;
(ii) mountain ranges, as in *the Himalayas*, *the Pyrenees*.

Note also *the Netherlands*, *the Midlands*, *the Dardanelles*.

- (c) Names of rivers, canals, expanses of water, areas of territory:

the (River) Thames, *the Rhine*, *the Potomac (River)*; *the Suez Canal*, *the Erie Canal*; *the Atlantic (Ocean)*, *the Baltic (Sea)*, *the Bosphorus*; *the Crimea*, *the Ruhr*, *the Sahara (Desert)*.

Note the absence of *the* in lake names:

Lake Huron, *Derwentwater*.

- (d) Geographical names of the form *the N₁ of N₂*, as in *the Isle of Man*, *the Gulf of Mexico*, *the Cape of Good Hope*, *the Bay of Naples*. (Contrast: *Long Island*, *Hudson Bay*.)

- (e) Names of theatres, galleries and major buildings, etc, as in *the Aldwych (Theatre)*, *the Huntington (Library)*, *the Ashmolean (Museum)*, *the Middlesex (Hospital)*, *the Taj Mahal*, *the Tate (Gallery)*, *the Hilton (Hotel)*.

- (f) Names of ships and (less commonly) aircraft, as in *the Queen Mary*, *the Mayflower*, *the Spirit of St Louis*.

- (g) Names of journals, as in *The Economist*, *The Times*, *The New York Review of Books*. (Contrast: *Punch*, *Time*, *New Scientist*.) If in discourse the title requires premodification, the article is discarded, as in 'Malcolm lent me today's *Times*/a recent *New York Review of Books*'.