

# AN ALPHABET OF CELEBRITIES

BY OLIVER HERFORD

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Oliver Herford





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THE HEINTZEMANN PRESS  
BOSTON U.S.A.



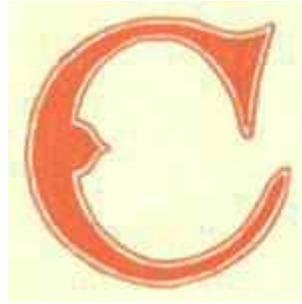
Albert Edward, well meaning but flighty,  
Who invited King Arthur, the blameless and mighty,  
To meet Alcibiades and Aphrodite.





is for Bernhardt, who fails to awaken  
Much feeling in Bismarck, Barabbas, and Bacon.



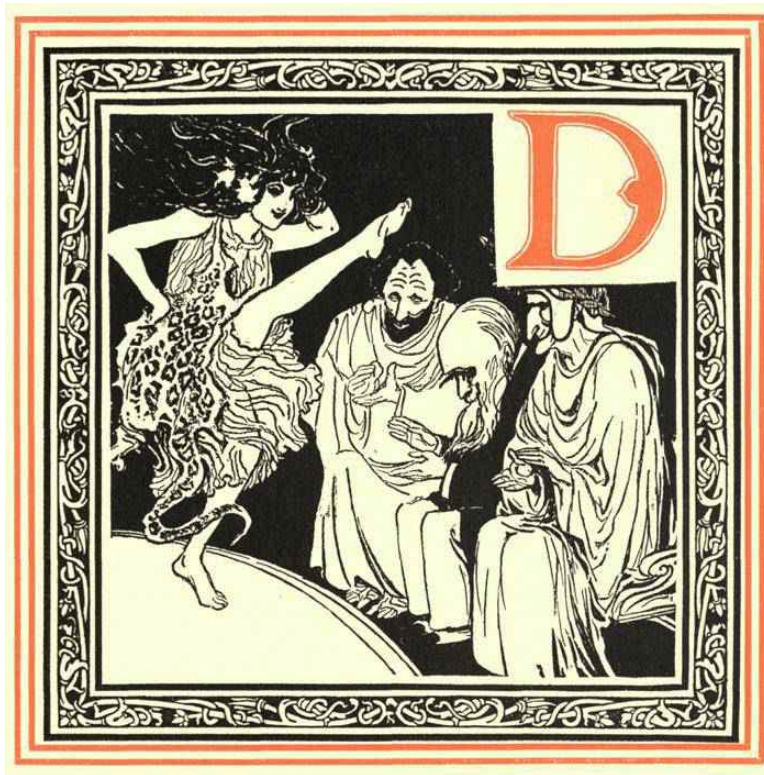


is Columbus, who tries to explain  
How to balance an egg—to the utter disdain  
Of Confucius, Carlyle, Cleopatra, and Cain.





for Diogenes, Darwin, and Dante,  
Who delight in the dance Of a Darling Bacchante.





is for Edison, making believe  
He's invented a clever contrivance for Eve,  
Who complained that she never could laugh in her sleeve.





is for Franklin, who fearfully shocks  
The feelings of Fenelon, Faber, and Fox.





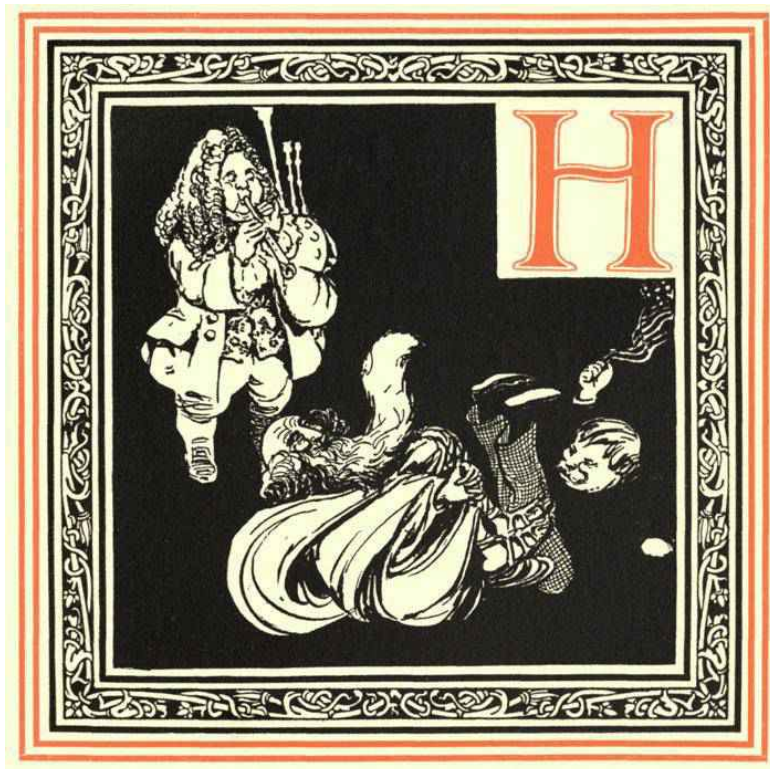
is Godiva, whose great bareback feat  
Though Gounod and Goldsmith implore and entreat.

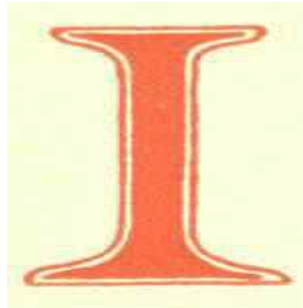


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is for Handel, who pours out his soul  
Through the bagpipes to Howells and Homer, who roll  
On the floor in an ecstasy past all control.





is for Ibsen, reciting a play  
While Irving and Ingersoll hasten away.





is for Johnson, who only says "Pish!"  
To Jonah, who tells him his tale of a fish.



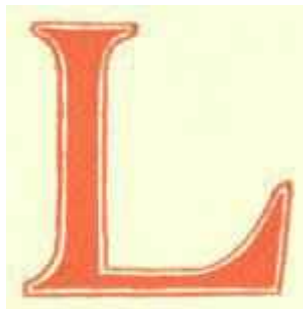
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is the Kaiser, who kindly repeats  
Some original verses to Kipling and Keats.



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is Lafontaine, who finds he's unable  
To interest Luther and Liszt in his fable,  
While Loie continues to dance on the table.





is Macduff, who's prevailed upon Milton  
And Montaigne and Manon to each try a kilt on.



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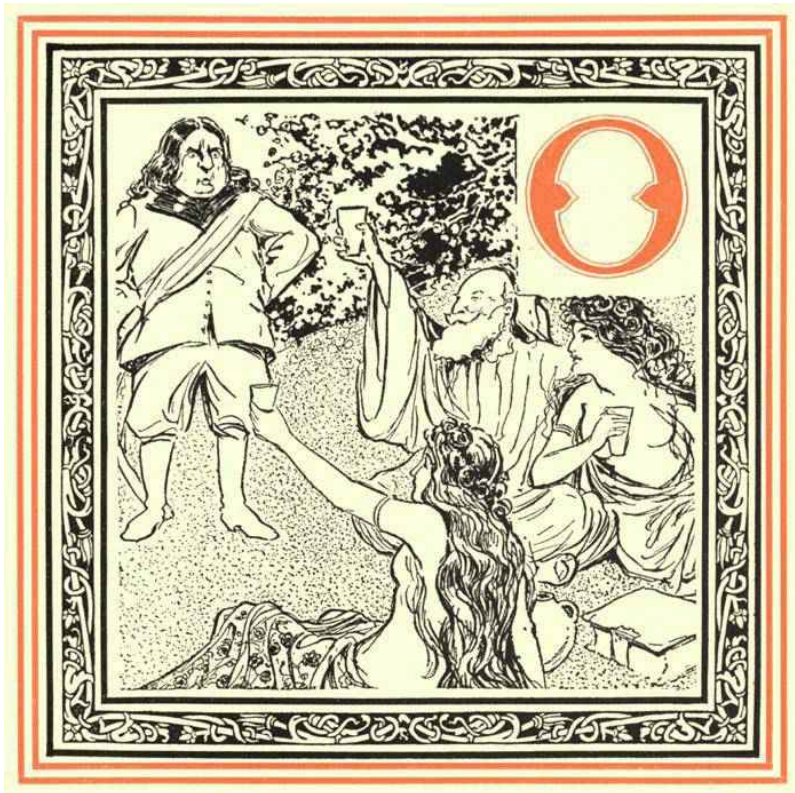


is Napoleon, shrouded in gloom,  
With Nero, Narcissus, and Nordau, to whom  
He's explaining the manual of arms with a broom.





is for Oliver, casting aspersion  
On Omar, that awfully dissolute Persian,  
Though secretly longing to join the diversion.



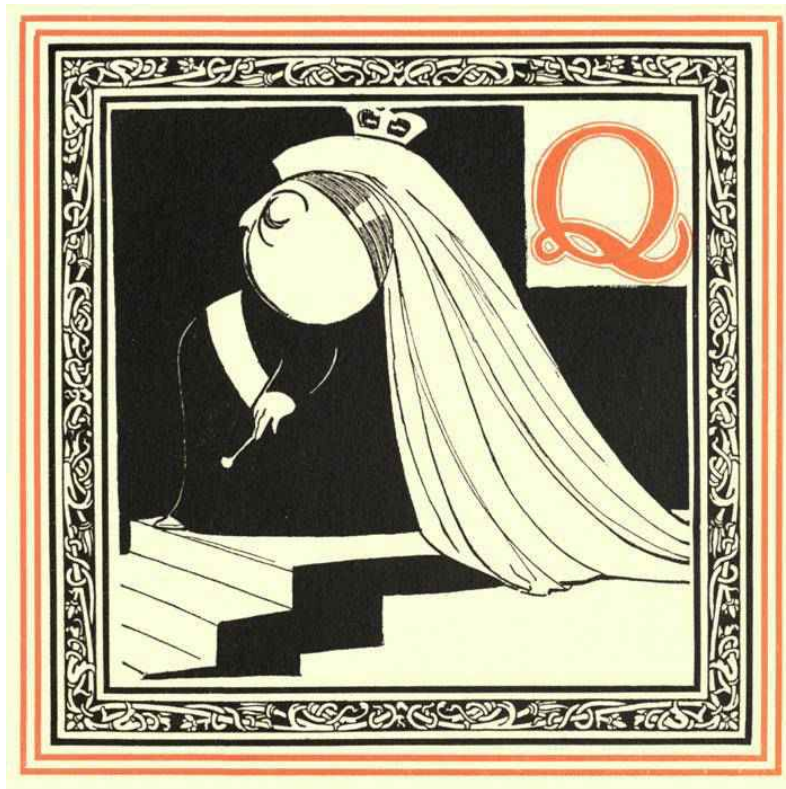


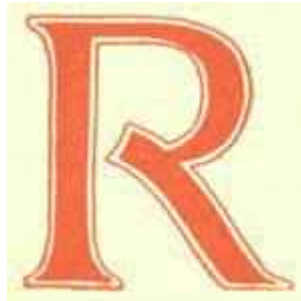
is for Peter, who hollers "No! No!"  
Through the keyhole to Paine, Paderewski, and Poe.



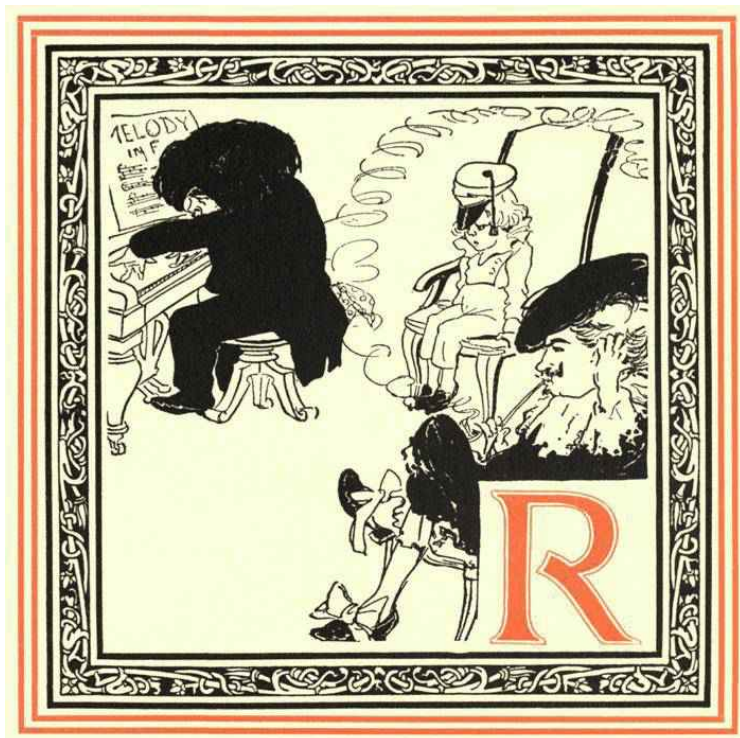


is the Queen, so noble and free—  
*For further particulars look under V.*





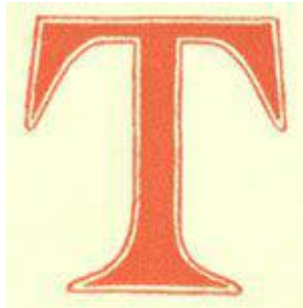
Rubenstein, playing that old thing in F  
To Rollo and Rembrandt, who wish they were deaf.





is for Swinburne, who, seeking the true,  
the good, and the beautiful, visits the Zoo,  
Where he chances on Sappho and Mr. Sardou,  
And Socrates, all with the same end in view.



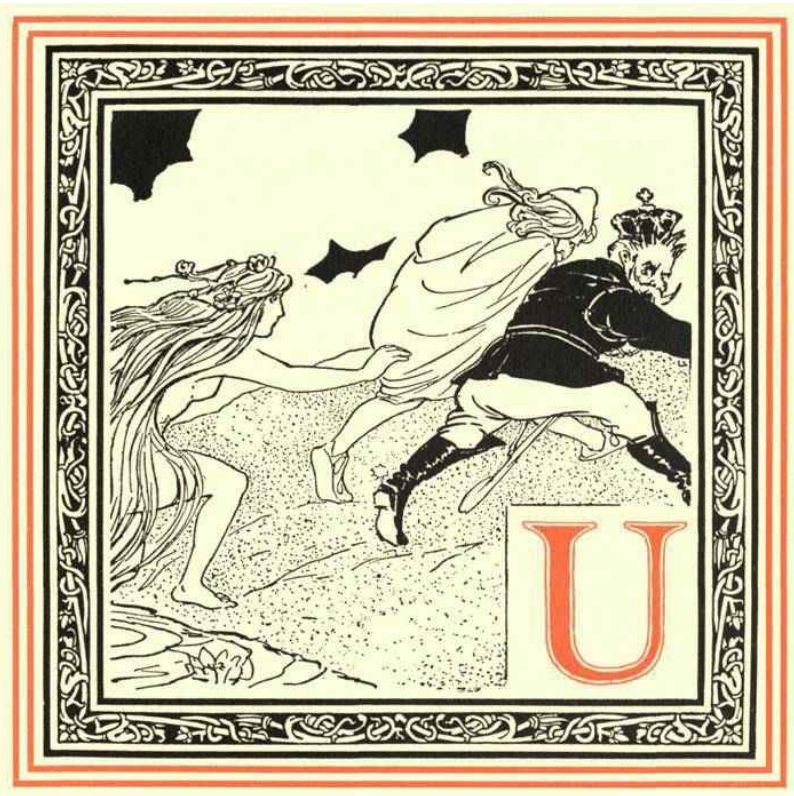


is for Talleyrand toasting Miss Truth,  
By the side of her well, in a glass of vermouth,  
And presenting Mark Twain as the friend of his youth.



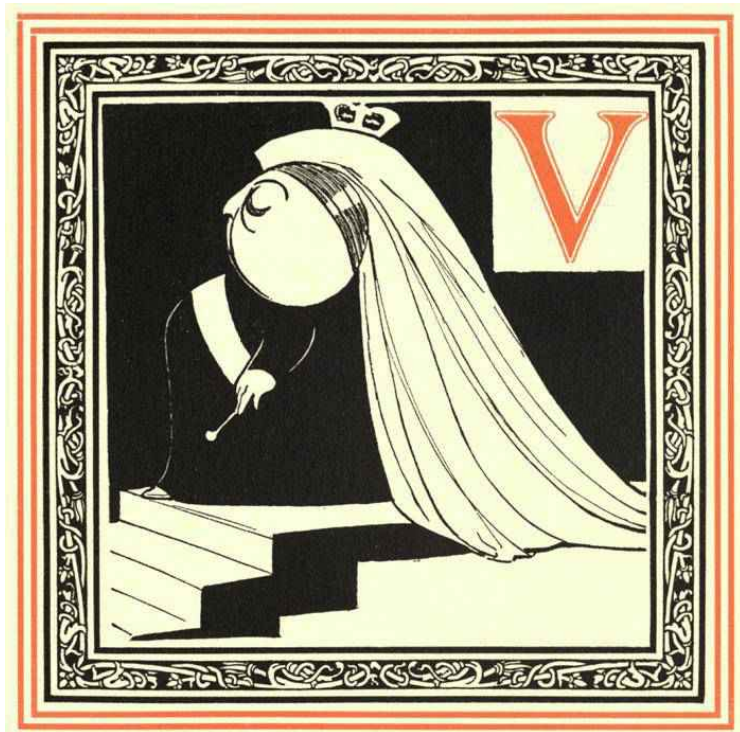


is for Undine, pursuing Ulysses  
And Umberto, who flee her damp, death-dealing kisses.



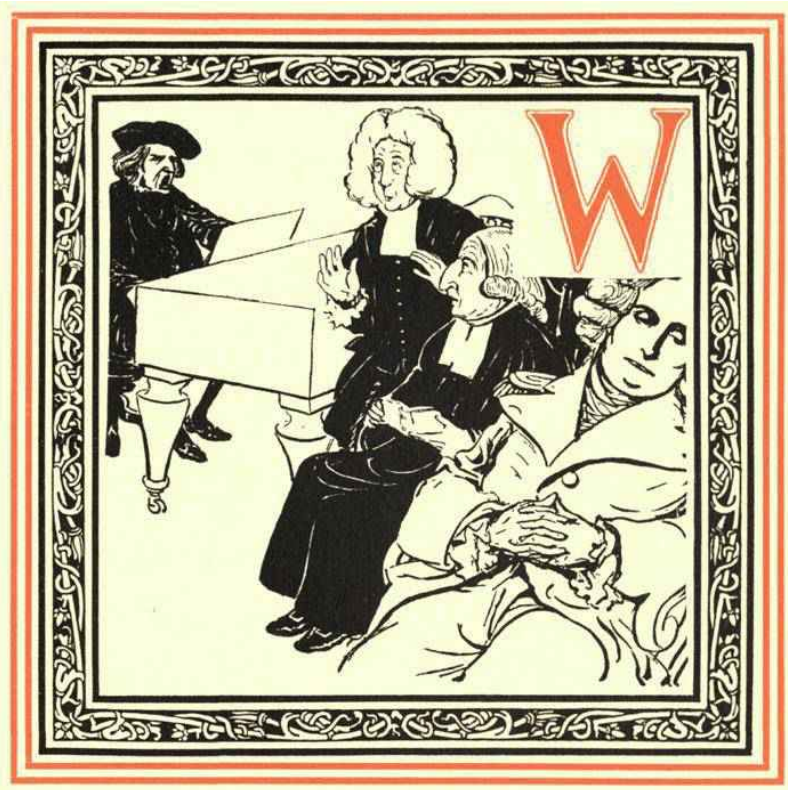


is Victoria, noble and true—  
*For further particulars look under Q.*





Wagner, who sang and played lots for  
Washington, Wesley, and good Doctor Watts.  
His prurient plots pained Wesley and Watts,  
But Washington said he "enjoyed them in spots."



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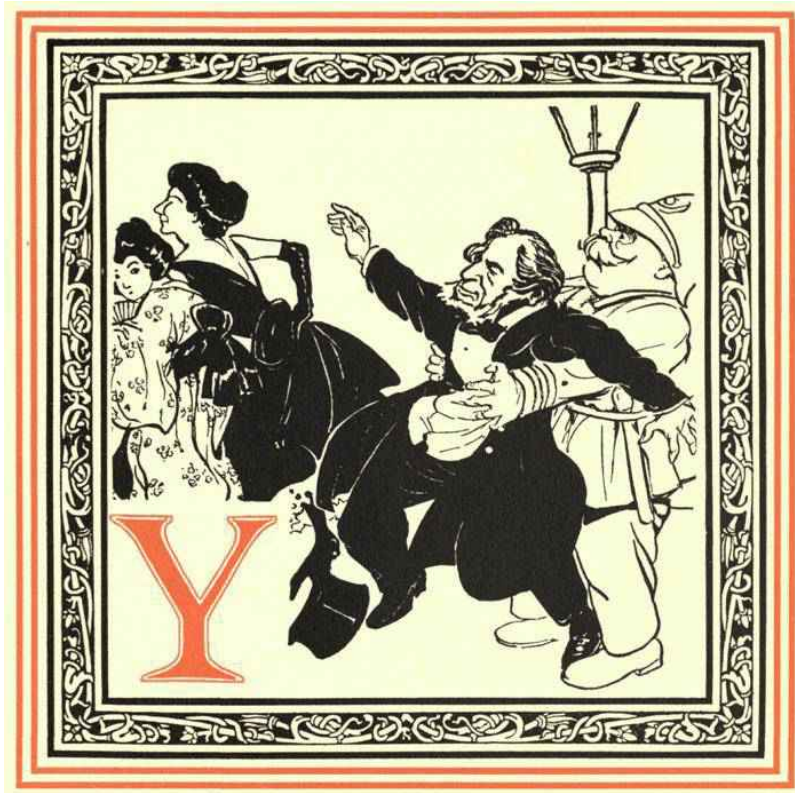


is Xantippe, who's having her say,  
His prurient plots pained Wesley and Watts,  
And frightening the army of Xerxes away.





is for Young, the great Mormon saint,  
Who thinks little Yum Yum and Yvette so quaint,  
He has to be instantly held in restraint.





is for Zola, presenting *La Terre*  
To Zenobia the brave and Zuleika the fair,  
Whose blushes they artfully conceal with their hair.



This Alphabet of Celebrities written & pictured by Oliver Herford with a border & initial letters by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and end papers & cover design by E. B. Bird is printed for Small Maynard & Company at the Heintzemann Press in Boston U. S. A. in the month of November MDCCCXCIX