

# A Christmas Alphabet





# THE ARTISTS

COVER Anonymous postcard, circa 1907

FRONTISPIECE E.B. Holmes, *Toyland*, 1907

A Sarah Stilwell Weber, magazine cover, 1917

B H. Willebeek Le Mair (1889–1966), Christmas card design, 1926

C Jessie Willcox Smith (1863–1935), “Good Housekeeping” cover, 1920s

D Lizzie Mack, *A Christmas Fairy*, circa 1890

E Anonymous postcard, circa 1900

F Maj Lindman-Janson, *Barnens Julrosor*, 1914

G Ellen Clapsaddle, postcard, circa 1910

H Anonymous, Nister postcard, 1890

I Percy Tarrant, *Happy Hours Picture Book*, 1930

J Charles Robinson (1870–1937), *The Happy Prince and other Stories*, 1913

K Paul Rieth, *Jugendland*, 1901

L Anonymous, *The Night Before Christmas*, circa 1880

M Jessie Willcox Smith (1863–1935), *The Everyday Fairy Book*, 1915

N Anonymous, “The Graphic Christmas Number,” 1881

O Anonymous, magazine cover, 1917

P Anne Anderson, *The Podgy Puppy Book*, 1927

Q Arthur Rackham (1867–1939), *A Christmas Carol*, 1915

R E. Boyd Smith (1860–1943), *Santa Claus and all About Him*, 1908

S Anonymous, postcard, circa 1910

T Oliver Herford (1863–1935), magazine illustration, 1925

U Philip Vinton Clayton, magazine illustration, 1919

V Anonymous postcard, circa 1907

W Ellen Clapsaddle, postcard, circa 1908

X Viggo Johansen, painting, 1891

Y Harriet Bennett, book illustration, circa 1885

Z Anonymous postcard, circa 1909

BORDER Philip Vinton Clayton, magazine illustration, 1919

TAILPIECE John Winsch, postcard, 1913

Philip  
Vinton  
Clayton

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR


CAROLYN WELLS (1862–1942) was one of America's best known humorists for the first two decades of the twentieth century. A writer of many literary gifts, she was skillful at one of the most difficult challenges—nonsense. She also wrote delightful light verse such as “A Christmas Alphabet” (which was first published in *The Merry-Go-Round*, 1901). She made America laugh with her many parodies of famous authors, she collected all kinds of humorous poetry, and published *A Nonsense Anthology* (1902), *A Whimsey Anthology* (1906), and *The Book of Humorous Verse* (1920), all of which became very popular. From 1910 onwards she penned mystery and detective novels. She also wrote stories for children, books of games and puzzles, a musical comedy, and a variety of essays. A prolific writer, Carolyn Wells had a great gift for words, and in an autobiographical work, *The Rest of My Life* (1937), she claimed to have written 170 books, including seventy detective stories—“so far.”

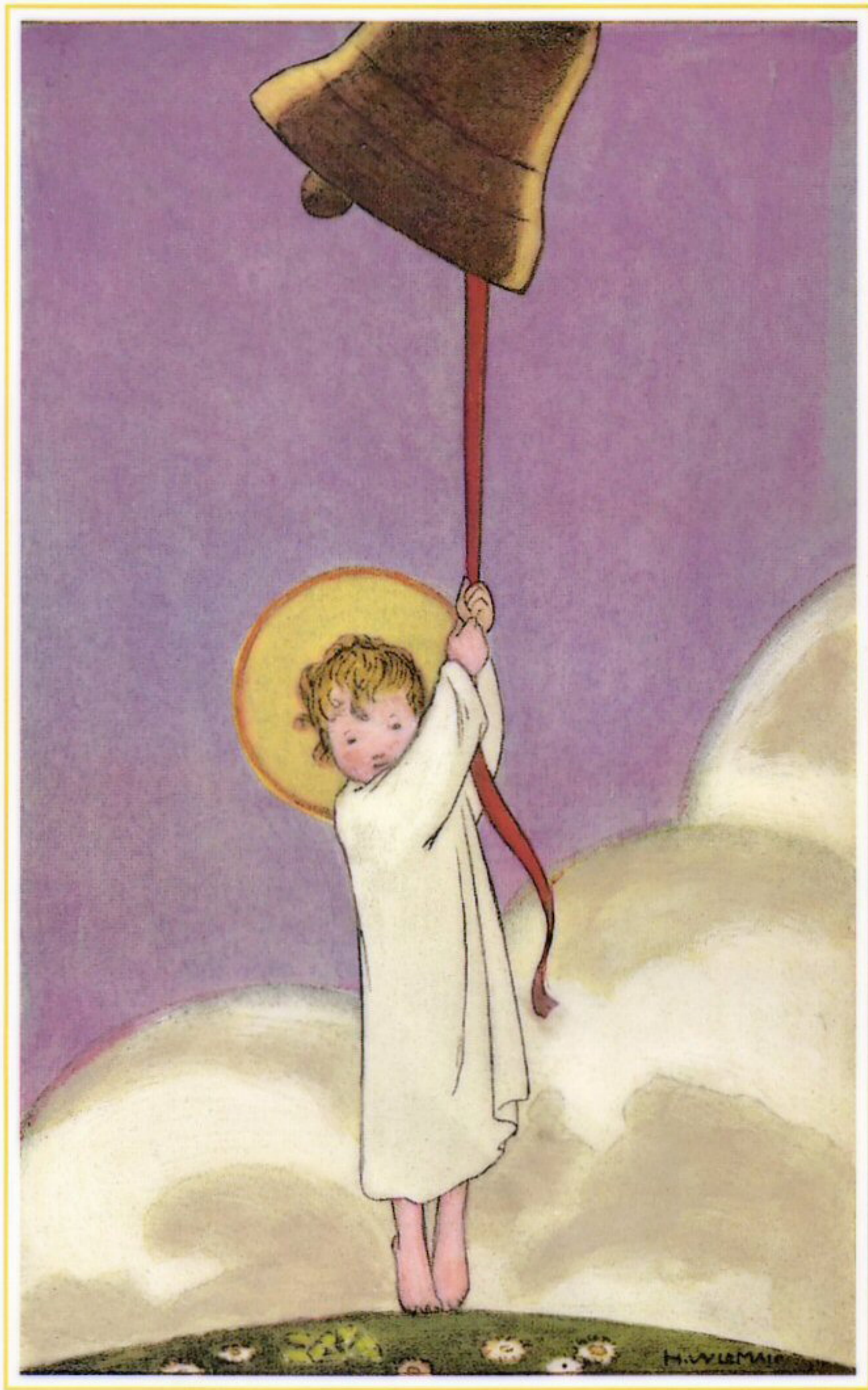







A

is for Angel who graces the tree. 



B


is for Bells that chime out in glee. 



C

is for Candle to light Christmas Eve. 🌿




**D** is for Dreams which we truly believe. 






E


is for Evergreens cut for the room. 



**F**


is for Flowers of exquisite perfume. 



**G** is for Gifts that bring us delight. 




H


is for Holly with red berries bright. 



I


is for Ice, so shining and clear. 

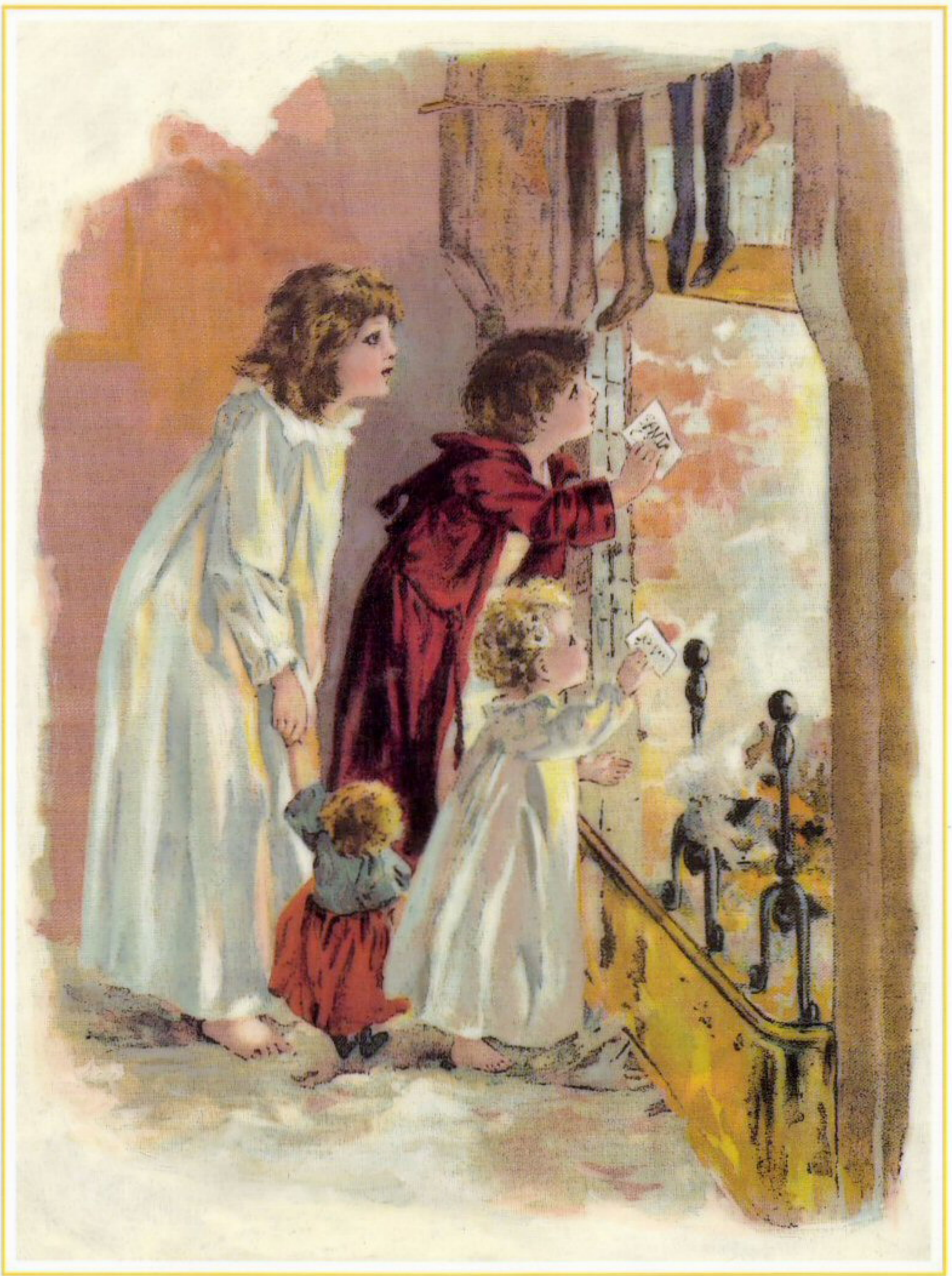


**J**is the Jingle of bells far and near. 



K

is Kriss Kringle with fur cap and coat. 



L

is for Letters the children all wrote. 






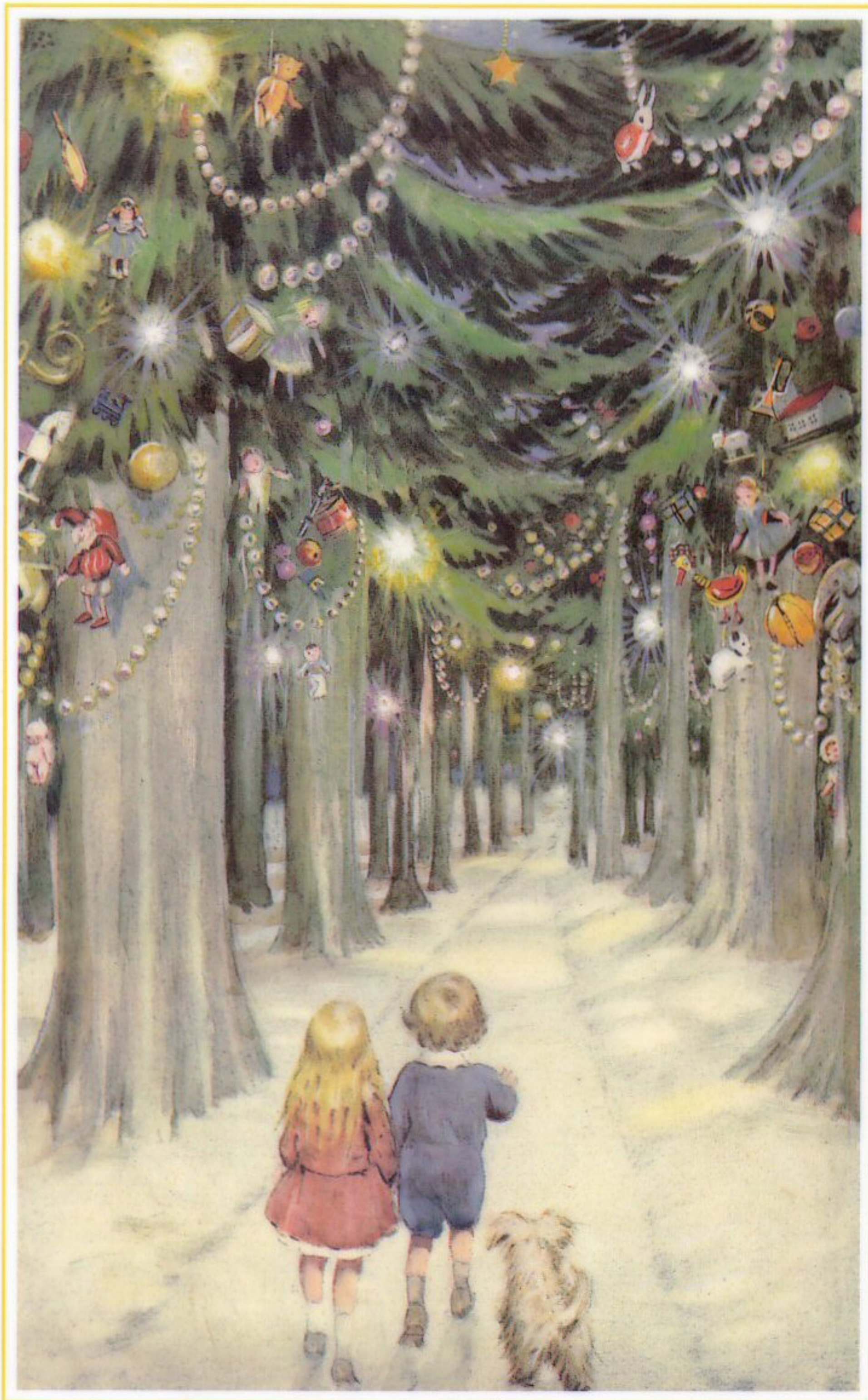
M

is for Mother, who's trimming the bough. 🌿



N


is for Night, see the stars sparkling now. 



O

is for Ornaments, dazzling with light. ❄️



**P** for Plum Pudding that tasted just right. 




Q

the Quadrille, in which each one must dance. 🌿




R


is for Reindeer that gallop and prance. 



S


is for Snow that falls silently down. 



**T**is for Turkey, so tender and brown. 






U is for Uproar that goes on all day. 




V

is for Voices that carol a lay. 




W

is for Wreaths hung up on the wall. 




X

is for Xmas, with pleasures for all. 



Y

is for Yule log that burns clear and bright. 



Z

is for Zest shown from morning till night. 