

Audiobook Supplementary Material

# ALPHABETICAL

*How Every Letter Tells a Story*

Michael Rosen

JOHN MURRAY





## IS FOR ALPHABET

### Phoenician Alphabet

A, 'aleph', 'ox';  
*sound*: a stop in the  
breath

B, 'bayt', 'house';  
*sound*: 'b'

C, 'gimel', 'stick';  
*sound*: 'g'

D, 'dalet', 'door';  
*sound*: 'd'

E, 'he', a 'shout';  
*sound*: 'h'

F, U and Y,  
waw, 'peg';  
*sound*: 'w'

G and Z, 'zayin',  
'axe';  
*sound*: 'z'

H, 'khet', 'fence';  
*sound*: 'ch' as in  
Scots 'loch'

For which there is no  
equivalent,  
'tet', 'wheel';  
*sound*: 'heavy' 't'

# ALPHABETICAL

ז

I, 'yod', 'arm' and  
'hand'; *sound*: 'y' as  
in 'you'

כ

K, 'kaph', 'palm of  
the hand';  
*sound*: 'k'

ל

L, 'lamed', 'the goad  
you prod an ox  
with'; *sound*: 'l'

מ

M, 'mem', 'water';  
*sound*: 'm'

נ

N, 'nun', 'water-  
based snake or fish';  
*sound*: 'n'

ש

For which there is no  
equivalent, 'samek',  
'pillar';  
*sound*: 's'

ו

O, 'ayin', 'eye';  
*sound*: a guttural  
sound at the back of  
the throat

פ

P, 'pe', 'mouth'  
*sound*: 'p'

צ

For which there is no  
equivalent,  
'tsade', 'papyrus'  
plant; *sound*: 'ts'

ק

Q, 'qoph', 'monkey'  
or 'ball of wool';  
*sound*: 'q'

ר

R, 'resh', 'head';  
*sound*: 'r'

ש

S, 'shin', 'tooth';  
*sound*: 'sh'

ת

T, 'taw', 'mark';  
*sound*: 't'



## IS FOR CIPHERS

### Encrypted Message

FDJKM LDAHH YEOEF PTWYB LENDP  
MKOXL DFAMU DWIJD XRJZY DFRIO  
MFTEV KTGUY DDZED TPOQX FDRIU  
CCBFM MQWYE FIPUL WSXHG YHJZE



## Q IS FOR DISAPPEARED LETTERS

### Disappeared Letters

#### 1. THORN

þ þ

#### 2. WYNN

ƿ ƿ

#### 3. YOGH

ȝ ȝ

ALPHABETICAL

4. ASH

Æ æ Æ æ

5. ETH

Ð ð Ð ð

6. INSULAR G

Ƨ Ƨ

7. ETHEL

Œ œ



## IS FOR GREEK

### Greek Alphabet

**Αα** Alpha

**Ββ** Beta

**Γγ** Gamma

**Δδ** Delta

**Εε** Epsilon

**Ζζ** Zeta

**Ηη** Eta

**Θθ** Theta

**Ιι** Iota

**Κκ** Kappa

**Λλ** Lambda

**Μμ** Mu

**Νν** Nu

**Ξξ** Xi

**Οο** Omicron

**Ππ** Pi

**Ρρ** Rho

**Σσς** Sigma

**Ττ** Tau

**Υυ** Upsilon

**Φφ** Phi

**Χχ** Chi

**Ψψ** Psi

**Ωω** Omega



## ALPHABETICAL

Line from Goldstone's Boson

$$L = -\frac{1}{2} (\delta^\mu \varnothing^*) \delta_\mu \varnothing + m^2 \varnothing^* \varnothing = -\frac{1}{2} (-i v e^{-i\theta} \delta^\mu \Theta) (i v e^{i\theta} \delta_\mu \Theta) + m^2 v^2$$



## IS FOR H-ASPIRATION

### Symbols for the Letter 'H'

Egyptian hieroglyph fence	
Old Semitic h	
Phoenician heth	
Greek heta	
Etruscan H	
Latin H	



## IS FOR JOKES

### Jokes

UR  
2 GOOD  
2 ME  
2 BE  
4 GOT  

---

10

F.U.N.E.X.? ('Have you any eggs?')  
S.I.F.X. ('Yes, I have eggs.')  
F.U.N.E.M.? ('Have you any ham?')  
S.I.F.M. ('Yes, I have ham.')  
I.L.F.M.N.X. ('I'll have ham and eggs.')

ALPHABETICAL

Which US state is this? EEEEEEEEEEEC. ('Tennessee'.)

LOV

is 'endless love'.

N N N N N N N

A A A A A A A

C C C C C C C

is '7-up cans'.

R. P. I.

would be a grave error.

UAMAAME

'You amaze me.'

NOPPPLEE

No peas please.

BAYBGGUS

Baby Jesus.

UFOFOL

'You effin' fool' (or "'f" is in the word "fool").

I met Tiger Woods once and said,

'In your line of work,

UUUAT, don't you?'

And he said, 'Yes.'

('You use a tee.')



IS FOR LSD

### The Greek Word for Fish

The Greek word for 'fish' is 'ἰχθύς' ('ichthys') or 'ΙΧΘΥΣ'.

I ('I', 'Iota'): ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ('Iêsoûs') is 'Jesus'.

X ('KH', 'Khi'): ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ('Khristòs') is 'Christ'.

Θ ('TH', 'Theta'): ΘΕΟΥ ('Theoû') is 'God'.

Υ ('U', 'Upsilon'): ΥΙΟΣ ('Huiòs') is 'Son'.

Σ ('S', 'Sigma'): ΣΩΤΗΡ ('Sôtêr') is 'Saver'.



IS FOR PITMAN

### Pitman Inscription

IN LUVING MEMORI OV JACOB PITMAN, BORN 28 NOV. 1810 AT  
TROWBRIDGE. ENGLAND, SETELD IN ADELAIDE, 1838, DEID 12th  
MARCH 1890

ARKITEKT INTRODUIST FONETIK SHORT HAND AND WOZ THE FERST  
MINISTER IN THEEZ KOLONIZ OV THE DOCTRINZ OV THE SEKOND OR  
NIU KRISTIAN CHURCH WHICH AKNOLEJEZ THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
IN HIZ DIVEIN HIUMANITI AZ THE KREATER OV THE YUNIVERS THE  
REDEEMER AND REJNERATER OV MEN GOD OVER AUL. BLESED FOR  
EVER.

ALPHABETICAL

Pitman Reformed Spelling Alphabet

I E A Θ □ U W, I C Λ  
O U W, Λ Θ 8 W, W Y H,  
P B T D € J C G, F V  
Θ Δ S Z Σ 3, L R M N J



IS FOR QWERTY

### Early Keyboard

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 - ,  
 Q W E . T Y I U O P  
 Z S D F G H J K L M  
 A X & C V B N ? ; R

### Remington Keyboard

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 - ' \_  
 Q W E R T Y U I O P :  
 A ; S D F G H J K L M  
 & Z C X V B N ? ; . !



## THE STORY OF S

### Azerty Keyboard

A Z E R T Y U I O P  
Q S D F G H J K L M  
W X C V B N

### Qwerty Keyboard

Q W E R T Y U I O P  
A S D F G H J K L  
Z X C V B N M



IS FOR TXTSPK

### Telegram to Leonard Bernstein

NB460 PD=TDBB LOS ANGELES CALIF 26 1155AMP  
1957 SEP 26 PM 4 33  
:LEONARD BERNSTEIN  
=WINTERGARDEN THEATRE=  
IT WAS WORTH ALL THE DEXAMYL ITS A SMASH  
YOUR A SMASH AND IM THRILLED FOR YOU  
BLESSINGS AND LOVE=  
:BETTY..