

Private Circulation

The Bulletin for Proposals

THE NAMES

When I was a kid I listened to hours of comedy records. I still listen to them, usually as background accompaniment while working in the studio. Some of my favorite recordings are by the early radio performers Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding. Between 1946 and 1987, “Bob and Ray” gently satirized the medium of radio with hundreds of recurring and one-shot characters. These radio skits are the very definition of “deadpan.” It occurs to me that their dry wit and poker-faced delivery has influenced my own sensibility as an artist.

Bob and Ray recordings used to be difficult to come by. Over the years there have been a few multivolume “best of” compilations produced; occasionally I’d find them in the audio books section of the public library. Yet despite the fact that Bob and Ray were incredibly prolific during a broadcast career that spanned over four decades, these compilations tend to repeat the same few comedy sketches. Then, a few years ago, Bob and Ray fans began to enjoy a windfall of newly available material as old-time radio enthusiasts began to circulate recordings on the Internet. There are now hundreds of broadcasts available for download.

Listening to these audio files while working in the studio, I’ve kept a list of the names of Bob and Ray characters. In my opinion these borderline-absurd names capture the essence of Bob and Ray humor. One classic routine begins with Bob introducing Ray as Maitland Q. Mottmorency, who then replies: “My name is John W. Norvis. I have terrible handwriting.” My initial idea in collecting these names was to render them in some physical form—possibly engraved in marble or granite. However, while such a monument might express my esteem for Bob and Ray, it would also invest the names with an overly funereal sense. For now, I offer this partial cast of characters in double-spaced 12 pt. Times New Roman.

—Charles Gute

Dean Archer Armstead

Clyde Bonderant

Natalie Attired

Steve Bosco

Kirby Ayres

Eddie “Ha Ha” Bostwick

Fielding Backstayge

Martin Boswell

Harry Backstayge

Pierre Bouchard

Mary Backstayge

Cornell Brackish

Arthur Bafernetti

Johnny Braddock

Salvatore Bagatelli

Dr. Knowlton Bradshaw

Brad Balloon

Warner Bromley

Hulla Ballou

Pat Broome

Wally Ballou

Biff Burns

Harlow W. Barnswell

Carlyle Bushburn

Lupis Bartlow

Conrad Bwana

Chesley L. Beamish

Barry Campbell

Dexter Beaufort

Thelma Caribou

Ralph Bellamy

Word Carr

Pop Beloved

Commissioner Carstairs

Edna Bessinger

David Chetley

Marlo Binklow

Charley Chu

Kent Lyle Birdley

Neil Clummer

Tex Blasedale

Pepe Le Coco

Buddy Blodgett

Johnny Crescendo

Flaming Bombadine

Ralph Crusader

Bullets Culhane

Martha Cumpostlewait

Smelly Dave

Frederick “Doo Dah” Day

Andre Detour

Dr. Darrel Dexter

Ronald Dibby

Mickey Dickens

Elsie Dimburg

Johnny Dollar

Eustice Dove

Lola Dressendorfer

Dr. Joyce Dunstable

Pierre Dupré

Pierre Duvalier

Nick “Flail” Edwards

Fred Falvy

Eddie Farbush

Lawrence Fechtenberger

Jimmie Feeler

Lloyd Fenton

Red Finster

Phil Fish

Clifford Fleming

Dr. Enoch Van Flemm

Gaspar Fletcher, Jr.

Nimble Flick

Ralph Flinger

Frank Fonsicle

Harlow Fordice

Chester Hasbrouck Frisbie

Basil Frommart

Amy Frumpwhiler

Police Chief Fullbottle

Ferris Gallagher

Dr. Arlington Garment

Irene Cleming Getchal

Elsie Glimberg

Welden Glimbiter

Fabian Glutnick

Awful Godfrey

Dad Gormley

Peter Gory

Audrey Grady

Gordon Grady

“Backwards” Grinnell

Professor Groggins	G.L. Hummerbeck
Spencer Gruber	Vassily Hummert
Lyle Gump, Jr.	Hazel Hunsaford
Alvin Hancock	Scarf Johnson
Elwood "Pops" Hanks	Ookie Kookie
Leonard P. Harkness	Nola Krowdish
Equitable P. Harman	Clyde LaMona
Harold Haskell	Ralph Moody Lancaster
Dr. Fellern Hawthorne	Captain Wolf Larsen
Jack Headstrong	Lester Lash
Lawrence Hedges	Hector Lassie
Schwanda Hetherington	Rex Latchford
Harlow Hicks	O. Leo Leahy
Bridget Hillary	Pierre LeBoeuf
Bill Hockey	Martin Lesoeur
Stuffy Hodgson	Frank Liberace
Frederick E. Hogan	Fritz Lipvogel
Calvin L. Hoogevin	Lucas Litman
Prof. Selwyn Hubble	Elmer W. Litzinger
Dunston Huber, Jr.	Bertha Upland Lockland
Farley Hubler	Rickey L. Louella
Warren Hughie	Larry Lovebreath
Dr. Rupert Llewellyn Hume	Linda Lovely

Lucy Luscious

Chester Mandible

Gregg Marlowe

Flipper Martin

August T. May

Dr. Sherman Y. Maycroft

Lester McAack

Dust McCluskey

Dr. Edgar McClutchney

“Shaky” Fred McCorkle

Lawrence McGaffigan

Fingers McGee

Mary Margaret McGoon

Slats McGurk

Spike McSturdley

Muggs Melish

T. Wilson Messy

Peter Mildew

Hester Mooseman

Lionel Myopic

Akbar Mytai

Ludlow Neblet

Matt Neffer

Clifton Nefty

Dr. Harvey Nitzmogg

Leopold Nodle

Emma Noonan

Malcolm Norris

John W. Norvis

Dunston Oberholtzer

Nicky Oceanic

Billy Orbit

Jed Ordway

Dr. Lyle Ordway

Tabby O’Shea

Barkley Overstreet

Crawford Paisley

Frankie Papp

Hack Park

Louella Parkinson

Al “Bow-Wow” Perthwaite

Lawrence “Chuck” Peterdon

Wendell Pew

John Ralph Phipps

Wealthy Jacobus Pike

Jimmy Joe Pitman

Wing Po	Foster Sprang
Theodore Pomfert	Roger Stamworth
Gabe Preston	Dr. Elmer Stapley
Forrest Pricely	Whitey Stickwell
Dr. Wilfred Puberly	Wendell Stoppdeck
Dr. Matthew E. Pulsiver	Dr. Fred B. Stole
Wallace Purnoy	Arthur Sturdley
Commander Nelville Putney	Walt Sturdley
Chester Quertus	Foxy Sullivan
Carmel Quinn	Howie Sumatra
Lewis Reeves	Roland Surrogate
Bwana Rosby	Joseph Swanson
Kyle Rumsey	Mevlin Swarmcycle
Sherlock Sage	Cynthia Sweets
Margo Schechtelusengaard	Fentress Synom
Artie Schermerhorn	Paul Taubman
Arthur Schrank	Leonardo Thrash
Irma Shacktalloosengaard	Nick Tinny
Al Shaffer	Emory Tisdale
Dr. Vincent Randolph Shaw	Al "Holy" Toledo
Cornelia Shotweather	Chauncey Travis
Marshall Slim Slade	Carleton U. Trimble
Sming Smog	Hewlett Tuckering

Laughing Eddie Upjohn
(The Human Fireball)

Hans Upmeyer

Milo Vandervore

Conrad Wary

Fred John Wassal

Clyde L. “Hap” Watney

Fergus Waycroft

Hubert C. Waxford

Webley L. Webster

Charlie Wendlekin

Thurber Whitechapel

Trevellian Willet

Ace Willoughby

Prentiss L. Wilson

Aggie Wisker

Clifton Wordlinger

Steve Wurbler

Leonard Yock

Dr. Howard Zickering