

Appendix : The women of Oscar II.

Oscar had at least two teenage infatuations that went nowhere: Countess Olga Lovisa Axelina Armfelt (1828-1855; 1848 m. count Armfelt) & Camille Sophie Harmens (1829-1890; 1850 m. baron Bille-Brahe).

Olga Armfelt was March-December 1847 employed as a maid of honour at the court of Oscar's mother. Oscar returned in late June/July from a cruise in the Mediterranean & spent the rest of the summer at Tullgarn where he fell in love with her & she in him. The affair did not advance very far because the mother, as soon as she noticed what was going on, separated them and Olga had to return to Finland where she married. Oscar afterwards wrote to fellow officer Richard Björkstén about his “corrosive feelings” but that “it belongs to the man to get over it”:

When the divorce too soon saddened our relation, and my flame faltered, turning into despair, then longing. A more beautiful soul, in a more beautiful body I think I never will see - It was an angel walking this earth.¹

Olga's marriage in March 1848 acted like a slap in the face, but the following month Amour's arrows struck again. “The curtain fell and I saw another - radiating fire and youthful, Italian beauty (Her mother is an Italian Hera!) It is Miss Camille Harmens.” As he was about to do three months' naval service, nothing came of this infatuation either, but they met again in December. Camille, however, was hard to get. Her feelings didn't show until January:

I got depressed, got chest cramps and really languished this New Year. But then the eyes of all this opened, and it was like a dam breaking and - - - - - why? shall I continue? you yourself know of the heart in such circumstances. Well, well! I was the happiest man on earth, perhaps even in heaven, and my harshest trial came to an end. [- - -] I have won my goal, and that is that!²

This love too faltered. He didn't know how to act. Their meetings became painful. In March 1850, he wrote to Björkstén about how it was: “I forgot everything, except my innate tact, which you know and which invites me never to forget that I first of all am Prince then man.”³ In the choice between a platonic relationship & a (hapless) marriage, Camilla chose the latter. In September 1850, she married. Oscar had a bad conscience for his actions and helped her, her brothers & the children when they fell on hard times. However, he thought that as a prince he had no choice: “My youngish dreams are over, all delusions crushed. Fate has kicked me in the face.”⁴ He seems to have considered killing himself.⁵ Or at least to remain bachelor.

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In addition to these two existing relationships, 11 more women, most of them with an artistic background, have been named Oscar's mistresses. History teacher Sven Erik Barck (1918-2008) & journalist Lars Elgklou (1932-1999) are the source of eight, but do not list the

¹ Michanek 1979: s. 27. [Brev från Oscar till Richard Björksten, 1847-12.]

² Michanek 1979: s. 29. [Brev från Oscar till Richard Björkstén, 1849-02-09.]

³ Michanek 1979: s. 30. [Brev från Oscar till Richard Björkstén, 1850-03-12.]

⁴ Michanek 1979: s. 30. [Brev från Oscar till Richard Björkstén, 1850-11-01.]

⁵ Carlsson & Jakobsson 2000. [Marginalanteckning av Oscar II i O A Busch (1904) “Hvadan och hvarthän : livsfrågor”.]

original sources. Barck refers to anonymous sources: “Such old writers as Anders Fryxell, Georg Starbäck and Carl Grimberg have been very helpful. But the stuff has also been taken from a lot of biographies, popular historical works, various newspapers and magazines from recent years.”⁶ Elgklou encloses a long literature list, 148 works, which ends with the item “A large number of articles by various authors in the daily and periodic press. Unprinted sources from letters, notes & telegram.”⁷

Barck & Elgklou have thus based their allegations on diaries, letters & newspaper articles with for the reader & even for themselves unknown reliability. It therefore seems pointless to put any effort into source criticism. I describe the 11 “mistresses”, what relationship they had to Oscar according to my own sources and conclude with a summary.

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- Magda von Dolcke (1838-1926; b. Rosalinde Thomsen; c. 1885 m. Bosse) was a German-Danish actress and theatre director, 1872-1874 active in Sweden. After a love affair with Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson (according to other information also with Frederick VII), she had a reputation as a seductress. In 1874 Queen Sophie was at a health resort in Germany without Oscar, which posterity has interpreted as a marital conflict with Dolcke as the origin - but not contemporaries. Dolcke's Swedish career consisted of a series of conflicts with both Oscar and the theatre management.⁸
- Anna Stina Nyberg (1838-?; 1869 m. Agelii) is alleged to have had a son with Oscar; Ivan Aguéli (1869-1917), later a renown artist. Nyberg was previously employed at Stockholm Castle as a maid (?) and was pregnant when she married.⁹
- Hilda Falck (1839-1927; 1866 m. Keiller). Her son, gentleman in waiting James Keiller Jr. (1867-1902) was long Oscars host during his visits to Särö and was very similar to Gustaf V in appearance.¹⁰
- Walfrida (Lilly) von Ehrenclou (1840-1901; 1859 m. Bäckström) in her youth studied singing but married the merchant Johan Bäckström. On August 21, 1861 she gave birth to a son Arthur (1861-1841). Although she did not sing in a professional capacity, Lilly continued to sing at private events, organized musical soirées where Oscar participated & became a member of King Oscar's Singing Club. In 1862 she was received into the Amaranter Order. Her son Arthur claimed that Oscar was his father. The proof of this would be that the Bäckström family's purchase in 1876 of Julita farm was financed by the royal house. No documents have been presented as proof, but Strindberg and others have nominated Lilly as Oscar's “favourite sultana”.¹¹

⁶ Barck 2000: s. 113.

⁷ Elgklou 1978: s. 241.

⁸ Dardel 1911a: del 1; af Edholm 1944: del 3; Elgklou 1978: ss. 111-112; Lagerqvist 1979: s. 82; Michanek 1979: ss. 270-273; Elgklou 1995: s. 140; Fridh 1995: s. 63; Lagerqvist 1997: s. 396; Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Lindqvist 2006: ss. 442-443; Lindqvist 2010; Beckman 2012: s. 338-341; Magda von Dolcke <sv.wikipedia.org> (2016-01-01).

⁹ Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Ivan Aguéli <sv.wikipedia.org> (2016-01-01).

¹⁰ Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234.

¹¹ Michanek 1979: s. 336; Ulfäter-Troell 1991: s. 171; Skott 1996: s. 79; Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Lily von Ehrenclou <tobakshistoria.com> (2016-01-01); Arthur Bäckström. <sv.wikipedia.org> (2016-01-01).

- Swiss language teacher Sophie Valerie Racle (1844-1926; 1879 m. Teurnell) allegedly had a daughter with Oscar. Her daughter was named Valerie Louise (Fredsell) (1867-1934; m. Norman). She grew up as a foster child and married governor Carl Hugo Norman (1862-1917). They had one son, Per Hugo Norman (1902-1950). According to Per Hugo's wife Birgitta Lindhe (1910-2006) he was the grandson of Oscar.¹²
- Carolina Lovisa Jansson (1847-1922) was a seamstress, possibly for Queen Sofie. Oscar is supposed to be the father of her daughter Amanda Jansson (1872-1955; 1905 m. Person). The proof of that is that he funded her acting training.¹³
- Wilhelmina Wahlgren (1850-1926; 1888 m. Skogh) was an entrepreneur in the hotel, restaurant and tourism business. It is not clear when & how she and Oscar would have met. Possibly it was when he awarded her the Vasa Medal for Civil Merit.¹⁴
- Emma Hammarström (1849-1910; m. Hoffman), a pilot's daughter from Gotland, is supposed to have born a daughter Anna Hofman-Uddgren (1868-1947) with Oscar as the father. Emma was at the time a ticket girl at the National Museum where she allegedly met Oscar who paid for her apartment and later an acting education in Paris for her daughter Anna.¹⁵ Emma & Oscar reportedly corresponded but she or some relative, according to Anna's daughter Viola Uddgren (1891-1957), had the letters burned. Viola's daughter actress Öllegård Wellton (1932-1931) was convinced the family tradition was true, but all information is second hand.¹⁶
- The singer Maria Vilhelmina Friberg (1852-1934) was an adopted child. Her biological parents were Carl Johan Friberg (1827-?) and Wilhelmina Charlotta Edberg (1821-?). Her adopted parents were the goldsmith Adolf Theodor Lilja (1809-1878) and his wife Anna Maria Mårtensdotter (1813-1896). Marie had a good voice and took singing lessons. In 1874/75, she moved to Paris. On her return she sang in the opera choir and in small roles. Oscar is said to have been attracted to her beauty and supported her career. In 1877, he encouraged her to audition for Carmen, but her voice was not up to it. In 1878/82 she studied in Germany with the singer Franz Ferenczy and in Stockholm with Emil Hillberg at the Swedish Theater. She debuted at the New Theatre and became popular in French comedies and operettas. She played in Strindberg's play Lycko-Per. This was performed during the "Getting Married" court case in 1884 (Strindberg was accused of blasphemy) and Friberg provoked a stir by wearing Oscar's insignia in the hair to show her solidarity. Her career ended in 1891 when she married the military Amadé Pascal d'Audebard, vicomte de Ferrussac, but she divorced the following year. In 1893, she married the textile merchant Edvard Leman. The couple settled in Paris where she ended her days. Theatre historian Arne Lindenbaum claimed she was Oscar's mistress, but only reports rumours. Oscar is supposed to have given her two mortgage-free real estates at Östermalm. It is more likely, however, that she inherited them at her father's death in 1878 and that the inheritance funded her further studies.

¹² Olle Häger, m fl. (1999.) "100 svenska år", del 7 : "Å dyre prins". [Dokumentärfilm.]

¹³ Michanek 1979: ss. 270-274; Fjellman 1980: ss. 146-149; Skott 1996: s. 79; Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Lindqvist 2006: ss. 442-443; Lindqvist 2010: s. 73; Beckman 2012: s. 338-341; Norlin 2015: s. 97; Albert Edelfelts brevsamling. <edelfelt.sls.fi> (2016-01-01).

¹⁴ Elgklou 1995: s. 140; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Lindqvist 2006: ss. 442-443; Lindqvist 2010: s. 73.

¹⁵ Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Dagens Nyheter, 2004-03-21.

¹⁶ Henry Sidoli. "Kung Oscar var min mors morfar." Hänt i veckan, 1984: 10, ss. 2-5.

In 2010, a feature “Blue blood” was shown which claimed that Friberg in 1878 with Oscar as father had given birth to a boy Knut August who had been adopted by a friend. From 1894 Friberg is supposed to have received a yearly allowance from Oscar, in today's monetary value equivalent to about 500 thousand, and a lump sum equivalent to 25 million. The relationship between Oscar & Marie would have been a public secret, caused much tension in his marriage and was the direct reason his wife spent long periods abroad. Knut August later emigrated to America, and has not been located. The only thing the church books know about his biological parents is that the mother at birth was 26 years old, which was true of Marie Friberg. The most likely version is that Friberg as an adopted child from the orphanage near the Castle was believed to be Oscar II's daughter.¹⁷

- Hedvig Ingeborg Elisabeth Kreuger (1858-1911; 1880 m. Stephens) had a daughter Florence Stephens (1881-1979), owner of Huseby Bruk, who believed herself to have Oscar II as father. Since Florence was conceived during a long honeymoon she is probably wrong.¹⁸ Oscar & the mother were acquainted with each other from Oscar's readings of his philosophical manuscripts and possibly earlier. Florence deposited records of her ancestry in the Bernadotte Archives, to be opened 25 years after her death, but the time limit seems to have been extended.
- Ellen Hedlund (1860-1945; 1881-1891 m. Hartman; 1898 m. Cederström) was a Swedish actress, employed at the Royal dramatic theatre, and very successful, especially as a comedienne. “She is and has always been this theatre's happiest female, and her comedic fantasy is so intense, that it's magic affects even the glummiest.” In 1886, Oscar awarded her the Medal of Merit “Litteris et artibus”. In addition, there is an anecdote from the 1890s:

King Oscar was one day accompanied by his dear friend General Sven Lagerberg walking the Royal Garden's eastern alley. Suddenly, the monarch bumped into one of the trees, so that the hat was on the verge of falling off the crowned head.

“Vexatious!” the king mumbled, “Why didn't you draw my attention to the tree?”

The general looked devious.

“Your Majesty,” he replied, “*I too was looking at Mrs. Hartman.*”

No further information is available.¹⁹

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¹⁷ Gamla brevlådan, 1891-05-30, sida 1-2; Lindenbaum 1952: ss. 220-231; Elgklou 1978: ss. 111-112; Lagerqvist 1979: s. 82; Michanek 1979: ss. 270-274; Elgklou 1995: s. 140; Fridh 1995: s. 63; Skott 1996: s. 79; Ulfstätter-Troell 1996: ss. 258-259; Lagerqvist 1997: s. 396; Barck 2000: ss. 99-100; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Lindqvist 2006: ss. 442-443; Rötter 2007; Hedin 2010; Lindqvist 2010: s. 73; Mattias Sandberg. Aftonbladet, 2010-05-23, ss. 6-9; Beckman 2012: s. 338-341; Norlin 2015: s. 97; Marie Friberg <sv.wikipedia.org> (2016-01-01); Kungliga bibliotekets tidningsdatabas <tidningar.kb.se> (2016-01-01).

¹⁸ Lagerqvist 1979: s. 82; Barck 2000: ss. 99-100.

¹⁹ Anonym 1898: ss. 10-11; Lindenbaum 1952: ss. 248-249; Elgklou 1978: ss. 111-112; Fridh 1995: s. 63; Sundberg 2004: ss. 233-234; Beckman 2012: s. 338-341; Ellen Hartman. <sv.wikipedia.org> (2016-01-01).

Several authors have assumed that there was a personal relationship between Oscar & the actresses because he paid for their education. He is more likely to have awarded scholarships to those actors he considered promising.

Marie Friberg has been regarded as the most likely mistress, and if all the details are correct, there seems to have been something between them. However, it is impossible to determine. Even the gift deed of the 25 million - an incredible amount - is insufficiently documented. The copy published in *Aftonbladet* was so blurred that it was not readable. Several details in Friberg's history also seem taken from Emilie Höggqvist's life and/or have credible alternative explanations.

The information about the 11 mistresses has been summarized in the table below. There is a peak in 1867/69 which would mean that Oscar then had four mistresses at once - not so likely. One guess is that posterity through backwards reasoning interpreted Sofia's religious & philanthropic commitment, stays abroad & refusal to visit the balls & theatre as a protest against Oscar's supposed mistresses. Indeed, it is highly uncertain whether he had any relationship at all with the women around him. The only thing that seems certain is that he read pornography & during the summers at Marstrand, while Sofia was in Norway, peeped on the bathing beauties through a telescope.²⁰ However, that he as Lindqvist claims had "Sweden's largest porn collection" is an exaggeration.²¹ Germund Michanek mentions only some transcripts of Wilhelm von Braun (1813-1860; in his time one of Sweden's most popular poets):

Indeed, Oscar's surviving documents include a collection of pornography. For some of these documents, edginess is a more accurate term; for example: Tegner's poem about the erotic adventures of Bishop Faxe with a waitress at Storkyrkobrinken during the Parliament of 1818. On the other hand, The works of Wilhelm von Braun - most of them copied by the poet's own hand - have high claims of pornography. They are, as it is expressed, scarcely suited for publication. Not because they are indecent, which they are, but because they are unsavoury. Among these are the Girls' reform proposals, Charade, The Voice of Conscience on the poet Brn's 25th birthday, The Little Virgin and During a Starvation Treatment. The latter depicts the hellish plagues the poet suffers, when he suffers a venereal disease and is ordered to refrain from spirits and on top of it refrain from eating.²²

Carlsson & Jacobsson (2000) mention some books by Colette, Maupassant's "Bel Ami", Fröding's "Stänk och flikar" (published 1896; contains the erotic poem "A morning dream" which was prosecuted) & Leopold von Sacher-Masoch. On the cover page Oscar had written "Not for ladies to read". Rune Pär Olofsson in his novel "A King in every inch" also asserts that Oscar owned a box with French postcards. Possibly Lindqvist has confused the people in Börje Heed's 1979 article where Florence Stephens's father (the owner of the Huseby estate) reportedly owned a large collection of Japanese pornography that the daughters after his death burned to defend his reputation.²³

²⁰ Lehman 1931: s. 154; Michanek 1979: ss. 22-24.

²¹ Lindqvist, Herman. Oscar II hade den största porrsamlingen i Sverige. *Aftonbladet*, 2010-02-01.

²² Michanek 1979: ss. 23-24.

²³ Börje Heed. Hon var Oscar II:s hemliga dotter. *Hänt i veckan*, 1979:15, ss. 8-11.

Table. Oscar II's mistresses. Source (1) = Where the claim is first made; Names & born = Names of the mistress and year of birth; When = Approximate Time of relationship; Source (2) = According to who?

Source (1)	Name	Born	When	Source (2)
Elgklou 1978	Magda von Dolcke	1838	1874	
Barck 2000	Anna Stina Nyberg	1838	1869	
Barck 2000	Hilda Falck	1839	1867	
Ulfstätter-Troell 1991	Lilly von Ehrenclou	1840	1861	According to child
Häger 1999	Sophie Valerie Racle	1844	1867	According to child
Elgklou 1995	Carolina Jansson	1847	1872	
Barck 2000	Wilhelmina Wahlgren	1850		
Barck 2000	Emma Hammarström	1849	1868	A. to great grand-child
Elgklou 1978	Maria Friberg	1852	1878	
Lagerqvist 1979	Elisabeth Kreuger	1858	1881	According to child
Elgklou 1978	Ellen Hedlund	1860		

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