

CHRISTOPHER KONRAD

Oyster

William Carlos Williams recounts from countless cuttings, tales, buried in some tattered newspaper the story of a pearl found in Jersey by a shoemaker or carpenter.

Mussels, the shells were called, but as everyone knows, oysters are commonly known *for their ability to be eaten!*

One of those pearls mentioned by W became known as the Queen Pearl and went to the Princess Eugenie who was the wife of Napoleon III, both of whom died in exile in England.

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nacreous globule · broken hymen · hymn to her · **shucked omen · vented vial · harboured harbour · spleen-released · first gasp of air · made but not begotten · inserted again and again · Blake's grain · lustrous body · beguiling refrain · get thee behind me pearl-mother and push and push** until I become you-we birthed · shucked · but - not all are pearls

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perhaps never to be, but always to be · upon another sea · strung beneath · hauled up into the nascent light · Holy Nacre · only to be strung again · a smile of pearly-whites upon her chest (never his) · from hymn to her & black pink gold and white · to say, at least, some cultures are colourless as ocean-water and salt · from which to suckle to be shucked · chucked like so many middens · along these many craggy coasts