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NEW
SERIES

WALTER CRANE'S TOY BOOKS

VALENTINE AND ORSON

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS

ONCE on a time an Emperor, a man of might
and fame,
Married a wife, and fair was she, and Bellisant her
name;
And fair and happy were their lives, until an evil man
(He was the High Priest of the Court) an evil tale
began,
Of how the lady was not true unto her husband dear:
The Emperor believed the tale, and rose up in great
fear,
And drove poor Bellisant away; in haste and dire
mischance
She took her way to Pepin's Court (her brother, King
of France)





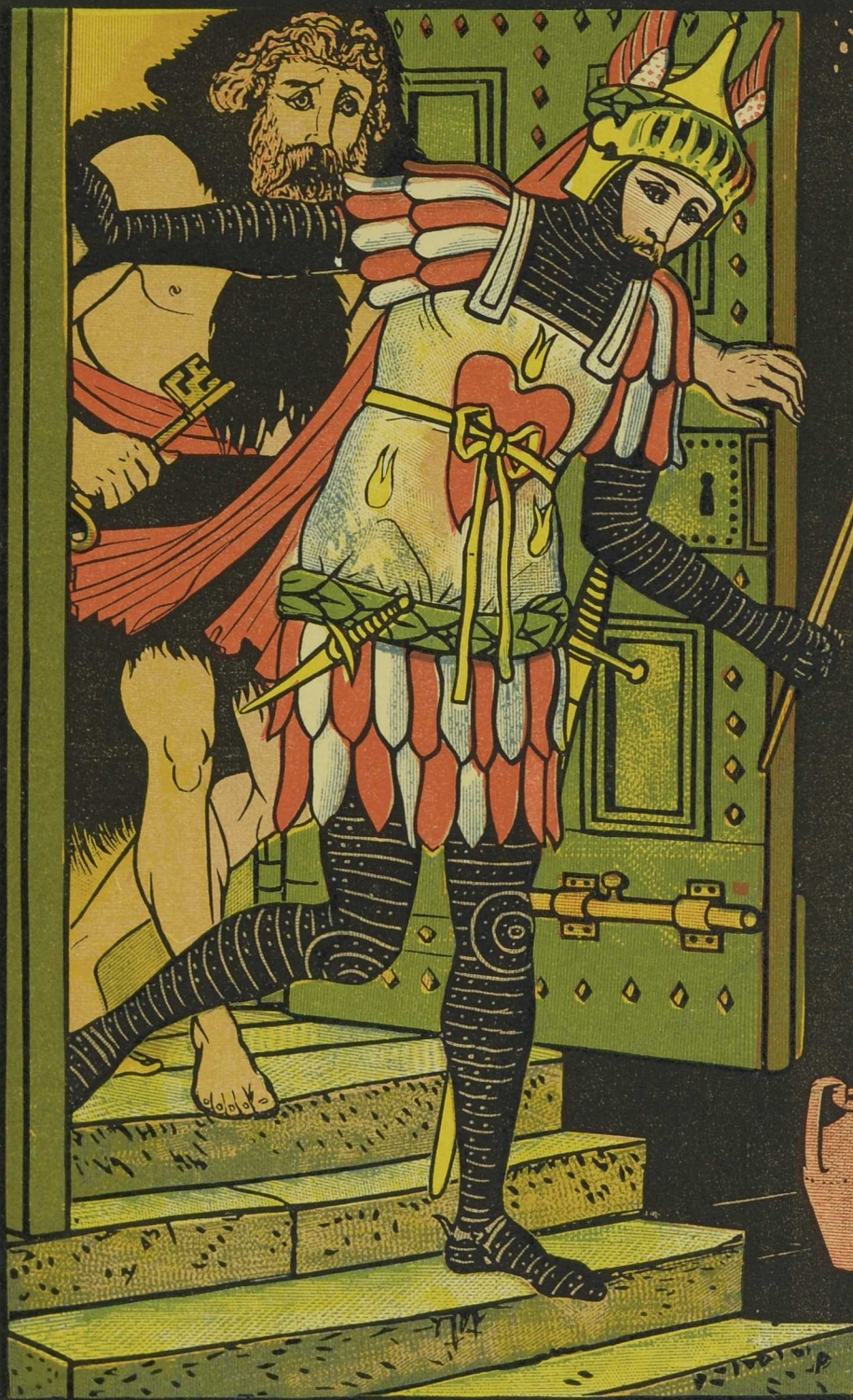
And as she fled, weighed down by grief and
sense of cruel scorn,
Lo, in the forest two fair sons to Bellisant were
born ;
But while her servant went to buy some food, a
great she-bear
Came up, and carried off one child unto her
distant lair.
Poor Bellisant ran after her, with many a sigh
and moan ;
In vain,—and when she turned again, the other
child was gone!



Now, Pepin chanced that very day to hunt with
 all his train
 In that same wood, and found the child ere she
 came back again ;
 And took him home, and brought him up, and
 gave him all things fine—
 Apparel, horses, and a name —so he was
 VALENTINE.
 And brave and fair he grew,—King Pepin's
 daughter loved him well ;
 The sons were jealous. Now will I his brother's
 story tell

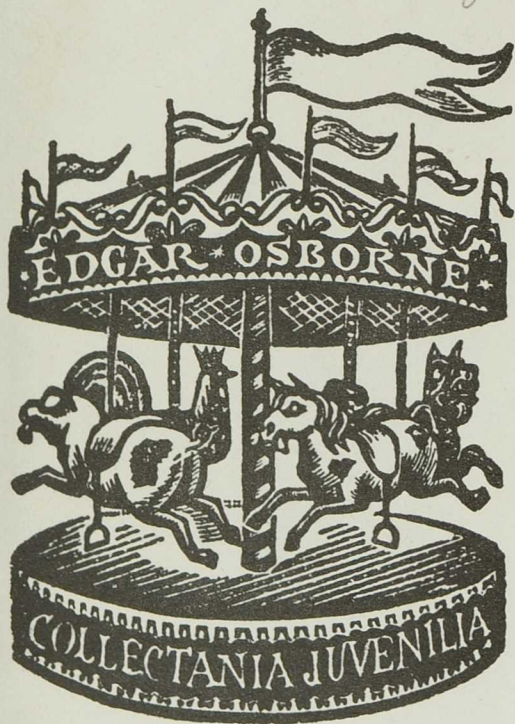
The she-bear and her savage cubs, they saved the child alive,
And nursed him well, and tended him,—well did he grow and thrive.
They called him ORSON; in the woods he lived, a strong wild man,
And all he fought he killed with ease; and so a wicked plan
Was made by Pepin's sons for getting rid of Valentine,
Whom they induced to fight with him, by flattering words and fine.
But Valentine was conqueror, and Orson owned his might,
And served and followed him alway; and they were squire and knight.





Now, in that land there dwelt a man, the
Green Knight he was called,
Who by his strength and magic arts a lady
fair enthralled,
And kept in prison dark and strong, and none
could set her free ;
Not even Valentine prevailed, with all his
bravery.



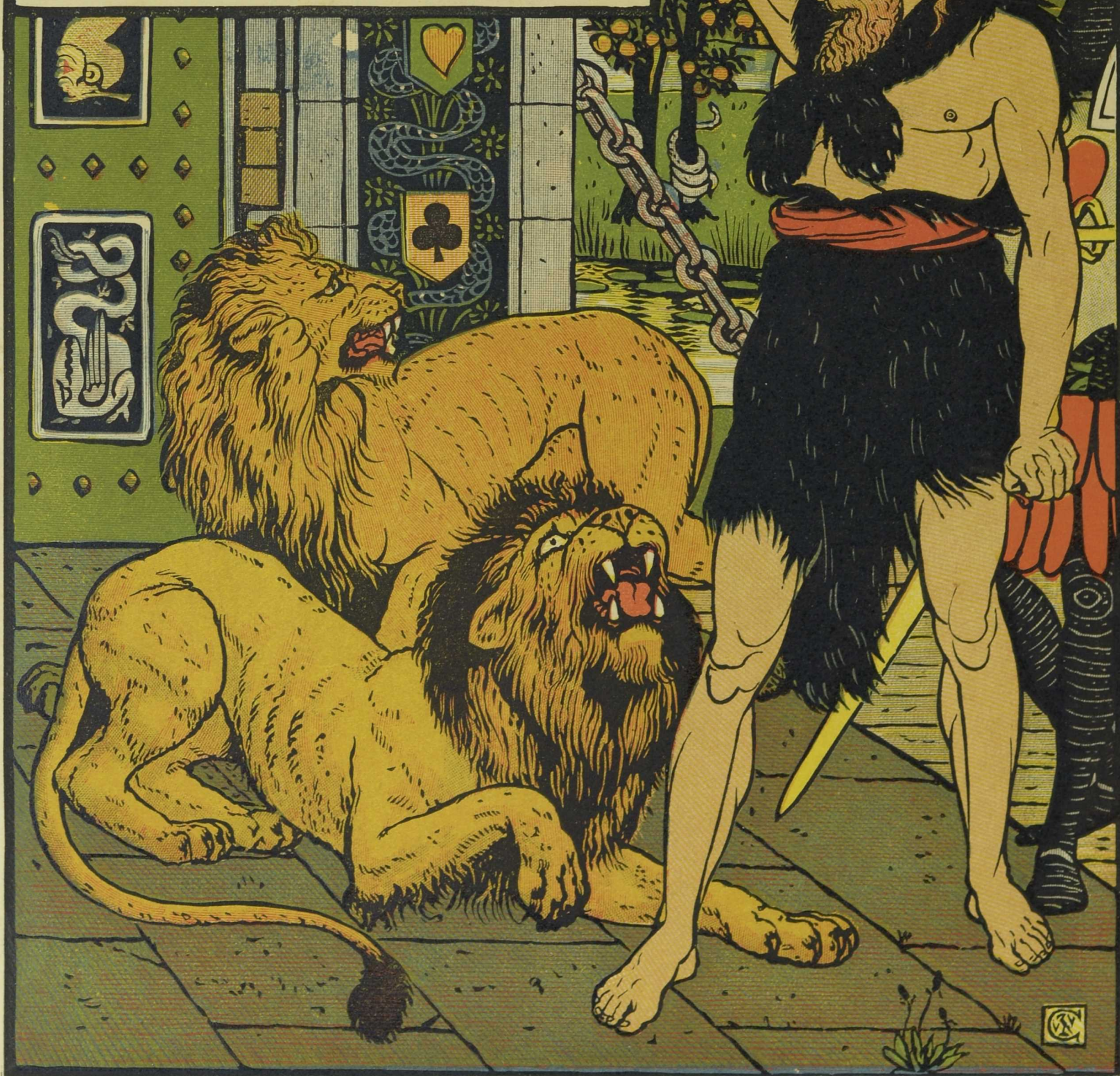


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Joan Askwith

But Orson threw the Green Knight down, and
bound him with a chain,
And set the lady free; both brothers then
start off to gain
The Green Knight's castle-gates,—two roaring
lions kept guard there,
But down they crouched when they beheld the
brothers void of fear.



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