CODE

from the International Code of Signals

Open Book
A Division of Station Hill Press
POEMS
for the Use of All Nations

Hannah Weiner
Acknowledgements

MAGAZINES
S.M.S. The Letter Edged in Black; For Now; Chelsea Review; The Drama Review; Wastepaper Theater; Personal Injury; Poetry Chicago; 0-9; Bones; ROOF; Equal Time; Odda Thala; Cavalier; Poets for Peace; Diana's BiMonthly; Hard Press (postcard); Dial-a-Poem (telephone)

ANTHOLOGY

FILM
Any Chance of War, Angry Arts Festival, New York University 1968

GALLERIES (WHEEL ONLY)
Dwan Gallery (1968); Gain Ground (1969)

COLLECTIONS
Sol LeWitt; John Perreault

PERFORMANCES
Friendship Event, Judson Church, 1966; Street Event, 1967, with semaphore flags, megaphones; Avant Garde Festival, 1967, 1968, flags and semaphore signalmen; Spring Gallery, 1968, performed with the aid of the U.S. Coast Guard, using semaphore signals, morse, visual poems; Central Park Poetry Events, 1968, performed with the aid of the U.S. Coast Guard, using alphabet flag hoists, semaphore signalmen, flashing light signals, megaphones, flares; Woodstock Poem Event, 1969; Wastepaper Theater, 1975

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Introduction

These poems and performance pieces are from the INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SIGNALS for the Use of All Nations, British Editions 1859, 1899 and American Edition, post-war, 1931, a visual signal system for ships at sea. Codes of signals for the use of mariners have been published in various countries since the early 19th century. The first International Code was drafted in 1855 by a committee set up by the British Board of Trade. Flags at that time numbered 18, which represented the consonants of the alphabet, with the exception of X and Z. A later version published in 1899 increased the letter flags to 26, plus an answering pennant. Flags, one for each letter of the alphabet, are hoisted on the mast, singly or in groups of two, three, four. Single and two flag hoists are distress signals, three flag hoists are general signals, four flag hoists geographical signals. In addition, each flag has a name; A, Alpha, B, Bravo, C, Charlie, etc. In combination, as CJD, “I was plundered by a pirate,” these signals comprise a complete volume of code signals. Messages can be transmitted also by two semaphore red signal flags, and by Morse code. Visual signaling is any method of above water communication, the transmission of which is capable of being seen (alphabet flags, semaphore flags, Morse flashing light). Sound signaling is any method of sending Morse signals by means of siren, whistle, foghorn, bell or other sound apparatus. Although Morse and light signals were used in performances, only visual signals are included (we omit radio) in this book.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>Hand Flags</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Flag" /></td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>T</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>ATTENTION</td>
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<td>G</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>U</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Flag" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RJ Romeo and Juliet

LZT Mike: I have received the following message from agents.

TCD Romeo: Party?

VHX Mike: Saturday night

OAR Romeo: Happy to hear it or that

FS Mike: Be very careful in your intercourse with strangers

YCG Romeo: I do not trust too much to my _____

EZF Mike: Article indicated can be supplied, but it will require fitting.

I will lend what is required

QNA Romeo: All precautions have been taken

TCD Mike: Proceed to rendezvous

FY Romeo: Hot bearings

TIV Mike: By no means plain

SDQ Romeo: What is her name?

SDL Juliet: My name is

J Juliet

ENC dazzling, am, is, are

SDT What is your name?

SLD Romeo: My name is

R Romeo

EBQ Juliet: Your name is not on my list; spell it alphabetically

JG Romeo: I wish to have personal communication with you

IJ Juliet: Unless your communication is very important, I must be excused

JM Mike: Stranger is suspicious

MYX Romeo: Fine day

EBL Juliet: I beg to be excused

PCF Romeo: The ice is so solid I cannot break through; send help

YCS Mike: Try again

H Romeo: Stop, heave to, or come nearer, I have something to communicate

USX Juliet: Sorry, I am unable to comply with your request

AGS Romeo: The following is plain language
TQB  Juliet:  I doubt if it is possible
RIC  Romeo:  Cannot make it out
EQO  Mike:  I decline to have anything further to say or do in the matter.
KUM  Nothing to be depended upon beyond your own resources
DJX  Romeo:  I am on fire
MLI  You must not or cannot make any excuse
TMV  Shall I have the pleasure to or of
F   Foxtrot
FBX  Juliet:  As you please
QRA  I am willing to
T   Tango
QAW  Romeo:  It is very kind of you
FIG  At last
B   Bravo
OYP  Juliet:  Horny
BKS  Idiot
IVL  You are too close. Keep farther off.
DN  I have orders for you not to touch
HFL  Romeo:  Will you breakfast with me?
LS  Juliet:  It is not safe to go so fast
LAX  Romeo:  Will you dine with me?
MIL  Tommorrow evening
TQB  Juliet:  I doubt if it is possible
MIK  Romeo:  This evening?
LAW  Juliet:  What time is dinner or when will dinner be ready?
F BM  Romeo:  As soon as it is dark
DCA  Juliet:  With pleasure. I will accept.
MHL  A small establishment
HAJ  Romeo:  Cafe. Restaurant
DOQ  Juliet:  What would you recommend?
TUN  Romeo:  Preserved soup
GDC  Fresh beef and vegetables
STJ  Potato
IOG  Cheese
ISD  Ale, beer
BSU  Juliet: We shall have
WVR  Sherry
SYR  Are any oysters to be had?
LMT  Half dozen
QXT  Lobster
ZGE  Rhine wine
OEZ  Goose
UWS  Rice
SCN  Mushroom
ZGB  Burgundy wine
TUJ  Preserved fruit
KC  Champagne
WIZ  Romeo: Bicarbonate of soda
DZI  Have been short on allowance for some time
GKI  Can I get a bill cashed here?
IVK  Will you keep close to me during the night?
OXY  Hope you will
OXW  Juliet: Hope you can
IP  Romeo: Shall we keep company?
ITY  Juliet: A visit from a Protestant clergyman would be much valued
GHI  Romeo: Will you lead into or point out a good berth?
IHL  Juliet: When do lay days commence?
DQU  Romeo: After dinner
ZMD  Juliet: Your zeal has been particularly noted by _____
MIR  Romeo: Have you ever?
MIG  Juliet: Every evening
KIQ  Every day. Daily
MJA  Every opportunity
NWC  Have you a proper certificate of competency?
TU  Romeo: Have you a clean bill of health?
GHI  You are in a very fair berth
GIA Juliet: This is my best point
SHJ Some swell
XOR Romeo: Thank you
GDS May I begin to?
GIT Juliet: The sooner the better
MFO Romeo: Entrance is difficult
MFD Juliet: Try to enter
KZU Romeo: I am in difficulties; direct me how to steer
OOX Juliet: You should swing and enter stern first
HBK Romeo: What is the nature of the bottom or what kind of bottom have you?
HAY Juliet: Double bottom
FHR Romeo: Stern way. Going astern
LK Juliet: Go astern easy. Easy astern
ODI Romeo: I am going full speed
HC Juliet: It is not safe to go so fast
KZY Romeo: It is difficult to extricate
BK Juliet: Is anything the matter
VLA Romeo: Cock broken or damaged
EHR Juliet: What do the cost of repairs amount to?
DF Romeo: With some assistance I shall be able to set things to rights
AN Juliet: Are you in a condition to proceed?
CCQ Romeo: If it comes on to blow
NZ Juliet: Blowing hard
CCO Romeo: Blowing too hard
DIR Juliet: Can you renew the action?
PEO According to the usual practice?
BKS Romeo: I shall, or will if I can
VKE Juliet: Can you lift your screw?
MIV Romeo: Every exertion has been made
SPG Operations have commenced
CWY Juliet: You
ERH Screw well
JCG Romeo: Are you coming?
JDG  Juliet:  I shall come off by and by or at the time indicated
OWT  Romeo:  I fear I cannot hold out much longer
X  Juliet:  Stop carrying out your intentions and wait for my signals
MZJ  Romeo:  When will you or it be finished?
JDH  Juliet:  I will come
JCQ  Romeo:  Come directly, immediately
JDC  Juliet:  Coming at once
LCO  Romeo:  Discharging
ZHC  Juliet:  Shall or will be withdrawn
DIR  Juliet:  Can you renew the action?
AI  Romeo:  I will not abandon you. I will remain by you
WGD  Juliet:  Sleep, sleepy, sleeping, slept
DXY  Romeo:  All snug
EDQ  Any chance of war?
ODV  Good chance
IKF  No chance of peace
YU  Has war commenced?
YX  War has commenced
YW  War between _____ and _____ has commenced
KDX  How is the crop?
KDW  Crops have suffered severely
KDV  Crops destroyed
TN  Are you in want of provisions?
LHE  Distressed for want of food
YU  Want food immediately
NV  Unable for want of
YZ  Are you in want of water?
LHF  Distressed for want of water
NRC  Fresh water
YVH  No water to be had
NF  Dying from want of water
FXJ  Have you been attacked?
NJ  I am attacked. I want assistance. Help, I am attacked
FO  Are you in danger?
NL  I am in danger
KLF  Much danger
KLE  In great danger
DNE  Enemy is advancing
DNA  Army is advancing
EIB  Is anyone wounded?
RKN  Many wounded
ZIN  How many wounded?
PKN  No. of killed and wounded not yet known
ZIM  How are the wounded?
YGJ  Without arms
FGX  Without assistance
YL  Want immediate medical assistance
CP  Cannot assist
NC  In distress. Want immediate assistance
CX  No assistance can be rendered. Do the best you can for yourselves.
GBT I shall bear up
GBV May I, or can I bear up?
YE  Want assistance
GLN Want bread
RZX Want more support
LHI How long have you been in such distress?
KNG How many days?
RKD Many
RKQ So many
RKS Too many
KLD How many have you dangerously ill?
LQN Dying at the rate of _____ a day
ZIE Could, or might be worse
ZIF It will be worse
ZIG Much worse
MSK Is my family well?
ZBM Not so well
FZB When was the battle fought?
KBN Daylight. At daylight
KOY When was the last death?
FIB Daybreak. Dawn. At dawn
KOM How many dead?
KON Who is dead?
KOU Dearer, dearest
KOV Too dear
RPJ WANT MEN

RJE man
DWS alderman
GVL boatman
IFD cattleman
TUO chairman
ITX clergyman, parson or minister
MDK have you men enough?
NAB fireman
NBS fisherman
NJX foreman
OTR helmsman
RKI how many men?
QIB landsman
QIL leadsman
QPJ liberty man
RAE look-out man look out!
NSX he, or she is full of men
RPH newly raised man
SIT STILL nobleman
TQO postman
UXF rifleman
VLG seaman
WDH signalman
YZM tradesman
YWH waterman
ZIA workman
MDK have you men enough?
RPJ want men
RPK your men
QRD  Light

LRG  Will you carry a light?
MPD  Will you make the land tonight?
LRM  I will carry a light
GDW  I see the land, land in sight
GDV  I have just lost sight of the land or light
MQC  Anything in sight?
CHW    Pirates

CJD    I was plundered by a pirate
CJF    Describe the pirate
CJN    She is armed
CJP    How is she armed?
CJS    She has long guns
CJW    I have no long guns
BLD    I am a complete wreck
Persons Indicated Present Their Compliments to

TMQ  If you please
ZGS  Do you wish to?
FBX  As you please
ZGU  If you wish
ZGV  It is my wish
LBG  Will person please?
QTR  I or persons indicated wish to see you
ZGW  Wish to speak to you
TMW  Will you please?
ZGX  Wish you would
USR  Request the pleasure of
OCA  With pleasure. I will accept
TMU  Shall I have the pleasure to or of?
DBX  Very acceptable
OAP  Will you give me the pleasure?
TMX  With much pleasure
ZJQ  Will you write?
ZLH  Yes, I will
WRY  Will you stay or wait?
HUG  Yes, I can
JEJ  Will you accompany?
DCZ  I will accompany
JGV  Will you give me the pleasure of your company at?
JGT  Very glad of your company
JGS  The pleasure of your company
TIR  I or persons indicated gratefully accept
QGB A OR AN

QGC Another — some other
QGD Any person or thing
QGF Some
QGH The
QGJ Both
QGK Each
QGL Every, Every one, All
QGM Nothing
QGN More
QGP Much, Many
QGR Not so much, Less
QGS From
QGT On
QGV On the ______
QGW On me
QHB On you
QHC On (person-s indicated)
QHD With
QHF And
QHG For
QHJ For me
QHK For you
QHL For (persons indicated)
QHM In, Into
QHN To
QHP To be
QHR Why?
QHS How?
BEA  AM. I AM

BEC Am I?
BED Am I not?
BEF Am I to?
BYG How am I?
CUY Why am I?
CUA Why are you?
CUZ Why are (or is)?
CUX Why?
CPV What, or Which am I?
CSQ Where am I (or, are we)?

COT Was I?
COU Was I not?
BFR Had, or Have I been?
BFH Can, or May have been

BHC Shall, or Will I be?
BHG Shall, or Will we be?
BIX Will it be?
BHE Shall, or Will there be?

BFP Could, or Might there be?
BFI Can, or May there be?
BKH Can, or May I be?
BFC Am, Are, or Is to be?
BFE Be the
BGY Let us be
RAT CAN (ABLE TO)

HJM I can
HJN I can be
CSB He, She, It or _____, can be
CSR They, or ______s, can be
CSJ Can he, she, it or _____? be?
CSK Can I?
CLS Can I be?
CSM Can I do anything for you?
LWC FOLLOW ME

LWC Follow me
LWF Will you lead?
LWG Will you follow?
LWJ Shall I follow?
LWK I will follow
LWC Follow me
LWF Will you lead?
LWG Will you follow?
LWJ Shall I follow?
LWK I will follow
LWC Follow me
LWF Will you lead?
LWG Will you follow?
LWJ Shall I follow?
LWK I will follow
LWC Follow me
LWF Will you lead?
LWG Will you follow?
LWJ Shall I follow?
LWK I will follow
LWC Follow me
LWF Will you lead?
LWG Will you follow?
LWJ Shall I follow?
LWK I will follow
LWC Follow me
LWF Will you lead?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>As it is</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAR</td>
<td>As it was</td>
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<td>FAS</td>
<td>As it was not</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAU</td>
<td>As it will be</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDF</td>
<td>Is it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTN</td>
<td>It is as</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGR</td>
<td>It ought to be</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGT</td>
<td>It shall (or will) be</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGU</td>
<td>It shall (or will) not be</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNV</td>
<td>It will do</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIX</td>
<td>Will it be?</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOU</td>
<td>Will it do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CQG</td>
<td>What or which is it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDY</td>
<td>Its-self (see also he, she, it or person-s or thing-s indicated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<tr>
<td>TQB</td>
<td>I doubt if it is possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRW</td>
<td>Barely possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>TQD</td>
<td>Is it possible?</td>
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<tr>
<td>TQE</td>
<td>Possibly</td>
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<tr>
<td>TQF</td>
<td>Quite possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>FBJ</td>
<td>As slow as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBG</td>
<td>As quick as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAI</td>
<td>As fast as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBO</td>
<td>As soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAY</td>
<td>As much (or, many) as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TQC</td>
<td>If possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOU</td>
<td>Avoid, if possible (impossible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFB</td>
<td>Not possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>CME</td>
<td>THE</td>
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<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEN</td>
<td>Are, or Is the _____?</td>
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<td>BFE</td>
<td>Be the _____</td>
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<td>BJU</td>
<td>By the _____</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUE</td>
<td>Can, or may the _____?</td>
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<td>BLF</td>
<td>Could, or Might the _____?</td>
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<td>BMK</td>
<td>Do, Does or Did the _____?</td>
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<td>BPG</td>
<td>For the _____</td>
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<td>BPS</td>
<td>From the _____</td>
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<td>BQX</td>
<td>Had, Has or Have the _____?</td>
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<td>BZY</td>
<td>If the _____</td>
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<td>CDN</td>
<td>In the _____</td>
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<td>CEY</td>
<td>Must the _____?</td>
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<td>CGA</td>
<td>Not the _____</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGR</td>
<td>Of the _____</td>
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<td>CHD</td>
<td>On the _____</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHV</td>
<td>Ought the _____?</td>
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<td>CJT</td>
<td>Should, or would the _____?</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSQ</td>
<td>Where am I (or, are we)?</td>
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<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>WJV</td>
<td>Somewhere</td>
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<tr>
<td>CST</td>
<td>Where are they?</td>
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<tr>
<td>DQR</td>
<td>Anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSR</td>
<td>Where are (or, is)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>MJC</td>
<td>Everywhere</td>
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<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>Where are you from?</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQS</td>
<td>Anywhere else</td>
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<tr>
<td>SH</td>
<td>Where are you bound?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVS</td>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSR</td>
<td>Where is?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>Whereabouts</td>
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