

CODE POEMS

HANNAH WEINER



CODE

from the International Code of Signals

Open Book

A Division of Station Hill Press

POEMS

for the Use of All Nations

Hannah Weiner

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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

Open Poetry, Ed. George Quasha & Ronald Gross, Simon & Schuster 1973

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.

THE SEMAPHORE ALPHABET

CHAR- ACTERS	HAND FLAGS	CHAR- ACTERS	HAND FLAGS	CHAR- ACTERS	HAND FLAGS	CHAR- ACTERS	HAND FLAGS
A		H		O		V	
B		I		P		W	
C		J		Q		X	
ANSWER- ING SIGN		K		R		Y	
D		L		S		Z	
E		M		T		ATTEN- TION	
F		N		U		BREAK	
G							

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		Farewell. Adieu (Mike leaves)
NM	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		Tomorrow 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?
FBM	Romeo:	As soon as it is dark
DCA	Juliet:	With pleasure. I will accept.
MHL		A small establishment
HAI	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

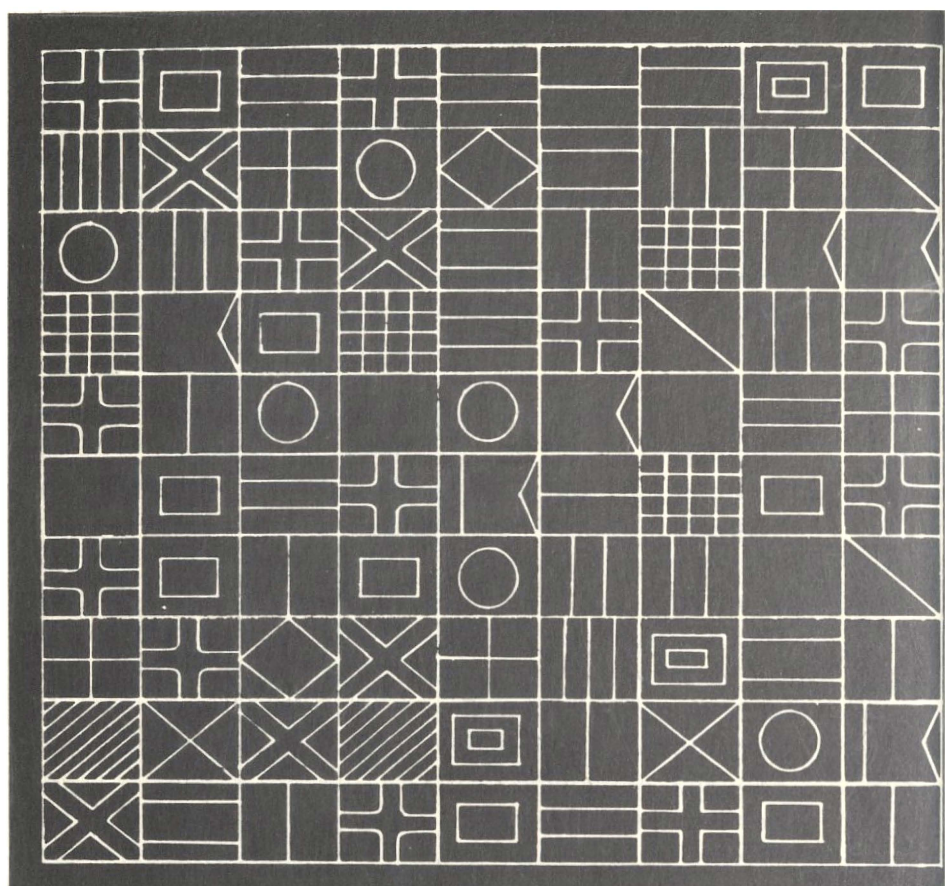
GIA Juliet: This is my best point
 SHJ Some swell
 XOR Romeo: Thank you
 GDS May I begin to?
 GIT Juliet: The sooner the better
 MFO Romeo: Entrance is difficult
 MFD Juliet: Try to enter
 KZU Romeo: I am in difficulties; direct me how to steer
 OOX Juliet: You should swing and enter stern first
 HBK 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 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
Juliet:

EDQ ANY CHANCE OF WAR?

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
FJX	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
EQB	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

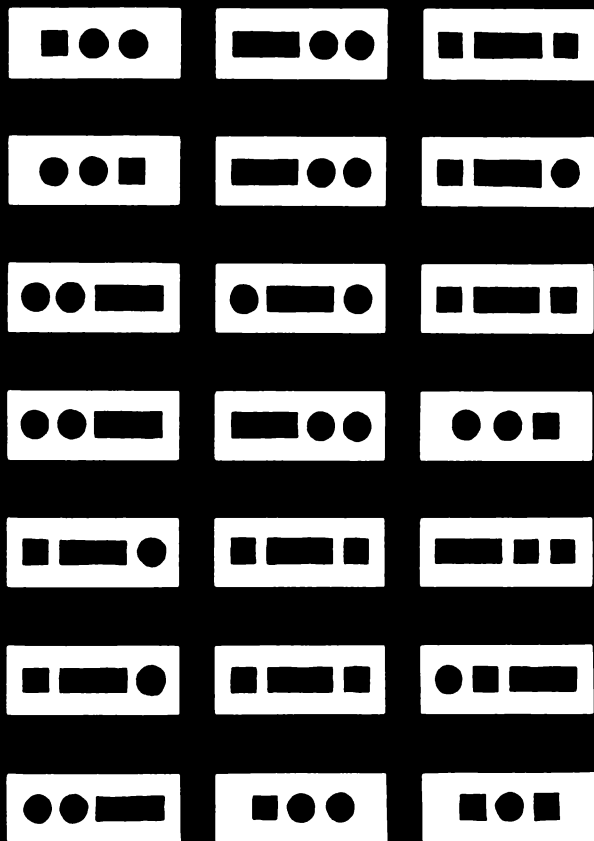


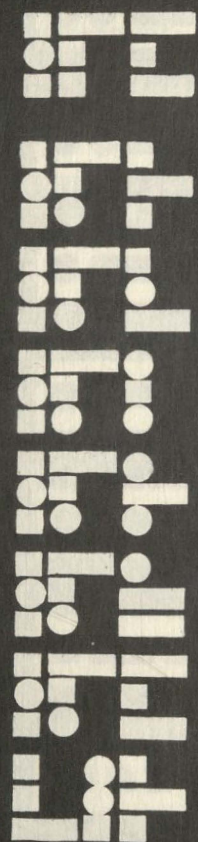
RPJ WANT MEN

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
QJL	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

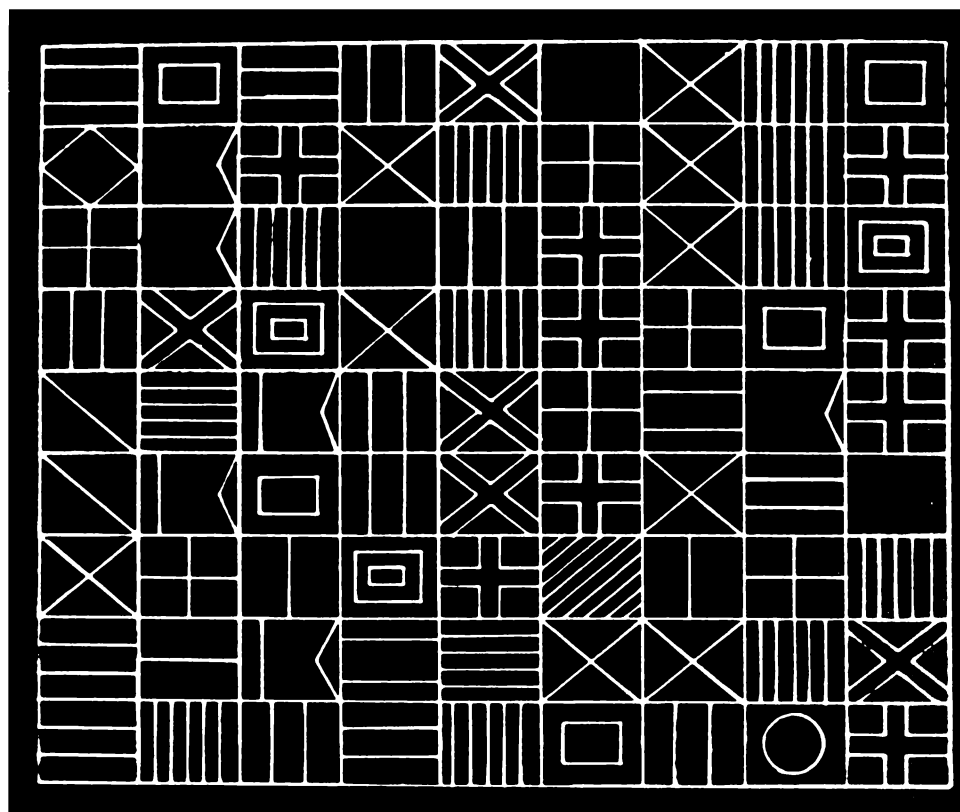
LRG	Will you carry a light?
MPD	Will you make the land tonight?
LRM	I will carry a light
GDW	I see the land, land in sight
GDV	I have just lost sight of the land or light
MQC	Anything in sight?





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



DSJ 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
JEA	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?	
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?	

BVZ IT

FAO	As it is
FAR	As it was
FAS	As it was not
FAU	As it will be
CDF	Is it?
PTN	It is as
BGR	It ought to be
BGT	It shall (or will) be
BGU	It shall (or will) not be
BNV	It will do
BIX	Will it be?
BOU	Will it do?
CQG	What or which is it?
CDY	Its-self (see also he, she, it or person-s or thing-s indicated)

TQA POSSIBLE-ITY

TQB	I doubt if it is possible
FRW	Barely possible
TQD	Is it possible?
TQE	Possibly
TQF	Quite possible
FBJ	As slow as possible
FBG	As quick as possible
FAI	As fast as possible
FBO	As soon as possible
FAY	As much (or, many) as possible
TQC	If possible
FOU	Avoid, if possible (impossible)
PFB	Not possible

CME THE

BEN	Are, or Is the _____?
BFE	Be the _____
BJU	By the _____
HUE	Can, or may the _____?
BLF	Could, or Might the _____?
BMK	Do, Does or Did the _____?
BPG	For the _____
BPS	From the _____
BQX	Had, Has or Have the _____?
BZY	If the _____
CDN	In the _____
CEY	Must the _____?
CGA	Not the _____
CGR	Of the _____
CHD	On the _____
CHV	Ought the _____?
CJT	Should, or would the _____?

CSQ WHERE AM I (OR, ARE WE)?

CSQ	Where am I (or, are we)?
WJV	Somewhere
CST	Where are they?
DQR	Anywhere
CSR	Where are (or, is)?
MJC	Everywhere
SI	Where are you from?
EQS	Anywhere else
SH	Where are you bound?
LVS	Elsewhere
CSR	Where is?
CSP	Whereabouts