

Welcome to
The Second Annual
HamSCI Book Group.

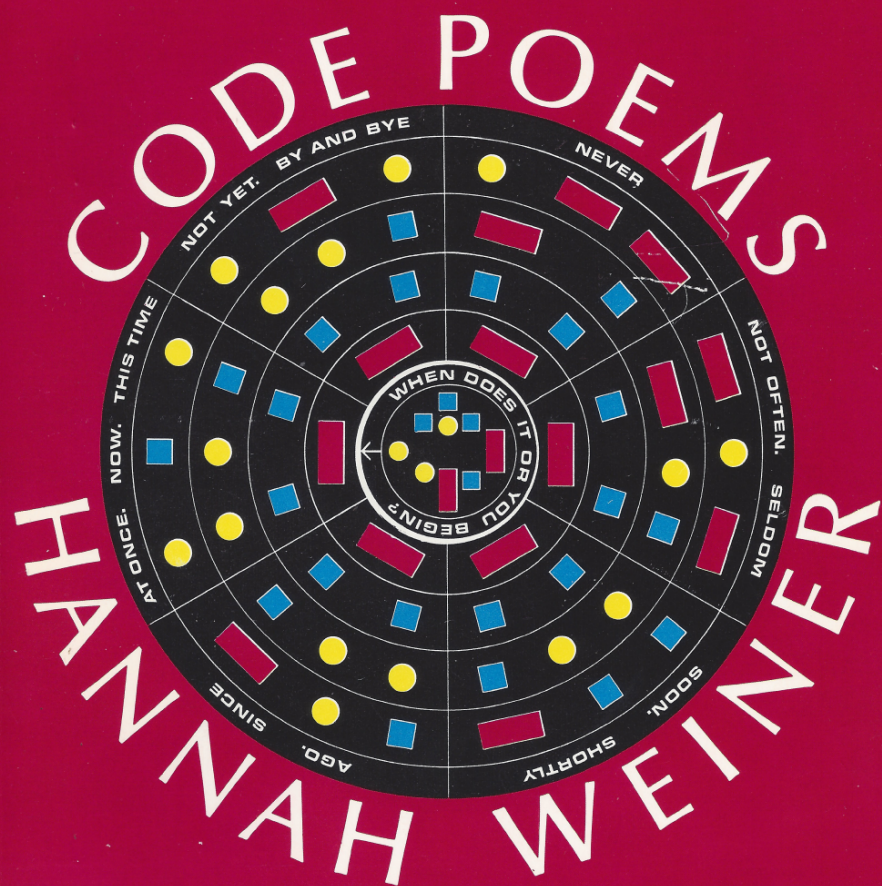
“And to think that we started as a book group.”

Last year: Rudyard Kipling's 1902 “Wireless”



Did Kipling have a callsign?

Main finding:
Communications hobbyists
are surprisingly laconic.



The HamSCI Book Group 2025

presents

Code Poems:

From the International Code of Signals for the Use of All Nations

By Hannah Weiner

RJ and other bits of
amateur radio literature

David Kazdan AD8Y
Case Western Reserve University

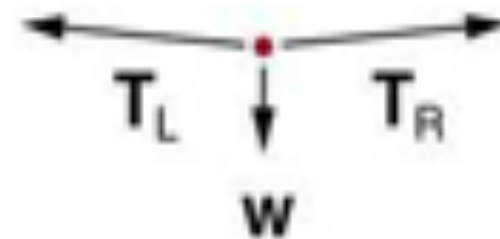
Magnet poetry. You've seen this. It is "poetic" for being metered and refrigerated. That's us. We like iambic keyers, CW preserved. (It could have been trochaic keying. It's not.)



Before “magnetic poetry: “Found poetry.”
Very amateur radio, like a galena crystal.

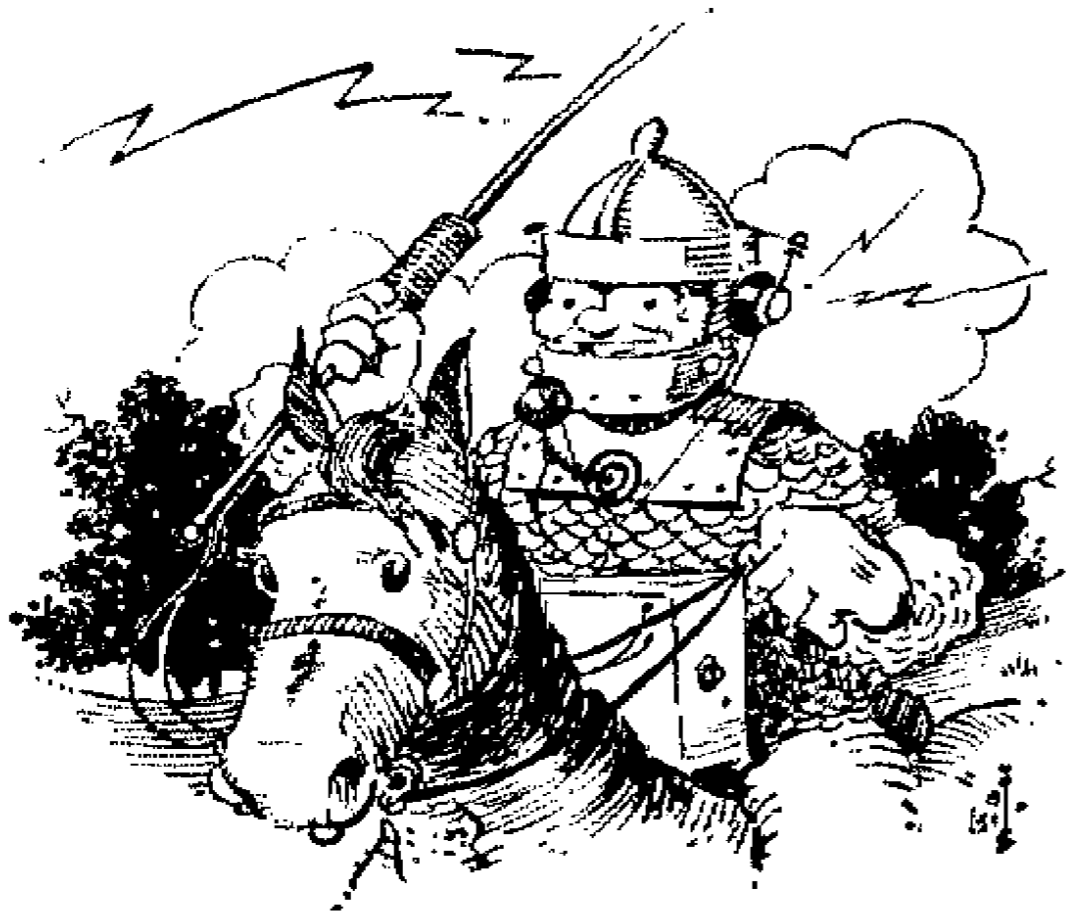
From William Whewell's
"An Elementary Treatise on Mechanics," 1819:

*Hence no force, however great,
can stretch a cord, however fine,
into an horizontal line
which is accurately straight.*



James Thurber's 1937 "No Place Like Home".
This short story repurposes an tourist phrasebook:
Amateur radio junquebox literature at its best!

"...Next comes an effective little interlude about an airplane trip, which is one of my favourite passages in this swift and sorrowful tragedy: 'I want to reserve a place in the plane leaving tomorrow morning.' 'When do we start?' 'Can we get anything to eat on board?' 'When do we arrive,' 'I feel sick.' 'Have you any paper bags for air-sickness?' 'The noise is terrible.' 'Have you any cotton wool?' 'When are we going to land ?' This brief masterpiece caused me to cancel an air trip from London to Paris and go the easy way, across the Channel."



The Ham in Hamlet

BY FRED E. EBEL,* W9PXA

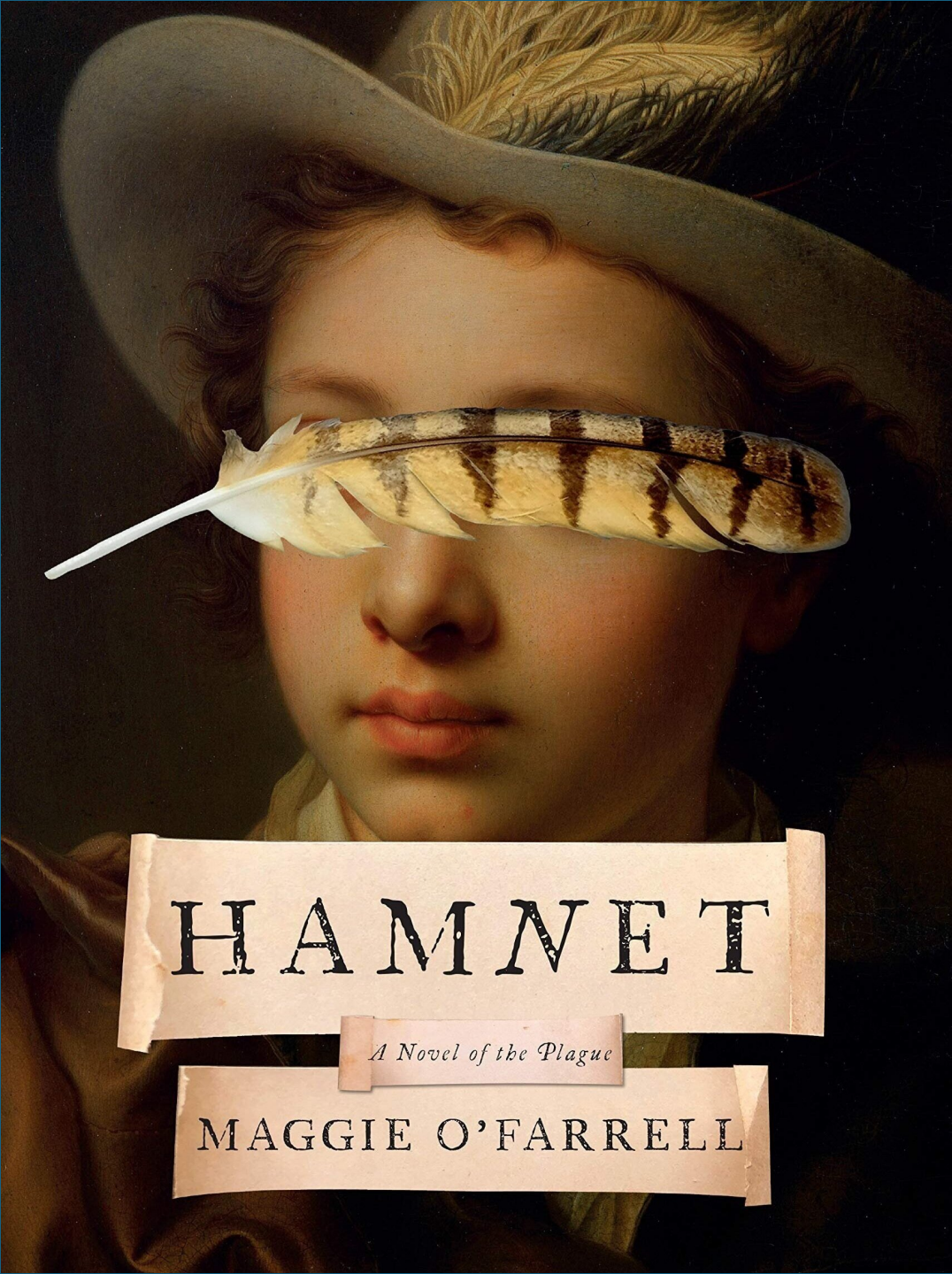
Communications hobbyists
enjoy Shakespeare. Hark!
QST for February 1972

Ebel cites, for example, *Much Ado About Nothing*, Act 2, Scene 1:

“I will tell you my drift.”

Yep. Drift, as **QRH**:

“Does my frequency vary? Your frequency varies.”



There have been other, more recent discussions of Shakespearian amateur radio.

No, I'm not making this up.

Publisher : Vintage; First Edition Thus (May 18, 2021)

Language : English

Paperback : 320 pages

ISBN-10 : 1984898876

ISBN-13 : 978-1984898876

Item Weight : 2.31 pounds

Dimensions : 5.15 x 0.7 x 7.96 inches

Best Sellers Rank: #8,792 in Books ([See Top 100 in Books](#))#1 in [Renaissance Literary Criticism \(Books\)](#)

#381 in [Family Life Fiction \(Books\)](#)

#946 in [Literary Fiction \(Books\)](#)

Customer Reviews: 4.4 4.4 out of 5 stars [60,735 ratings](#)

Semaphore and “CW” superficially encode letters and numbers and a bit of punctuation only. That’s never been Morse idiomatic or linguistic use. We recall [Monty Python’s versions](#).

INTERNATIONAL FLAGS AND PENNANTS							
ALPHABET FLAGS				NUMERAL PENNANTS			
Alfa		Kilo		Uniform		1	
Bravo		Lima		Victor		2	
Charlie		Mike		Whiskey		3	
Delta		November		Xray		4	
Echo		Oscar		Yankee		5	
Foxtrot		Papa		Zulu		6	
Golf		Quebec		SUBSTITUTES		7	
Hotel		Romeo		1st Substitute		8	
India		Sierra		2nd Substitute		9	
Juliett		Tango		3rd Substitute		0	
				 CODE (Answering Pennant or Decimal Point)			

	American (Morse)	Continental (Gerke)	International (ITU)
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
I			
J			
K			
L			
M			
N			
O			
P			
Q			
R			
S			
T			
U			
V			
W			
X			
Y			
Z			
[alt]			

QST QST QST DE W8EDU K

Much of this message isn't within the definition of Morse code, it's additional code over Morse.

It's akin to the **Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model**; you need an encoding system on top of the code itself.

ROMAYO AND JULIE

By Quinn Baldwin



© A Drama Notebook Title

No one is going to confuse
Romeo and Juliet with
A Midsummer Night's Dream.

R&J is TRAGEDY.

MND is COMEDY.

(those two lines are today's
FORESHADOWING)

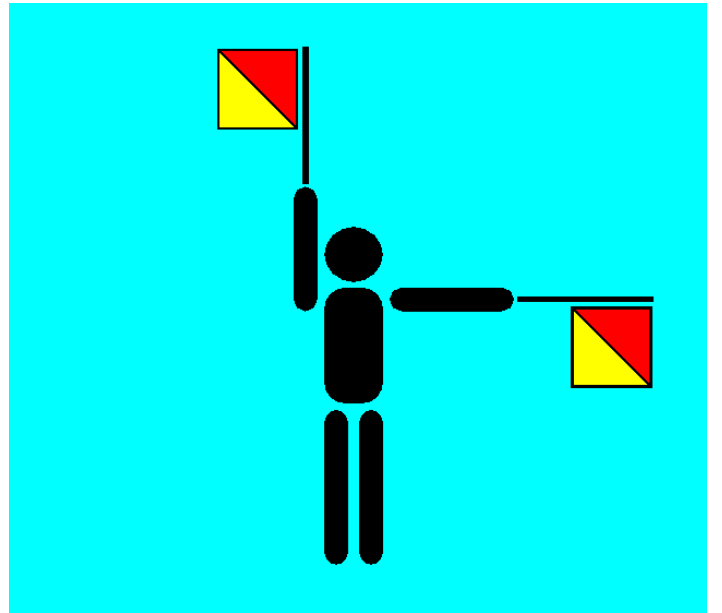
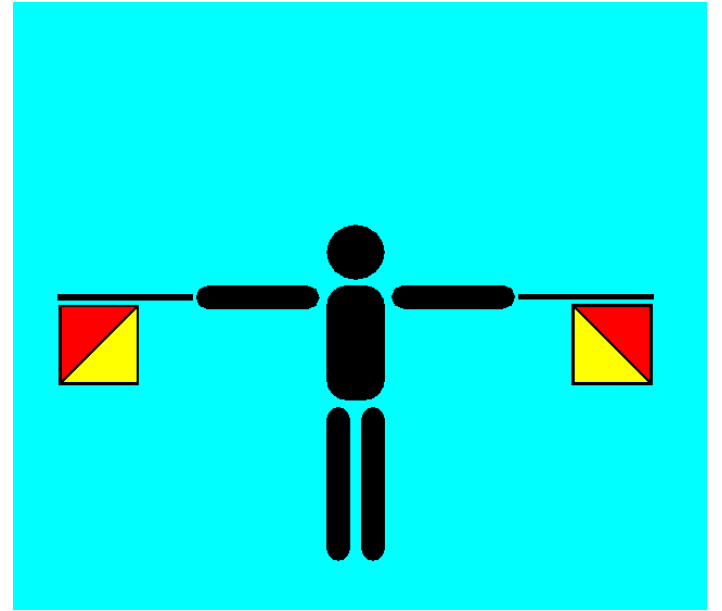
Having said that, this is a junior
high comedy version.

Hulu's *Rosaline* may be more
promising. There are others...

HamSCI presents *RJ*,

The naval semaphore version
of *Romeo and Juliet*.

No, I'm not making this up.



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



The teen lovers of *R&J* are “star-crossed.”



They are, so to speak, not using their sextants well or performing their sight reductions correctly.

Juliet: < 14.

Romeo: ~16.

[See John McGee PhD on this](#)

Weiner must have chanced across this:

R Romeo		<i>Gules, a cross or</i>	No ICS meaning as single flag. <i>Prior to 1969: "The way is off my ship; you may feel your way past me."</i>
J Juliatt		<i>Azure, a fess argent</i>	"I am on fire and have dangerous cargo on board: keep well clear of me." or "I am leaking dangerous cargo."

Flag of
Verona, by
the way.

RJ is even more bizarre than it seems on the surface
(submarines do not use semaphore).

Romeo and Juliet has a running theme of communications and miscommunications; it's really quite a tale for the radio amateur.

Come go with me. 「*To Servingman, giving him a list.*」
Go, sirrah, trudge about 35
Through fair Verona, find those persons out
Whose names are written there, and to them say
My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

「*Capulet and Paris*」 exit.

SERVINGMAN Find them out whose names are written
here! It is written that the shoemaker should 40
meddle with his yard and the tailor with his last, the
fisher with his pencil and the painter with his nets.
But I am sent to find those persons whose names
are here writ, and can never find what names the
writing person hath here writ. I must to the learned. 45
In good time!

Enter Benvolio and Romeo.

SERVINGMAN God gi' good e'en. I pray, sir, can you
read?

ROMEO

Ay, mine own fortune in my misery.

SERVINGMAN Perhaps you have learned it without
book. But I pray, can you read anything you see? 65

ROMEO

Ay, if I know the letters and the language.

SERVINGMAN You say honestly. Rest you merry.

ROMEO Stay, fellow. I can read. (*He reads the letter.*)

Signior Martino and his wife and daughters,

County Anselme and his beauteous sisters, 70

The lady widow of Vitruvio,

Signior Placentio and his lovely nieces,

Mercutio and his brother Valentine,

Mine Uncle Capulet, his wife and daughters,

My fair niece Rosaline and Livia, 75

Signior Valentio and his cousin Tybalt,

Lucio and the lively Helena.

A fair assembly. Whither should they come?

SERVINGMAN Up.

ROMEO Whither? To supper? 80

SERVINGMAN To our house.

ROMEO Whose house?

SERVINGMAN My master's.

Dot...dot...dot... (*not* dit...dit)

At the party, Romeo is introduced to Juliet and manages to talk with her for a moment...they must part for the evening...she is *slightly* nonplussed... again, the literacy...

ROMEO

Then move not while my prayer's effect I take.

「He kisses her.」

Thus from my lips, by thine, my sin is purged.

JULIET

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO

Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urged!

120

Give me my sin again. *「He kisses her.」*

JULIET

You kiss by th' book.

NURSE

Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

「Juliet moves toward her mother.」

“Really, Romeo? Did you learn to kiss by reading about it?”

“Hmm, mother is calling...”

You are directed to Code of Federal Regulations 47 § 97.1 “Basis and purpose.”

You'll figure it out.

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

With the refrigerator magnets of naval semaphore, we are left with a Shakespearean skeleton. Love and the meet-cute seem to find a way, and remember that list of party guests?



R & J did realize that the party needed to be recorded for posterity.

(from the 1968 Franco Zeffirelli film version)

(from the set, anyway)

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

The ships consider closing range.



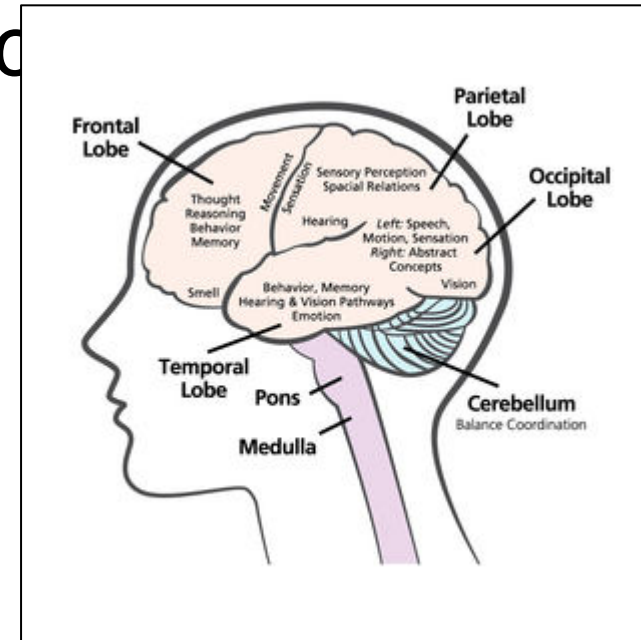
Interpretive dance
semaphore?
National Ballet of Canada

We omit sections not suitable for radio transmission under Part 97

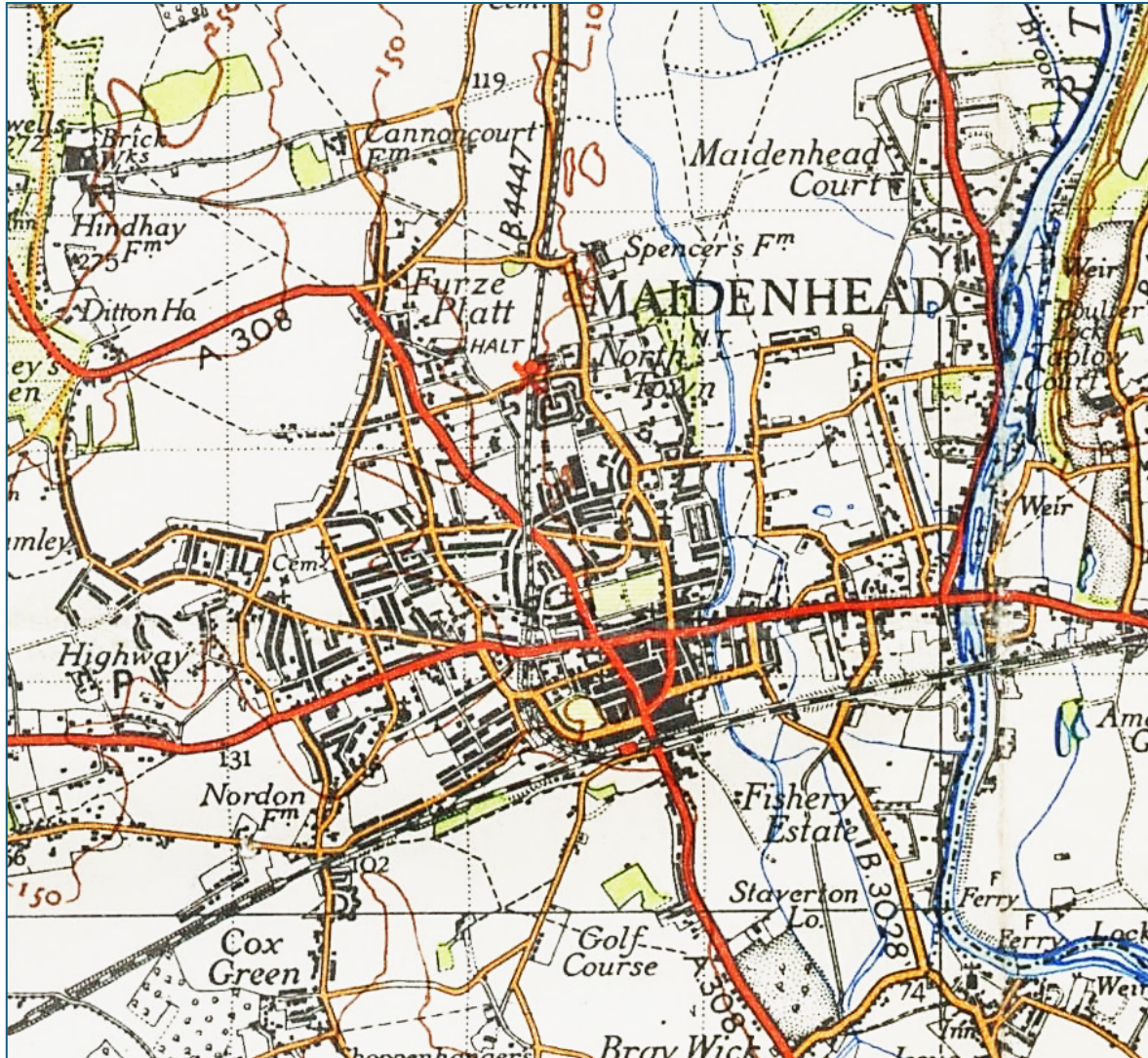
If *Romeo and Juliet* itself isn't being banned from libraries, Weiner's version might. Semaphore is apparently quite primary process.



What, no



Grid chasing is quite an *R&J* theme.

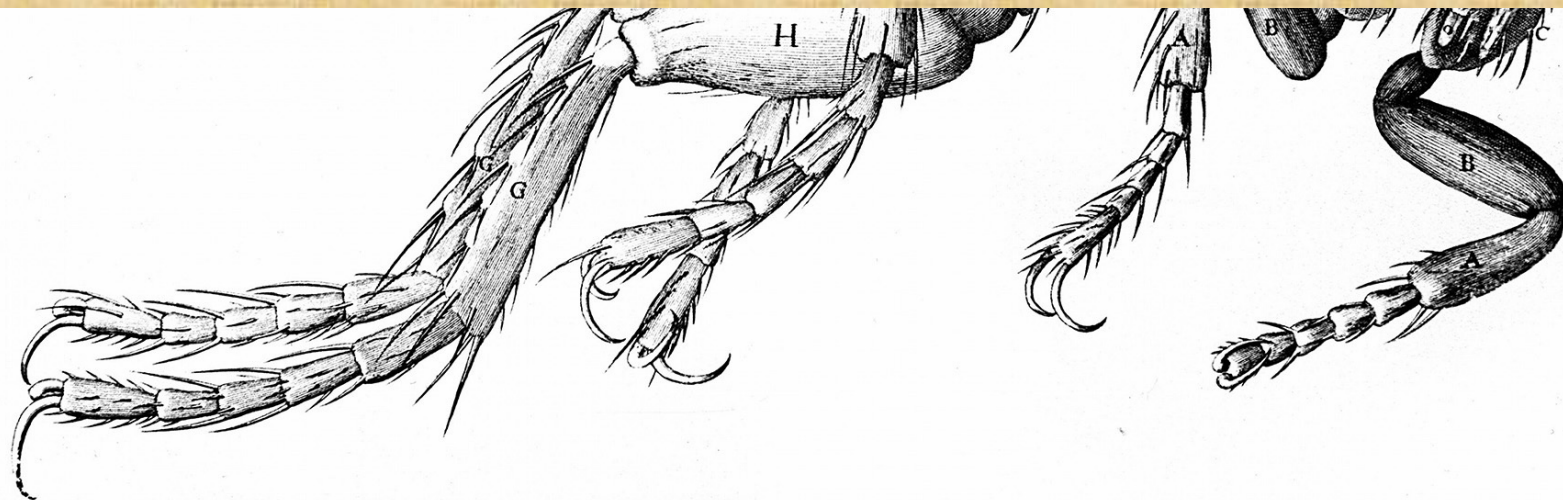


More Shakespeare hamming, no doubt.

Or OMs Sampson and Gregory are talking about chasing something else. AGN? AGN?

Possibly apocryphal semaphore message:

“I have an unusually high death rate among the rats on my ship”



Messaging in the setting of rats, fleas, and *Y. pestis*:
Handle formal written traffic promptly.
34 km Verona-Mantua, can send on the local net.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

Who bare my letter, then, to Romeo?

FRIAR JOHN

I could not send it—here it is again—

「*Returning the letter.*」

15 Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,
So fearful were they of infection.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

Unhappy fortune! By my brotherhood,
The letter was not nice but full of charge,
Of dear import, and the neglecting it

20 May do much danger. Friar John, go hence.
Get me an iron crow and bring it straight
Unto my cell.

OMG! All it took was a ~~COVID~~
bubonic plague scare to stop
the letter from being delivered.

It could have been different:



Two handhelds and a repeater could have saved everyone involved a whole lot of trouble.



Message | Records

SVC *NR *PREC HX *STN ORIG CK
☐ 1 PRIORITY ▼ HXD HXE hx IL3RNC ARL 25 ck

PLACE OF ORIG TIME FILED *MON DY
VERONA ... 15 JULY 1597 ...

*TO
ROMEO
WHERE HE MAY BE FOUND
MANTUA
TEL: WHAT IS THAT
OP NOTE: FRIAR JOHN HAND DELIVER
☒ Standard Format ARL MSG

TXT:
ARL FIFTY RETURN VERONA AT
ONCE X WILL FIND JULIET
AWAKENING X SPIRIT HER FROM
CRYPT AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER
AFTER X MAKE HASTE 73

SIG: FRIAR LAWRENCE OP NOTE: RP

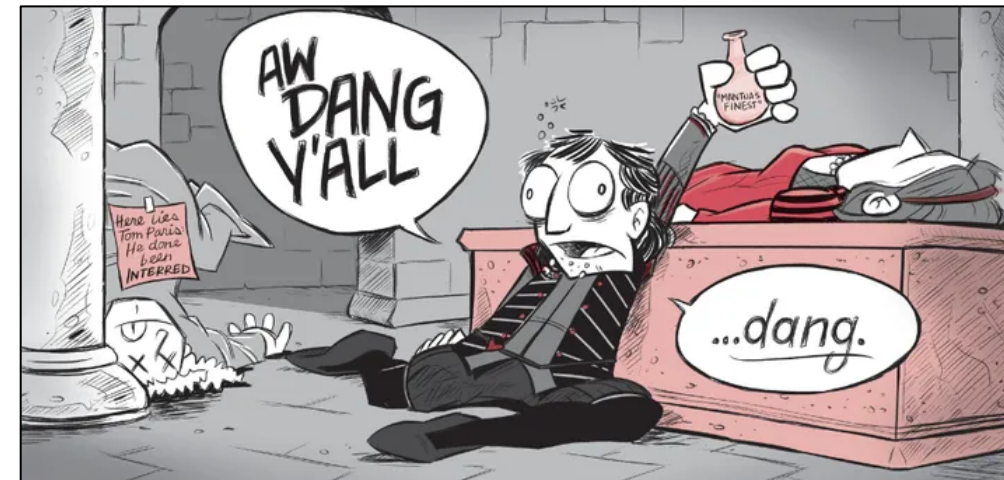


R&J and “RJ” remain tragedies.
Be careful in communications, deliver
radiograms promptly or problems may arise.

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:	

W8EDU practices radiograms
on Field Day, do you?

We do get the promised
bonus points.



Morals of *RJ* to radio amateurs: Learn traffic handling. Don't get plague. Others?

Amateur radio can avert disasters!
W8EDU and CWRU will teach you...come study...

Radio Sloyd: An Amateur Radio Approach to the
University-Level Critical Thinking and Writing Class

Kristina Collins, Sarah Bania-Dobyns, David Kazdan,
Nathaniel Vishner, and Andrew Hennessy
Case Western Reserve University, kvc2, dxk10, sbd43, nnv, and
ajb200@case.edu

Published in: [2017 IEEE Integrated STEM Education Conference \(ISEC\)](#)

Date of Conference: 11-11 March 2017

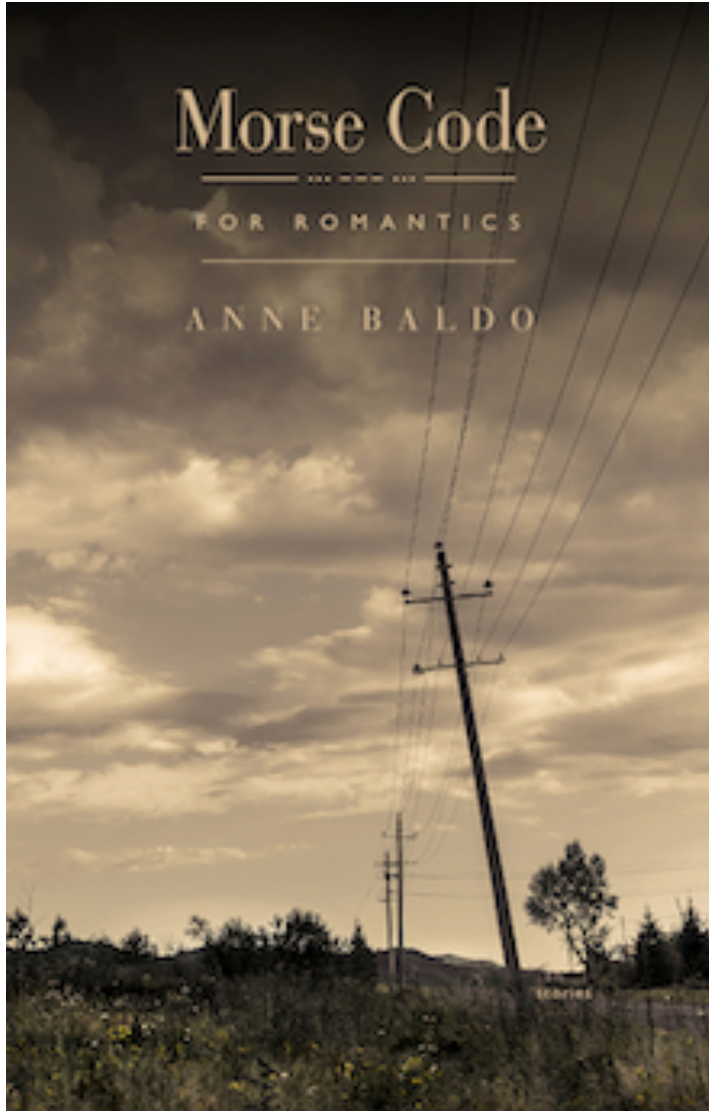
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 27 April 2017

ISBN Information:

DOI: [10.1109/ISECon.2017.7910230](#)

Conference Location: Princeton, NJ, USA

We note that this book is on backorder:



I'm not sure *Morse Code for Romantics* has much to do with Morse code.

The only copy of *Code Poems* for sale is listed at ~\$400. There is at least one on the NJIT campus.

There's some message in that.

The world needs more Morse code literature?

QGB A OR AN

QGC	Another — some other
QGD	Any person or thing
QGF	Some
QGH	The
QGJ	Both
Q GK	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?

Weiner's radiotelegraphy poem takes some ordered poetic license. Not all of these Q codes are on the usual lists. No 92 code items!

We can guess that Hanna Weiner was not herself a CW operator.

She omitted

- **QLF** – "Are you sending with your left foot? Try sending with your left foot!" (we note [KB1QXH's short film](#))
- **QNB** – QNB? "How many buttons on your radio?" "QNB 100/5" Means there are 100 and I know what 5 of them do.

W8EDU student poets would not omit these.

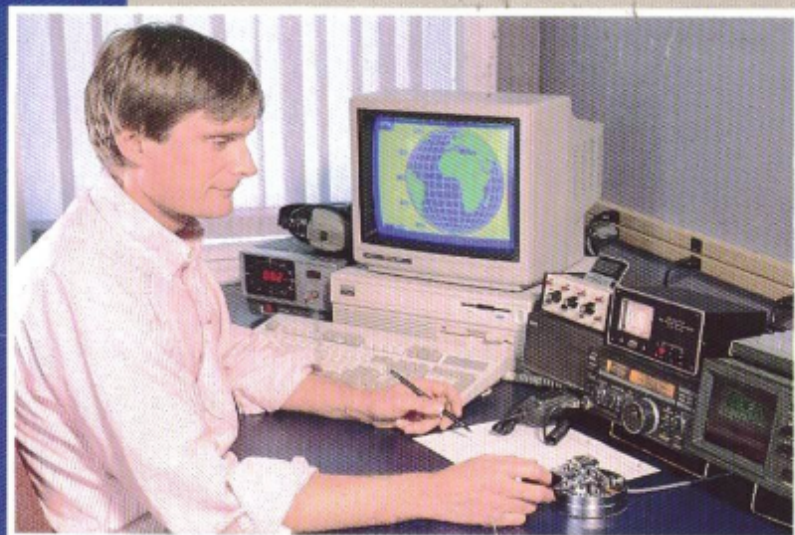
\$6.00

MORSE CODE



THE ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE

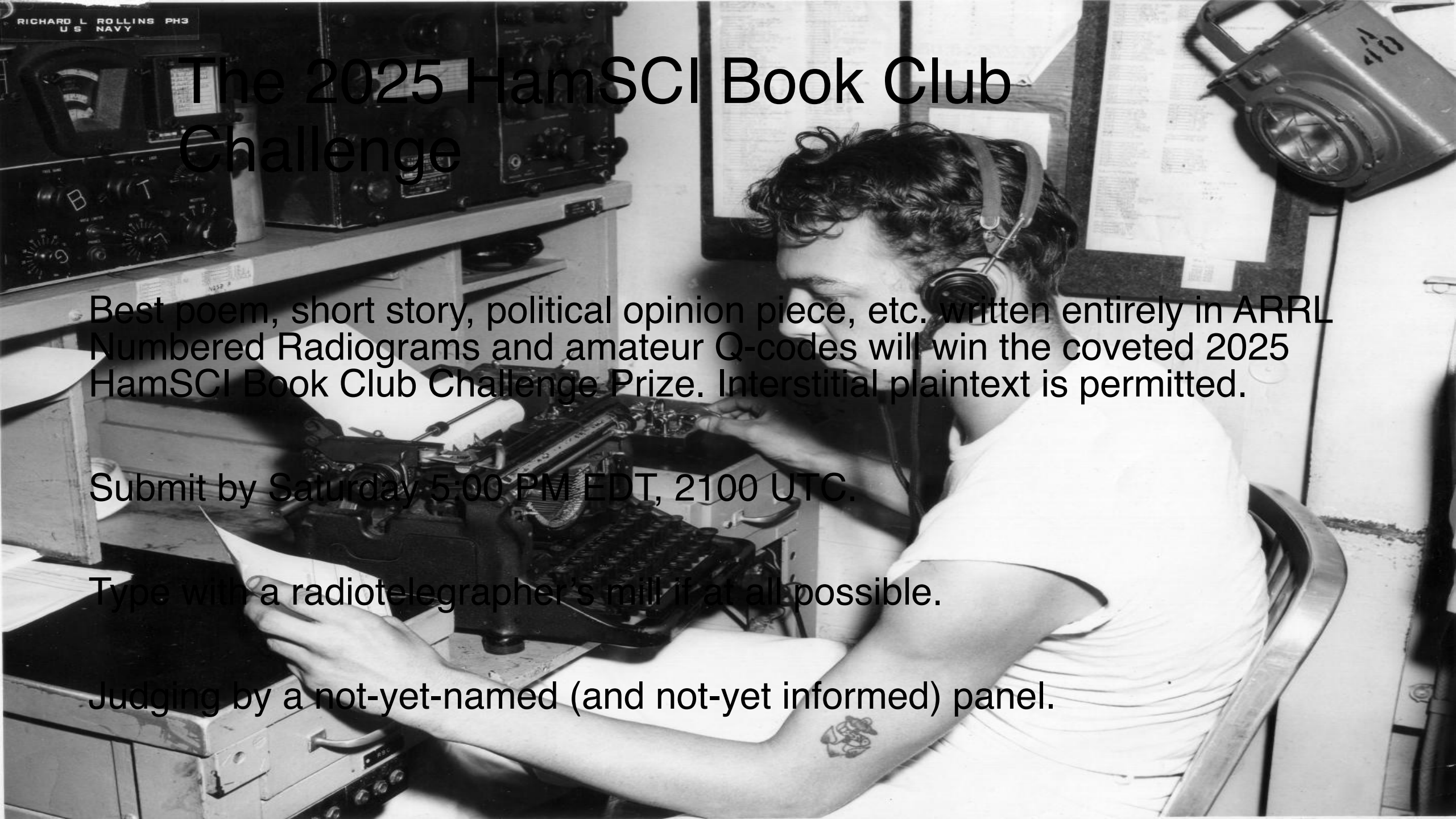
L. Peter Carron Jr., W3DKV



SECOND EDITION

Or maybe Carron was
on to something.

We need more code
poems, so...



The 2025 HamSCI Book Club Challenge

Best poem, short story, political opinion piece, etc. written entirely in ARRL Numbered Radiograms and amateur Q-codes will win the coveted 2025 HamSCI Book Club Challenge Prize. Interstitial plaintext is permitted.

Submit by Saturday 5:00 PM EDT, 2100 UTC.

Type with a radioteletographer's mill if at all possible.

Judging by a not-yet-named (and not-yet informed) panel.



A - 1



B - 2



C - 3



D - 4



E - 5



F - 6



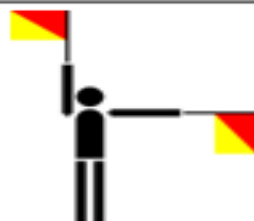
G - 7



H - 8



I - 9



J - Letters to Follow



K - 0



L



M



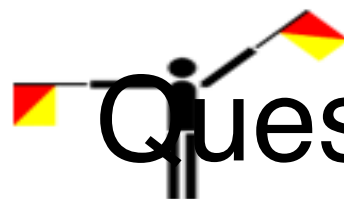
N



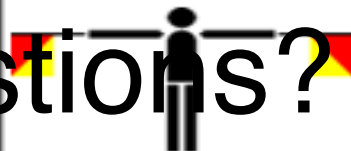
O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W



X



Y



Z



End of Word - Space



Numerals to follow



Cancel



Error / Warning

ARRL verified with the FAA that traffic net QN codes would not be confused with aeronautical QN codes.

For example, this might be amateur:

QNN*

A complex request from the Net Control Station asking a specific station to change frequency to a specified one, then to wait for a named station on that frequency to finish whatever traffic it is currently engaged in, and then to send that station traffic on behalf of yet a third named station. c.f. QNV.

HamSCI agrees. Don't worry about it.

QUIZ:

QNR: I am approaching my point of no return. Amateur or

Poem to ponder:

“The Flea”

by John DONNE

Poet ham?—Shakespeare contemporary.

Poem:

“Fleas”

by Strickland Gilliland (not a poet ham?)

Adam

Had ‘em.

And in the DONNE sense, so did R&J

Some notes...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_maritime_signal_flags

<https://earlyradiohistory.us/1916two.htm>

Upon query, Chat GPT (or a cousin) says about the balcony scene:

“O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore (read: “for what reason”) art thou Romeo?” is a line from William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. Juliet says this line in Act 2, scene 2.

Chat GPT continues:

“Why it's famous: This is one of Shakespeare's best known lines.”

Editorial comment from W8EDU: Society is doomed.

Special Warning Signals.—The following signals are used by Russian naval vessels to warn foreign vessels that they have violated **Regulations for entry, navigating and stopping in Russian Territorial Waters (Territorial Sea) or Russian In-land Waters:**

SNG	You have violated the Russian borders. I demand that you leave Russian waters immediately.
SNO	I demand that you leave Russian waters immediately. Unless you do so, a force of arms will be used against you.
SNP	You are violating the regulations for navigating and remaining in Russian waters. I demand that you cease violations.
SNR	Despite warnings, you continue to violate the regulations for navigating and remaining in Russian waters. You are to leave them immediately.

By day these signals will be made by flags of the International Code of Signals. By night they will be in Morse Code by signal lamp. In addition, the signals may be transmitted by RT in plain language on 500 kHz, 2182 kHz and 156.8 MHz, as well as by voice using megaphone or any other amplifying device.

Warning signals to foreign submarines which are submerged:

The signal of two series of explosions with three explosions in each series (where the interval between the explosions in a series is one minute and the interval between the series is three minutes), means: You are in Russian waters. I demand that you surface immediately. Unless you comply with this order within 10 minutes, a force of arms will be used against you.

An acoustic signal by sonar may be given simultaneously, with the same meaning as described above. The signal will consist of five dashes, each dash three seconds long, interval between dashes, three seconds.

We present RJ,
The naval semaphore version.

No, I'm not making this up.

Shakespeare himself on *R&J*, in the prologue:
The which if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

We'll do our best here, stick with us.

Possibly apocryphal semaphore message:

“I have an unusually high death rate among the rats on my ship”

1969 signal system, including 3-letter medical signals:

https://emed.ie/_docs/Medicocork-International-Code-Of-Signals.pdf

It also has a specific code set for US-Soviet ship encounters, might have been useful to Capulets.