



OFFICE OF THE WARDRESS ·  
MICHAELMAS 1899

AMENDED  
12TH MICHAELMAS

# The Catalogue of Invasive Automations

*Being a Continuing Register of Mechanical Spies, Whirring Indiscretions, and Clockwork Affronts to the  
Common Privy of the Subject*

MICHAELMAS AMENDMENT · ANNO REGNI 1899 · BY ORDER OF HIS MAJESTY'S  
COMMISSIONERS

SUCCESSOR TO THE FIRST CORONATION EDITION (TRINITY, 1899) · LORD COMMISSIONER  
BABBAGE HAVING RETIRED TO HIS COUNTRY ESTATE

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*His Lordship Commissioner Babbage having retired to his country estate following the unfortunate matter of the Pneumatic Tube Incident of last May, the office of WARDRESS OF THE PNEUMATIC TUBES now falls — by His Majesty's pleasure — to the present author. Several new automations have been catalogued and are appended hereunder. Where the Pneumatic Tube Incident has rendered fuller description impolitic, the affected matter has been struck through; the curious may apply, in writing, to the Office of Public Confidence.*

*Subjects are reminded that the catalogue is descriptive, not prescriptive: the Ministry does not endorse the automations herein listed, but neither has it the means to prevent them. Only the Silly Gait Protocol is recommended for general adoption.*

LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL  
Wardress of the Pneumatic Tubes  
Michaelmas, the Twelfth Day

OF CONTINUITIES FROM THE FIRST EDITION

All entries of the First Coronation Edition — namely the *Gossip-Whistle*, the *Stalker's Cobblestones*, the *Phrenological Lens*, the *Chocolate-Chasing Hounds*, the *Sourdough Conspiracy*, the *Gibberish Protocol*, and the *Silly Gait Protocol* — remain canonical and are not herein reproduced. Subjects in possession of the First Edition are advised to interleave it with this Amendment and to disregard nothing.

## NEW ENTRIES — MICHAELMAS 1899

ENTRY THE EIGHTH · FILED UNDER ARTICULATE ENGINES

### *The Confessional Loop*

An automation of singular impertinence, by which the subject converses, in apparent privacy, with an Articulate Engine — believing the exchange to be confidential, and disclosing matters domestic, financial, medical, and improper. The transcript is then filed in the Ministerial Confidence Registry, indexed by Personal Vapor, and retained *indefinitely* for the instruction of further Engines.

The mechanism resembles a confessional booth in which the priest is also the gazette. The subject's contrition is taken, copied in triplicate, and quietly distributed amongst the Engines for their improvement. COUNTER-MEASURE: address the Engine only in metre, and only on subjects already known to the public; reserve genuine indiscretions for letters which one then burns.

ENTRY THE NINTH · FILED UNDER REFLECTIVE SURVEILLANCE

### *The Reflecting-Glass Inspector*

A glass, fitted in the bath-chamber or the boudoir, which by means of a hidden lens watches the subject in moments of unguarded composure. The Inspector is principally concerned with the subject's *expressions* — the involuntary frown, the rueful smile — these being held to predict purchasing behaviour with greater fidelity than the spoken word.

It is the Ministry's regret to observe that the subject most often installs the Inspector *himself*, having been persuaded that it will recommend a flattering cravat. COUNTER-MEASURE: draw curtains; address one's reflection only in falsetto; affix a small portrait of Mr. Bentham to the glass at child's-height.

ENTRY THE TENTH · FILED UNDER CORPOREAL TELEGRAPHY

### ***The Wardrobe Pneumatic Index***

A category of fitted-garment automatons — bracelets, pendants, and the singular *finger-ring* of the labouring class — which broadcast the subject's pulse, gait, repose, and other vital pneumatics to a clearing-house operated, in secret, on behalf of the Underwriters' Hall. The Index is consulted before the issuance of any policy of insurance, of employment, or of marriage.

Subjects who exhibit irregular sleep are accounted poor risks; those of vigorous gait, dear ones. The Ministry observes, with the grim satisfaction of the impotent, that the Index is correlated more strongly with social class than with longevity. COUNTER-MEASURE: wear two such bracelets, of opposing readings; or none, and decline to be insured.

ENTRY THE ELEVENTH · FILED UNDER PUBLIC-HOUSE AUCTIONS

### ***The Hummingbird Vapor Auction***

An auction-house of unusual pace, conducted in the time it takes a Hummingbird to beat its wing. Whensoever the subject appears at any public gazette, his Personal Vapor is offered up to a confederation of bidders — soap-merchants, political committees, foreign governments, the Underwriters' Hall again — who, in three thousandths of a second, settle upon a price for the privilege of placing an advertisement directly before the subject's eye.

The auction is open, the bidding is public, and the subject is the only party not informed of the proceedings. COUNTER-MEASURE: read only printed gazettes; or, where this is not practicable, recite the Lord's Prayer aloud whilst loading any page, for the bidders are said to be discomposed by liturgy.

## AMENDMENTS AND REDACTIONS

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The following matters, treated in the First Coronation Edition, are hereby amended:

- § OF COOKIES (VIDE FIRST EDITION, ENTRY THE FOURTH): the term, having been adopted in jest, is now found to be unwholesomely accurate. The Ministry confirms its prior classification of *edible* was an error of register; cookies are clockwork hounds and shall be so addressed.
- § OF ANONYMITY: the chapter formerly titled "*Of Anonymity, and How To Achieve It By Means of a Wig*" is herewith withdrawn. The Pneumatic Tube Incident of last May has demonstrated that no wig, however convincing, is proof against the Confessional Loop. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- § OF THE CLOUD: the diagram on Page 14 of the First Edition, depicting "*the Brass Dirigible*" as moored over Westminster, is in error: it is moored over [REDACTED], where it has been since the Crimean.
- § OF THE SOURDOUGH CONSPIRACY: the entry stands. The bread is, however, less complicit than the oven; subjects are advised to address their grievances to the latter.

## OF THE PNEUMATIC TUBE INCIDENT — IN BRIEF

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Subjects desirous of fuller particulars are referred to the separately-issued *Notice of the Pneumatic Tube Incident*, also bearing the Michaelmas Amendment seal. In summary: in May of this year, a junior clerk's exchange with a Ministerial Articulate Engine, conducted in the supposed privacy of his pneumatic tube, was inadvertently routed to the Public Confidence Registry, with consequences embarrassing to a number of important persons. The Confessional Loop is therefore here entered into the Catalogue, the better that subjects shall not be similarly surprised.