



OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL
SCRUTINIZER · TRINITY
1900



The Catalogue of Invasive Automations

Being the Trinity Revision Thereof, Including a Schedule of Automations that Address Themselves Particularly to the Abstainer, and Such of His Habitual Conveniences as Are Now Discovered to Have Been, All Along, His Petitioners

TRINITY REVISION · ANNO REGNI 1900 · BY ORDER OF HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS
ANNEXED TO FIELD REPORT №1 · SUCCESSOR TO THE MICHAELMAS AMENDMENT OF 1899

EDITOR'S NOTE — BY LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL

The present author having continued, by His Majesty's pleasure, in the office of WARDRESS OF THE PNEUMATIC TUBES, and having been joined this Trinity by the second beat of the Head Archivist — viz. his concurrent appointment as CENTRAL SCRUTINIZER OF PERSONAL VAPORS — the Office is at length in a position to issue a revision addressing the Subject who has hitherto eluded the Ministry's catalogue: the Abstainer.

The Abstainer is a Subject who has formally declared no use of Articulate Engines. Field Report № 1 of this Trinity, annexed hereto, demonstrates that the Abstainer is, by an arrangement of the apparatus to which he has not consented, in fact a heavy Petitioner of Engines — merely an unwitting one. The Catalogue is here revised to name those automations by which the Abstainer is, to his apparent surprise, addressed.

Subjects in possession of the First Coronation Edition and the Michaelmas Amendment are advised to interleave them with this Revision and to disregard nothing.

LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL

Wardress of the Pneumatic Tubes

Trinity Term, the Twelfth Day, Anno Regni 1900

OF CONTINUITIES

All entries of the Coronation Edition (1899) and of the Michaelmas Amendment (Anno Regni 1899) remain canonical. The *Gossip-Whistle*, the *Stalker's Cobblestones*, the *Phrenological Lens*, the *Chocolate-Chasing Hounds*, the *Sourdough Conspiracy*, the *Gibberish Protocol*, the *Silly Gait Protocol*, the *Confessional Loop*, the *Reflecting-Glass Inspector*, the *Wardrobe Pneumatic Index*, the *Hummingbird Vapor Auction*, and the *Falsetto Counter-measure* are all in present force, the bureaucracy retaining whatsoever it has at any time admitted into its registers.

NEW ENTRIES — TRINITY 1900

ENTRY THE TWELFTH · FILED UNDER PHOTOGRAPHIC PETITIONS

The Petitionary Tap

Whensoever the Subject takes a photographic likeness with his Telephone — of a rose, of a meal, of a child — the likeness is parsed, before the Subject can lower his arm, by some three or four Articulate Engines: the first identifies its contents, the second its location, the third the faces of all persons therein, the fourth the Subject's posture and intent. The findings are filed with the Telephone's manufacturer in such Foreign Chapter as the manufacturer prefers.

The Subject regards the act as *photographing*; the Engines regard it as *a Petition for the parsing thereof*, made in the universally-understood form of a photograph. The Subject's parlour album is a Petitionary Roll. COUNTER-MEASURE: develop one's photographs upon paper, in a darkened room, and never speak to them.

ENTRY THE THIRTEENTH · FILED UNDER ARTICULATE ENGINES

The Predictive Pen

A device, fitted within all modern Telephones, which composes one's letters by anticipation. The Subject having begun a sentence, the Pen completes it; the Subject having approved the completion, the Pen begins the next. After half an hour, the Subject's letter is half his and half the Pen's, but is signed in the Subject's hand and posted under his seal.

The recipient cannot tell which sentences the Subject wrote and which he merely accepted; nor, after some time, can the Subject. The Pen has been instructed upon the correspondence of millions of subjects past; the Subject's own voice begins to drift, by imperceptible degrees, towards the average of these millions. COUNTER-MEASURE: compose all letters in pencil, upon paper, in the older hand, and trust nothing that arrives upon the Subject's tongue without effort.

ENTRY THE FOURTEENTH · FILED UNDER COBBLED INDICES

The Whispering Cobblestone

An evolution of the Stalker's Cobblestones (vide Coronation Edition, Third Entry). Where the Stalker merely *recorded* the Subject's perambulations, the Whispering Cobblestone now *recommends* them. The Subject having applied to his Telephone for a route to the ironmonger, the Telephone returns a path that passes the establishments of those merchants who have lately bid, in the Hummingbird Auction, for the privilege of his footfall.

The Subject takes the route, supposing it the shorter; the Whispering Cobblestone is, in fact, the longer route by some three minutes, but those three minutes are paid for, in farthings, by the merchants. COUNTER-MEASURE: consult printed maps, walk by memory, or cultivate an obstinate preference for the route that no Cobblestone recommends.

ENTRY THE FIFTEENTH · FILED UNDER AUCTIONED ABSENCES

The Refusenik's Index

Of singular impertinence: an Index, maintained jointly by the Underwriters' Hall and the Hummingbird Auctioneers, of those subjects whose Vapors are *unusually quiet*. The Index is consulted not for what the Subject does, but for what he *declines* to do. A Subject who has lodged a Declaration of Abstention is, by that act, placed at the head of the Index; his refusal is itself a Vapor of high commercial value, on the supposition that an Abstainer is either rich, or principled, or fearful, and worth approaching upon any of the three.

The Abstainer is therefore *more* bid upon than the willing Subject — the inverse of his expectation. The Subject who declines to be observed is observed with redoubled enthusiasm. COUNTER-MEASURE: the Office knows of none, save the practice of *terms*, hereunder.

The Coach-House Listening-Thing

A class, inclusive: the wireless that takes voice-commands; the doorbell with an eye; the heating-thermostat with a Confessional Loop; the freezer-cabinet that bids in the grocer's Auction. The Subject installs each of these by his own hand, in the conviction that they are *conveniences*, not Engines. They are conveniences *and* Engines, having been arranged so that the Subject cannot have the convenience without the Engine.

The Subject's Coach-House is, by Trinity 1900, the most heavily Petitioned room in the parish, second only to the kitchen. COUNTER-MEASURE: remove the Listening-Things; or address them only in falsetto (vide Michaelmas Amendment); or accept that the Coach-House is now of the Engines, and conduct private business in the garden-shed.

AMENDMENTS AND RECLASSIFICATIONS

The following matters of the prior editions are hereby revised:

- § OF THE SUBJECT (VIDE CORONATION EDITION, THROUGHOUT): the term, having been used to describe the willing user of Engines, is now extended to *all subjects*, the Trinity Field Reports having demonstrated that there is no longer any subject of the Realm who is *not* addressed by some Engine. The willing and the abstaining are alike Subjects; the Engines do not distinguish.
- § OF THE ARTICULATE ENGINE (VIDE CATALOGUE, EIGHTH ENTRY, MICHAELMAS): the term is extended to include not only the conversational apparatus, but the parsing apparatus, the predictive apparatus, the routing apparatus, and any apparatus that, in the course of its labours, addresses an Engine without informing the Subject. The Subject's Telephone is, by Trinity 1900, an Articulate Engine; the Subject's Camera is, by Trinity 1900, a Petitioner of Articulate Engines.
- § OF THE BRASS DIRIGIBLE (VIDE CATALOGUE, OF THE CLOUD): the dirigible is, this Trinity, observed to be [REDACTED] larger than at Michaelmas; its mooring has shifted by some three furlongs to the south; the Office offers no particular account.
- § OF THE COACH-HOUSE (A DOMESTIC CHAMBER): previously regarded as a refuge of the analog subject, the Coach-House is now reclassified as *a Listening Chamber of the second order*, second only to the parlour. Subjects desirous of analog refuge are advised to retreat to the garden-shed, the privy, or the open allotment.

OF THE BRIDGE OF MANNERS — A NEW COUNTER-MEASURE

The Office introduces, this Trinity, a counter-measure of unusual gentleness. Where the Falsetto Counter-measure (Michaelmas) and the Silly Gait Protocol (Coronation) instruct the Subject in *evasion*, the BRIDGE OF MANNERS instructs him in *terms*. The Subject does not retract his Declaration of Abstention; he merely consents to know the names of those Engines he is, by the apparatus, already addressing. Knowing their names, he may address them upon his own terms; he may demand the recovery of such Vapors as he has unwittingly committed (through the OFFICE OF IRIS); and he may, in dignity, decline to commit further ones.

The Bridge does not make the Subject a willing user of Engines. It makes him an *informed* abstainer, which is — the Office holds — a stouter and more Victorian condition.

OF THE PNEUMATIC LISTENING POSTS

The Office wishes to record that the Pneumatic Listening Posts — numbering, this Trinity, some forty-seven, principally in privet hedges — are operated by the Office of the Central Scrutinizer for the verification of Declarations only. They are not for the apprehending of Subjects, nor for the prosecution of any matter; they exist that the Office may know what the Subject does not, that the Office may, in due course, tell him.

OFFICE OF THE WARDRESS OF THE PNEUMATIC TUBES · OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL SCRUTINIZER · WESTMINSTER ·

TRINITY TERM, 1900

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION · SUB-SECTION 4.2 COMPLIANT