

**THE COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH CODE,
FOR THE USE OF BANKERS, MERCHANTS,
MANUFACTURERS, AND
BROKERS AND THEIR AGENTS. A RE-
COMPILED EDITION OF THE
'INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CODE'**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649552948

The Commercial Telegraph Code, for the Use of Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, and Brokers and Their Agents. A Re-Compiled Edition of the 'International Telegraph Code' by H. R. Meyer

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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A RE-COMPILED EDITION OF THE "INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CODE,"
*With Ciphers of ten letters or under, and specially selected to meet the requirements of the Rules
adopted at the London International Congress of 1879.*

COMPILED BY

H. R. MEYER,

B 12, EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, LIVERPOOL.

AUTHOR OF THE

"International," "General," and "Cotton" Telegraph Codes,
ETC.

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London:

HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO., 32, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1880.

196. e. 61.



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RICHARD STUART, 11, Manchester Buildings, Liverpool.
DO., 80, Throgmorton Street, London.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CODE.

The International Telegraph Congress, held in London this year (1879), having decided to prohibit the use of proper names "used adjectively," the author of the "International Telegraph Code" much regrets to be compelled to issue a New Edition of that work for use with countries affected by the new rules, as it contained some ciphers which come under the above clause. For such countries as are unaffected by the rules of Telegraph Congress—for instance, the "United States"—the original edition will remain as effective as ever, and therefore, in announcing the issue of a new edition, the author desires it to be distinctly understood, that the original edition of the "International Telegraph Code" will be continued as heretofore. In order to distinguish the new edition from the old, it will be published under the name of the

"COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH CODE."

At 25s. per Copy.

No description is needed, as, with the exception of some alterations in the ciphers, it will be identical with the "International."

At the same time a **Blank Code** will be published, consisting of German ciphers, arranged in tables and pages, with spaces for manuscript headings and additions. The ciphers will be numbered so as to facilitate figure combinations, but the numerals need not in any way interfere with the use of the Code in the ordinary way. This Code will be called the

"APPENDIX CODE,"

and will be published at 25s. per copy. It will be obtainable either separately bound, or also bound in at the end of the "International," the "Commercial," and the "Cotton Telegraph Codes" (No. 33 edition), adding of course in each case 25s. to the cost of each copy bought. In ordering copies, please to state if it is desired to have the books bound separately or in one.

The above are published by HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO., 32, Paternoster Row, London, E.C. Copies may also be obtained direct from the Author, H. R. MEYER, B 12, Exchange Buildings, Liverpool; J. MAWDSLEY & SON, 4 & 6, Castle Street, Liverpool; or through any of the authorised Agents.



PREFACE.

THE Telegraph Congress, held in London in 1879, having adopted the rule that no cipher word which was a "proper name used adjectively" should be admissible in a code message, and the old edition of the "International Telegraph Code" unfortunately containing a small number of these words, it became necessary to issue a revised edition of that work in order to meet the new requirements. Much regretting the annoyance which the revising of their Code arrangements must cause to the numerous firms using the above Code, the author has considered that the best way to meet the case, with as little inconvenience to users of the book as possible, is to issue a new edition, without any other changes than the needful alterations in the ciphers, and so avoid the trouble an entirely new Code would occasion before people accustomed themselves to it. For countries not included in the Telegraph Convention—such, for instance, as the United States—there need be no change whatever; and, therefore the old edition of the "International Code" will remain in print just as heretofore. In order that there may be no confusion between the old and new editions, it has been decided to publish the latter under the name of the "COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH CODE," and print on toned paper, with a distinctive binding, so that even where the two books are in use in the same office simultaneously, no risk of confounding one with the other need be apprehended.

The Author desires it to be known that all his Codes are printed from stereotype plates, and therefore it is impossible that copies of any two editions of the same book can differ in the slightest degree, unless it is intended they should do so, in which case of course the fact will be plainly announced on the title page.

Should any further alterations in the rules of Telegraph Companies render the present Codes unavailable, they will be immediately reprinted to conform to the new requirements.

The **sentences** have been classified under various headings to allow of a speedy and easy coding of a message; but it is not intended that a sentence shall only apply to the heading it is under. Of the various methods of carrying out this classification, this has been found to work the best, it being easier to pick out a particular sentence, conveying the required shade of thought, when they are grouped according to their meaning, than under any other system. To assist in the selection of sentences, large type is used to draw immediate attention to various subjects, and the Index is arranged so as to give reference to any particular subject, within one-third of a page.

The best way to codify a message is, to draw it up first in plain language, then to divide it into subjects, and look up these subjects in the Index, and proceed to select the appropriate phrases.

Example:—

"Buy 500 tons pig iron (buying) at 65/3 (sterling), and ship by steamer to New York (shipping instructions), draw on us at 60% (drafts), insure for £2,000 (insurance); want to charter a sailing vessel of 900 tons (charters) for J. Williamson and Co. (firms names), what can you offer? (offers)."

It is quite easy for any one using the book, even for the first time, to codify a message correctly, but it will be found that a careful study of the Code, or at least of its Index, will fully repay the trouble, in the increased economy obtained by an intelligent use of it. The growing importance of telegraphy and cipher codes in mercantile affairs becomes more and more evident every day, and no trouble expended in a perfect use of a really good code can be looked upon as thrown away.

It has come to the notice of the Author that many firms purchase a single copy of his codes and use portions of them to aid them in compiling their own codes, thereby, and no doubt unthinkingly, committing a breach of copyright. As the publishing of a work of this description is attended with very heavy outlay and enormous trouble, and the demand is limited, it is only right that the Author should have the full benefit of his labour and risk. Any firm wishing to use portions of these codes, in compiling their own, can always, as long as they do not publish the book for sale, make an arrangement with the Author to that effect by payment of a royalty.

It is intended to keep the **type standing**, in order that firms whose requirements this volume may not exactly meet, can effect any alterations they wish, and have a **special edition** struck off for their own use. Applications to be made to the Author.

Any **practical suggestions** respecting improvements will be gladly received, and, where possible, embodied in future editions. Address communications to the Author of the "International Mercantile Telegraph Code," care of Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 32, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

Purchasers will greatly oblige by recommending these codes to their friends and correspondents at home and abroad. In **ordering copies**, please to get them **direct from the Publishers**.

The Author is not responsible for any consequences arising from insufficient explanations, similarity of ciphers, or any error whatever in his books; the greatest possible care has been taken to render them correct.

N.B.—There being other editions of this work differing in the ciphers, please take note that only copies having **no distinguishing marks** at the foot of each page, can be used in connection with this copy. The other editions referred to are private editions, and have at the bottom of all the pages the words: "Priv. Ed. No. —."

A METHOD FOR CHECKING THE ACCURACY OF A MESSAGE.

Let each letter of the alphabet be represented by a number, as follows:—

a . . . 1	h . . . 8	o . . . 15	u . . . 21
b . . . 2	i . . . 9	p . . . 16	v . . . 22
c . . . 3	j . . . 10	q . . . 17	w . . . 23
d . . . 4	k . . . 11	r . . . 18	x . . . 24
e . . . 5	l . . . 12	s . . . 19	y . . . 25
f . . . 6	m . . . 13	t . . . 20	z . . . 26
g . . . 7	n . . . 14		

After drawing up the telegram as intended to be sent, add up the numbers representing the different letters used in the words of the message, and telegraph at the end of the telegram this total in figures.*

For example, supposing the following telegram to be despatched:—

a c c o s t	a d o r e	a n a r c h y	s a l i v a
1 - 8 - 8 - 15 - 19 - 20	1 - 4 - 13 - 18 - 5	1 - 14 - 1 - 13 - 8 - 8 - 26	19 - 1 - 12 - 9 - 22 - 1

and the figure below each letter is its representative in the above Table; these figures added together = 238; therefore the telegram would be sent off thus:—

“accost adore anarchy saliva 238.”

Instead of using figures, the cipher in the numerals meaning 238 could be used in preference, as figures are very liable to be telegraphed incorrectly.

The receiver of the telegram will add up the numbers repre-

* Most Companies transmit 5 figures as one word.