

COINING A SECRET CODE ALPHABET

秘密文字創造法

By "TINKER" CRIGLER

There are very few boys who have not at some time or other found the need of a secret code¹ or language with which to communicate with² their chums.³

Here is one that can be both spoken and written.










To construct the basis⁴ of such a code language is not so difficult as you would at first imagine.⁵ To be sure, some memorizing⁶ is necessary if you are to write or speak the language easily. And to speak it readily⁷ requires practice as well. This all calls for⁸ qualities that help to make up the requirements so necessary in a real man.⁹ It stimulates originality,¹⁰ thought, and memory, and at the same time affords a lot of amusement¹¹ and satisfaction for the whole crowd.

When you start in to formulate¹² such a language, there will probably be some debating¹³ as to what particular object should represent this or that letter of the alphabet. The language is based on the alphabet in which each letter is represented¹⁴ by some object, the first two letters in the name of this object to be used to represent the letter for which it stands. Therefore a very careful selection of the objects is necessary. There are two ways of expressing the letters of this alphabet in writing. One is to sketch¹⁵ the objects that represent the letters of the alphabet, and the other is to write it using the first two letters in the name of each object.

You will find that it will facilitate¹⁶ matters if you select objects that may be sketched simply and strongly¹⁷ so that there will be no mistaking one of them for another.

If the writing of words is expressed in symbols¹⁸ each symbol must be known by a name. The name will automatically¹⁹ be just what is spelled by the first two letters in name of object which represents the letter of alphabet. For instance, in the symbol for letter B in the alphabet is the head of a moose;²⁰ therefore the letter B is always known and recognized and pronounced²¹ as MO.

This sketch illustrates²² it pretty²³ well. You will see that according to the alphabet key²⁴ given above the word "cage" would appear as and be pronounced as BUTRINTE.

A	—		—	TREE	—	TR
B	—		—	MOOSE	—	MO
C	—		—	BUFFALO	—	BU
D	—		—	RIFLE	—	RI
E	—		—	TENT	—	TE
F	—		—	CANOE	—	CA
G	—		—	INDIAN	—	IN
H	—		—	BEADS	—	BE
I	—		—	ARROW	—	AR


 BU TR IN TE
 (Butrinte)

[註]——¹ secret code 秘密文字。 ² communicate with 與……相通信。 ³ 密友。 ⁴ 根據。 ⁵ not so……imagine 雖思以爲甚難，實則簡易 [直譯] 其難不若初次想像之甚。 ⁶ 強記。 ⁷ 純熟。 ⁸ call for 需要。 ⁹ the requirements……man 真正人品所應有之條件。 ¹⁰ 創作力。 ¹¹ affords a lot of amusement 供無量之娛樂。 ¹² 制定。 ¹³ 思，商榷。 ¹⁴ 代表。 ¹⁵ 繪畫。 ¹⁶ 使……便利。 ¹⁷ 畫。 ¹⁸ 記號。 ¹⁹ 自然。 ²⁰ 大鹿。 ²¹ 讀如…… ²² 表明。 ²³ pretty=very。 ²⁴ 關鍵。