

SMOKEPENNY LYRICHORD
HEAVENBRED:
TWO ACTS

JENNIFER SCAPPETONE



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HEAVENBRED

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THE ELEPHANTS

Preface

The New General and Mining Code: Alphabetically Arranged, for the Use of Mining Companies, Mining Engineers, Stockbrokers, Financial Agents, and Trust and Finance Companies, priced at one guinea at the time of its publication in London in 1891, harbors within it the political unconscious of the industrial age, and of an imminent century of aggravated conflict between labor and management. Devised by C. Algernon Moreing, Mining Engineer, and Thomas Neal, Secretary of the Montana Company, Limited, & the Mines Company, Limited, the volume was one of hundreds of thousands of such books that attempted to compress and encrypt messages for transmission through the telegraph using natural languages—a precursor to the algorithmically constructed codes that would come to dominate telecommunications over the course of the twentieth century, enabling information to travel more securely and at lesser cost. Now digitized and partially subjected to optical character recognition at archive.org, it contains 36,898 terms and 29,632 sentences of particular utility to those in the field of mining—arguably the ur-industry and hoist of the industrial revolution.

In *How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis* (2012), N. Katherine Hayles writes of the way that the telegraph reconfigured space and time, “entangling monopoly capitalism with the new technology so that it was no longer possible for capital to operate without the telegraph or its successors.” This and other mining code books embed within them not only the political but the material unconscious of capital’s purveying mechanisms. For the immense network of copper wire that forms the skeletal conductor of these cables could only exist through extraction of the red metal at great human and environmental cost, in sites ranging from Calumet to Butte to Cerro de Pasco.

These texts for *SMOKEPENNY LYRICHORD HEAVENBRED; Or, Last year / By constant penetration / Encroaching on the reserve*, a mock musical in progress, were produced by mining Moreing’s code book in tandem with ongoing research into the history and future of copper exploitation. Telegrams housed in Michigan Tech’s Copper Country Historical Collections clarify the various ways in which the telegraph

was used to bridle the laborers who constituted the corporal infrastructure of that technology. Baroque code compounds store the brute links between bodies, metal, and the market, sometimes sanitizing, at other times proving grossly expressive. The acts focus on the great strike of 1913 at the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula—a bloody conflict provoked by the introduction of a hazardous economizing tool into the mines: the one-man compressed air drill, known to scholars of modernism through its glorification in the form of sculptor Jacob Epstein's 1914 readymade *Rock-Drill*.

These acts and others were performed at the Block Museum and at 6018|North for the 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial with interdisciplinary collaborators Judd Morrissey and Abraham Avnisan, who wrote code for iPads enabling text frames to be advanced via the spinning and laborious clockwise lurching motions of the trip-up choristers, and to be punctuated throughout Act V by the flashing of archival 1913 strike posters in English, Finnish, Serbo-Croatian, and Italian. The librettist suggests navigating the text page by page instead of continuously scrolling to enhance the cinematic experience.

JENNIFER SCAPPETTONE

No.	Code Word.	New (<i>continued</i>)
16,767	Jaspachate	This is perfectly new to us
16,768	Jasperated	New and improved plant
16,769	Jaspideous	For new machinery, building, etc.
16,770	Jaspid	News
16,771	Jasponyx .	Waiting anxiously for news of
16,772	Jatamansi .	What is the latest news
16,773	Jateorhiza .	What news have you of
16,774	Jatropa .	Have you any news
16,775	Jaundice .	I (we) have no news
16,776	Jaundicing	The latest news is
16,777	Jauntily .	Very important news
16,778	Jauntiness	No news of importance
16,779	Javelining .	Have no further news (from)
16,780	Javelins .	Send all the news you can about
16,781	Jawfallen .	Unless you have favourable news do not telegraph
16,782	Jawfoot .	Unless you have later news of a favourable character
16,783	Jawlever .	News not reliable
16,784	Jawrope .	News quite correct
16,785	Jawteeth .	Owing to the news that
16,786	Jawwedge .	Very glad to receive news of
16,787	Jazerant .	Very sorry to receive news of
16,788	Jealous .	Alarming news (from)
16,789	Jealously .	Favourable news
16,790	Jeddingaxe	The only news we could get
16,791	Jehovistic .	The latest news is very good
16,792	Jejunely .	The latest news is unfavourable
16,793	Jejuneness	What further news concerning
16,794	Jellied . .	The news upset everything
16,795	Jellybag .	Newspapers
16,796	Jellyfish .	Send newspapers
16,797	Jemidar .	Send all newspapers which refer to
16,798	Jemminess	A paragraph in the newspapers
16,799	Jenning .	A newspaper notice
16,800	Jennyass .	The newspapers have reported
16,801	Jeopardize	The newspaper report
16,802	Jeopardous	Most of the newspapers
16,803	Jeopardy .	The best newspaper
16,804	Jerfalcon .	(By) advertisement in the newspapers
16,805	Jerguer .	Has appeared in the newspapers
16,806	Jerked . .	You will have seen by the newspapers
16,807	Jerking .	Next
16,808	Jerkinhead	Leaving by next steamer
16,809	Jeronymite	Will send by next steamer
16,810	Jessamine .	In your next letter
16,811	Jesseraunt	In your next telegram
16,812	Jestbooks .	Nickel
16,813	Jesters . .	Nickel ore
16,814	Jestful . .	A nickel mine
16,815	Jestmonger	Nickel has been found
16,816	Jestword .	Night(s)

ACT IV.

I sings from screenfront, O from back.

Throughout, from basement, Hoistmaster sticks copper pipes up through floorboards in random locations of rot, articulating code words as they advance onscreen.

3

**PENNY
PROPERATES**

(TIME / WAS PRIVATELY SUBSCRIBED)

Every time it rains, it rains

LAMENT JAWFALLEN

*THE MINE HAS BEEN OPENED UP WELL /
DO NOT TELEGRAPH UNLESS YOU HAVE
FAVOURABLE NEWS*

Every time it rains, it rains

Grinder's disease,

Waltz of the shadows;

Don't you know each cloud contains

Asymptomatic anthracosis,

Found to some extent in all urban dwellers—

Every time it rains, it rains

GOUGESLIP EVULSION

LETTER IS ON THE WAY ABOUT / HAZARDOUS

Noise in the wires.... / Radiant with information....

[dancing a little jig]

You'll find your **fortune falling** all over town / **In the money,**
that sky is sunny—

Merz says gringos on Hill are excited over rumors of bonds for
Lima Line;

Elections went off quietly, but well armed.

I & O put their pennybuckets down.

[whispering]

Ereway **inhay** the **oneymay**

OUTNOISE

THE COMPANY IS VERY RICH

[whispering]

Ereway **inhay** the **oneymay**

INURBANELY

*THE NATIVES IN THE DISTRICT ARE VERY
TROUBLESOME*

For—every time it rains, **it rains**

PROFITED WHITENESSING

PROPOSED / WIRING

Don't you know each cloud contains

SMOKEPENNY
FORESHORE HEAVY SPAR

INSURRECTION / LAST YEAR / BY LAST MAIL

Whereby they cannot make rain for anybody else;

Careful—the air is close.

At sound of drill, I and O aim iPads at Blast icon on floor.



No.	Code Word.	Open (<i>continued</i>)
17,417	Lakelet .	Are you open to
17,418	Lakepoet .	Is he (are they) open to
17,419	Lakewake .	Not now open to offer
17,420	Lamaism .	Open as long as possible
17,421	Lamarckism	When do you expect to open up
17,422	Lamasery .	Before we can open up
17,423	Lambative	Open-cuts
17,424	Lambdacism	The open-cuts have fallen in [abandoned
17,425	Lambdoidal	When the open-cuts became dangerous the mine was
17,426	Lambkins .	The mine has been extensively worked by open-cuts
17,427	Lamblike .	The open-cuts have been filled in
17,428	Lambswool	(By) open-cuts and trial shafts
17,429	Lameduck	(By) open-cuts and prospect tunnels
17,430	Lamella .	Opened. (See also Account and Market.)
17,431	Lamellarly	At what bank have you opened an account
17,432	Lamellated	Have opened up a fine body of ore
17,433	Lamellose .	The mine has not been opened up
17,434	Lament .	The mine has been opened up well
17,435	Lamentable	Have you yet opened up
17,436	Lamenteth	Opening
17,437	Lamenting	What will the cost be of opening up the mine
17,438	Lamination	By opening up
17,439	Lammas .	Must be set aside for opening up the mine
17,440	Lammasday	To make an opening
17,441	Lammastide	We are now opening up
17,442	Lampblack	Opening communication with
17,443	Lampereel	Operated
17,444	Lamperns .	The quantity operated upon
17,445	Lampetians	Have operated upon
17,446	Lampglass	Is being operated on
17,447	Lampooned	Operated on by the new process
17,448	Lampoonry	Operation(s)
17,449	Lamppost .	In full operation
17,450	Lamprey .	Not in operation
17,451	Lampshade	The mill was not in operation when I was there
17,452	Lampshell	Before commencing operations
17,453	Lampyrine	Commence operations
17,454	Lancegay .	Put into operation
17,455	Lancehead	Limit your operations to
17,456	Lanceolar .	Are limiting our operations to
17,457	Lancetfish	Limit operation to those workings (only)
17,458	Lancewood	By limiting the operations
17,459	Lancinated	Large "bull" operations (in)
17,460	Landagent	Large "bear" operations (in)
17,461	Landaulet	Operations have resulted in
17,462	Landblink	No longer in operation
17,463	Landbreeze	Repeat the operation
17,464	Landbug .	Continue operations
17,465	Landcrab .	Undergone an operation
17,466	Landdamn	Had to undergo an operation

ACT V.

ON3-M@N DR1LL

ON3-M@N DR1LL

Every time it rains, it rains

BEASTLY BATHBRICKS

***Blasting / Bonanzas have
been struck***

Don't you know each cloud contains

DEMONOMIST BELLITUDE

***Escape / Don't consider
business safe***

Every time it rains, it reigns

DRAGONIC AIRDRILLS

***A well-known and most
respectable firm /
Will not pay in advance***

Don't you know each stope contains

GRIPEPENNY BROKERAGE

***Liberty to act as / Bank thinks
proper***

One-man WIDOWMAKERS

***Air drill* soliloquys—**

Gangs of **SHUDDERING**

Copper wire
undesirables

SMOKEPENNY LYRICHORD
DEADSHEAVE

SMOKEPENNY LYRICHORD
DEADSHEAVE

***Last year / By constant
penetration /
Encroaching on the reserve***

Every time it rains, it rains

JAWROPE LYNCHLAW

***News quite correct /
Pending the hearing
of the case***

**Don't you know each gouge
contains**

Boom & bust of nitro lungs...

Boom & bust of nitro lungs...

**Don't you know each crowd
contains**

ASPHYXIAL UMBRAGEOUS
EVENSONG

***Memorandum of Association /
Shall require a hoisting engine /
Of 5300 horsepower***

***Pennyweight* HELLHOUND**

Hope soon to be making
LYRICISMS

HEWHOLE MELODY

***Market in a downward tendency /
Now presents a better appearance***

**You'll find your fortune fallin' all
over town...**

**You'll find your fortune fallin' all
over town...**

SUBJUGATIONERS
DISOBEYETH!

Strikers /
Have not yet fallen!

**Be sure that your UNSHOWERED
is UPRISING DOWNPOUR...**

**Be sure that your 6% profit
is 800% / fire-damp in the mine...**

**Save them for a PACKHORSE of
SUNSTROKE
and FLOWERAGE**

**Save them for a *sale of 23,250/*
ores will be assured
and *Inform us by telegraph at once***

**If you want the things you
LOVEMATCH**

Unless you can get patents

BATHING

By blasting

You must have showers!

You must have showers!

OUTSPOKEN

Rise,

BACKFALLER

The battery returns

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

Noise in the wires—

So when you hear it ENTHUNDER,

Showing traces of gold

BATHMETAL

Much blasting is needed

DISORDERLY

Stocks continue falling

Don't run under a tree—

**There'll be a *One-Man Drill:*
OUR AGITATOR**

**There'll be a *One-Man Drill:*
OUR AGITATOR**

Dropping a dit & a

Din in the odious machine

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

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For you and me...

For you and me...

For you and me...

JENNIFER SCAPPETTONE is the author of the cross-genre verse books *From Dame Quickly* (Litmus, 2009) and *The Republic of Exit 43: Outtakes & Scores from an Archaeology and Pop-Up Opera of the Corporate Dump* (Atelos, 2017), and of the critical study *Killing the Moonlight: Modernism in Venice* (Columbia University Press, 2014). Her translations of the polyglot poet and refugee from Fascist Italy Amelia Rosselli were collected in *Locomotrix* (University of Chicago Press, 2012). Poetic scores of hers have been installed and performed at locations ranging from WUHO Gallery in Los Angeles to Trajan's aqueduct in Rome to Fresh Kills Landfill. She keeps an online archive at <http://oikost.com>.

