

~~SECRET~~

## An Exchange of Memos

**TO** : B605  
**THRU** : B62  
**FROM** : B6205  
**SUBJECT**: Editing Rules for the SEAS

1. A fault of sorts in SEAS reports  
Has come to our attention  
Although a slight and trifling blight,  
It's nevertheless worth mention.
2. By rights, you see, the SEAS should be  
Quite flawless in design:  
A classic thing that well might bring  
Sweet tears to eyes divine.
3. It ought to be invariably  
Perfect to the letter,  
Serenely in view, similar to  
The Bible, only better.
4. The problem now is simply how  
To keep the SEAS consistent.  
The document is by intent  
Consistency-resistant.
5. Ostensibly, the number "three"  
To use a quick example,  
Is written out. Without a doubt  
The rules are plain and ample.
6. We have to add that, good or bad,  
The SIGINT Manual notes  
"Use digits for all numbers more  
Than nine except in quotes."
7. And yet the SEAS is, by degrees,  
Changing over to digits.  
An intermix of 6 and six  
Appears, like feisty midgets.
8. The figure "10" is now and then  
Written as a number.  
And then again, it comes up "ten"  
Which looks a whole lot dumber.
9. We feel chagrined, trapped in the end,  
Hating the label "OH-fiver"  
As if the Pope were sniffing dope  
While posing as Lady Godiva.
10. Aghast, forlorn, our honour shorn,  
Our dignity impaled,  
Our image gone, we struggle on  
Wondering where we failed.

11. We turn to you, the mentors who  
Can save us from disaster  
Oh tell us please, within the SEAS  
Of which you're lord and master:
12. For our input from head to foot  
To meet some kind of norm,  
When should we use the 1's and 2's  
And when the written form?

[Redacted] (b)(3)-P.L. 86-36  
 Chief, B6205

**TO** : B6205  
**THRU** : B62  
**FROM** : B605  
**SUBJECT**: Reply to B62/407-67

1. Though we haven't the time to expend on rhyme  
That exists in B62,  
We were of a mind to reply in kind  
To your critical review.
2. We never pretend to work toward the end  
Of unreachable perfection;  
But we appeal to your honest zeal  
And your sense of self-direction.
3. The rules, we confess, have sometimes been less  
Than easy to understand  
And appear, no doubt, to leave you without  
An answer on either hand.
4. Though we may agree that the number three  
Should always appear as a word,  
We must, of course, adhere to the source  
To which the TECHINS referred.
5. A foolish consistency deadens existence: see  
How this verse is blest  
With changes, by damn, in meter: iamb  
To dactyl and anapaest.
6. We think you'd do better to loosen, unfetter,  
Your fine editorial skill,  
Rather than waste your inherent good taste  
In a digit-or-number drill.
7. Therefore, a number need not encumber  
Your style, so long as the rule  
For usage is clear, your effort sincere,  
And you never relinquish your cool.

[Redacted]  
 B605

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~

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