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Greetings from Out West ****

I have to be cautious. So last night I made a new version of my Nomaudo Description tape -- last one was done in 1970. Never could get around to it but for some reasons the 1960 and 1970 tapes are obsolete:

One is the Metrication Program some ten years ago when the Europeans decided to overhaul the metric system and make it more self-consistent or "coherent" which meant all kinds of new names for the SI units and new rules about writing out the symbols as they choose to call the abbreviations. Since I had provided thirty or more syllables for common physical units such as second and kilometer and ampere and microfarad, all this juggling of the names created a new dilemma. Should I create new syllables for gigahertz and megapascal and newton and millikelvin and tesla? (The pressure units are a pain in the You-Know-What: they started with dynes per square centimeter and atmospheres and millibars and kilograms per square centimeter -- all that about a hundred years ago -- and then there were millimeters of mercury to indicate air pressure with the old mercury barometer -- but then, the new tinkering with the metric system, abolished all that and even the 1970-or-so unit the torr (approximately a millimeter of mercury like our blood pressure units, replacing all this with the pascal.

By, with the necessary multiples and submultiples I would have ended up with 600 syllables in Nomaudo instead of the 150 in the first draft of the index list. Nobody could have dealt with them. It took 5 years for me to figure a way out, and in 1982 I did: the new abbreviations called "symbols" in the official SI literature, could be spelt out. Using of course the syllables for the letters of the ordinary alphabet. So kg can be ka-eg and m can be ka-pa-da pa-ja etc. Instead of multiplying new syllables to the unbearable point, this scheme will reduce the number. We could shrink the index list from 150 to about 200.

That is, at least 12 or 15 pages of the 1960 book can be ignored or considered as of Historical Interest Mainly. I already decided, back in 1974, not to promote the book anymore, because cassette courses were beginning to go on the market and since then have proliferated like mushrooms after the rain. Three cassettes a hour each in a package with a 24-page booklet say, and then another package with a videotape of two or three people such as an engineer and a secretary and some technician who works outdoors on whatever, with different kinds of voices to use the syllables and point to the existing math symbols and numerals etc. and show the applications in various fields. That is to say: this is extremely important: no one person should make all the tapes speaking the syllables. Especially not me because I have no teeth at all.

Nomaudo is now 26 years old. 1958 to 1960 was the incubation period. June 1960 was the time the book was mimeographed in 110 copies and it sold out soon enough. I got back my postage and mimeographing exp expense. I didn't lose on it but I didn't make any money either, and had to take 28 years of the most vituperative abuse imaginable. I made oodles of new enemies who hated me to pieces and even slandered me on account of it as though I had committed some crime. In case you wondered--why isn't it known more? About 20 people did encourage me and nag me to start it and publish it but when I turned around and asked for help they ignored me.

Because I constructed the tape does not mean I should be the salesman or promoter or even the one who prepares the Instruction Materials. This tape is more of a lecture and Description/Introduction, not the actual one you would study from.

Compare with a Berlitz Course or the like in Russian or German or Spanish-- instead of a year to learn some, one should be able to master 40 syllables in a fortnight.

There is ni no grammar or spelling or syntax to torment you. There is no long list of prefixes and conjugations and declensions and idioms--not even the difficulties of Esperanto.

Numaudo is not a languagd. I guess I have to tell you that a hundred times. This has caused me twenty-eight years of trouble. Nobody seems to get it. Numaudo is a Code. Like Morse Code. Like Shorthand. It is not even a computer language like Basic or Fortran--much simpler than they. What shall I do? Send everybody 250 copies of a sheet on which NUMAUDO IS NOT A LANGUAGE has been printed 40 times?

Lomano--i.e. the existing logico-mathematical notation which exists deaf and dumb as only a written and printed form, is the primary system and Numaudo is merely a means for reading it out loud. Numalittera is a scheme for using 21 letters of the alphabet: a b d e f g h i j k l m n o p r s t u v z on typewriters, computer keyboards and printouts, and other limited character-sets, to stand for all the math symbols, Greek letters, etc. etc. in common use.

Numaudo is not any attempt to abolish Lomano. I had great trouble at age 14 in first-year algebra in high-school and so did all my classmates who grew to hate math and hate the teachers and the textbooks and the blackboard. Why must the new generation (for instance, Marnen) go through what we went through?

Problem No. 2: I can't wear several hats at once. If I am to promote my compositions and try to get involved in computer music and be consultant in R&D on new scales and instruments and attempt to get my 40- and 50-year-old conventional compositions performed and recorded and heard, that's already too much energy to expect of me at age 69 which I will be come 5 May. I can't also promote Numaudo and train teachers of it and go knocking on doors of business offices and educational organizations and audiovisual and videotape companies and preparers of courses of instruction. And also organize a new office to promote my Creativity Meeting Materials and get people to lead such meetings in different cities using my existing tapes and pamphlets. (They were written between 1954 and 1961.) They sold pretty well.

So all these things need people. I have to get all these affairs off my back. I don't want them all to die with me.

I spent all day yesterday preparing that new description-tape, to prevent misleading Marnen among other things. If he reads the Book through without hearing any syllables spoken, and not knowing how the five vowels a e i o u are to be pronounced in Numaudo syllables, it could be a terrible disaster that I could never undo--I would lose him as interestee party. I've gone through nasty disappointments many times already because people saw Numaudo before hearing it.

The 1960 book was written primarily to copyright the system and was organized in that order because of copyright and other requirements as of 1960. It is not the preferred order or structure for a teaching-method in 1986. It could not be. Nobody in 1960 knew that Personal Computers and Microchips and Cassette Courses and Hippies and Yuppies and Yuckies and Satellite Dishes and Kolor Color TV Cable and Modems and Compact Disks and Videotapes and Lasers and Synthesizers and so on would conquer the world.

If somebody wants an actual language that can say "The dinner is on the table" and "My shoelace broke" and "Her flowerpot fell out the window and smashed on the pavement below", there is a logic-and-mathematics-oriented artificial language by James Cooke Brown called LOGLAN and John Chalmers can give the addresses and how to get in touch with Loglan promoters. Numaudo cannot say cake or pie or shoe. Only . . . Fortunately the Loglan people do understand I am not in competition. That my code is not their language.

Bottom Line: Numaudo is a business skill like shorthand and typing and using business computer software. Why do I have to die in poverty, then?

Why must I end my days all alone on a broken shoestring?