

Notes on the back story of this letter:

This 5-page letter was sent to me by **John McGechie** on Oct, 15 (1980) in reply to my previous letter to him dated on Sept, 27 but actually posted on Oct, 9, as I usually started to write a letter but then paused and waited a few days just in case some *PPC* issues or other interesting materials arrived and thus I would be able to address additional topics without weeks-long delays.

He begins by mentioning some weird postal problems he had to deal with (which probably caused some lost contents), then the very positive reaction of local members to my recently submitted materials, and some advice on how to format further contributions, plus comments on news turnaround times. Then he discusses the *Synthetic Routines for the ROM* listing which he received (and sent to me in a separate, lower-cost package), the **CKA** and **AN** routines in particular, and agrees with me on some critical remarks about *Wickes'* code.

After guessing where people were obtaining my home address (and using it to write directly to me), he enclosed letters from himself, *Mr. Nelson*, and a third person about the **PRIVATE** feature, asking for my opinion and whether I consulted with local *HP* about publishing procedures to break it. He also included a new *Stack & Alpha Analysis Form* and new routines for his **WP** (*Word Processor*) project, dealing with slicing (some thermal printouts included) and right- and left-hand justifiers.

Next, he mentions that his **b2** routine could be improved using the new flag methods from *Wickes*, and reacts to my commitment to send a new batch of my articles/programs with a delightful

"New programs → PPC TN ! Pronto ! How do you do all this ??? Do you ever sleep ?"

which frankly made me laugh. *This* is the way to imprint enthusiasm on your contributors !

He also mentions a new method to read out microcode (giving a few basic details), that he would tell all about *logic programming* on a tutorial session, and that **Hugh Kenner** (Prof. of English at **Johns Hopkins Univ.**) wrote asking him why the in/sane obsession with *PPC* programming (Hugh was preparing his wonderful article "**Calcunuts**" commissioned by the **Wall Street Journal Magazine**; see John's comprehensive, heartfelt 9-page reply to Hugh in this *Vintage Letters* category). John's short reply to me was:

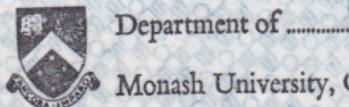
"Hard to answer [...] What think you ? What drives you ? Do you know ?"

Yes, I did.

Valentin Albillo, 05-03-2022



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15th October

Other Enclosures under separate cover
Lower postage

Dear Valentin,

Your letter dated 27th Sept, posted 9th Oct arrived this morning. Here's a quick reply to let you know!

Excellent to have yr. letter narrow width - I can then 'quote' in the most direct way possible in PPCTN. I hope, by the way, that you rec. no 2? Not quite sure from your letter that you did - or was it that envelope that was open? (People in the Post Office here vary in their interpretation of the postal rules, and I had to tear off the middle of an edge of some envelopes - yours must have been one.) Your programs are being used by many - and then/we are very grateful for them. Mostly, we gasp in wonder. There were ^(some of) cries of astonished delight last meeting when I read the contents of your last letter. ~~at the~~ meeting. Nice to be able to brag / boast that you belong to our chapter!

Be a big help to have the cleanest type you can. As to the listings - if you enclose cards we can run those off here. You will notice I did that for Othello. For the rest, I've keyed up your pgms - the listing reproduces more clearly than typescript and is familiar now to all.

Yes, it was my main idea to get hot news out without undue delay. That was the central aim - in the way that one person to one person can by letters. If the maximum turnaround is no more than three weeks - or perhaps 4-5 because of mail delays. We do send all original typescript to Richard immediately it is copied for PPCTN, and have done so since our first Newsletter - and before - last year. I enclose the Synthetic Routines) pgms for the RDM sent to me last week - and cards for the RA segment. All of that works ok

*
*

except CKA which usually leaves the pointer in the status
regs - even after 'G TO KA'. No doubt my error. I've checked
all the programs here with the listing, but not yet tried
to diagnose the fault. AN is in, as you will see, but not
b2. I agree with you here. It is very tedious to do
this by Bill Wickes' method - or even by the one in
Roger Hills KA sequence. Also there is not an NN
maker by byte numbers. Bill's ~~Dear~~ Code is slow
and awkward to use - I don't think that is just a preference
for my ways. There is a B3 here.

A slip of Richards? Your address is in the supplementary
Address list - no! it isn't! Probably got it from

RJN - or the Chapter Notes (ours!) in the Journal.
I think I put it in there when you asked that any interested
in your work write. - I had a look - can't find it. Don't know
how.

No, I won't publish PRIVATE busting methods - not yet.
I enclose ~~2~~ letters from RJN, Rob. Edder, and myself on
this. You be the judge. What do you think?

* Yes - I looked at the Journal version of yr. Univ. BJ
and it was a blunder. Many will figure it out for themselves.
Have you talked to Madrid HP people about this?
We look forward to yr. books with open greed!
Large, fairly strong manilla envelope might be best.
Don't use the big envelopes you have used up to now -
they don't stand the beating they get in the mail.

* New stack & alpha analysis form enclosed -

photocopy & use.

* Also new routines for WP - slice RHS off

Also new routines for WP - slice with space.

* 24 alpha char for comp. in stack with space.

Also developing RH justifier (and LH) for WP.

PC enclosed.

* This probably not yet optimum, though quite fast.

Not yet built into the justifier Pgm.

Shorter versions
intended for 21 char.

I have a new word - OTTO ran look see. them
yesterday. Seems better than the pre-print one.

Barcode in book copies v. well on Sharp machines,
but don't set print density too high. 2nd generation
copies then as good as first. Report in this months
Newsletter.

b2 can be improved - use the new flag methods
(Bill Wickes again!) for moving hex digits to
left. The FRC in b2 is byte consuming.

New programs → PPC TN! Pronto!

How do you do all this ??? Do you ever sleep?

New method to read out most of micro code -

Charles Close - put SBR stack in P Reg b with
RTN to 41c RDM addresses. Copy of ~~not~~ part
of Tom Cad. letter enclosed.

* 42c stuff enclosed. + other.

*No will
put in PPC TN.*

All for now. Will be more on yr material
in Tech. N. and Newsletter - if I manage
it again. Last month left me exhausted - and
I have to TELL ALL about logic programming
(my specialty) tonight at our tutorial session,
finish detailed commentary on Bill W's manual
to send to him, send detailed reply to Hugh Keene
(Prof of English at Johns Hopkins Univ.) who
asked me why the insome/some obsession with
PPC programming. Hard to answer - may write/
rewrite my long $\frac{1}{2}$ done reply to him for TN.
What think you? What drives you? Do you know?

Yours John

TOPIC: CHOP RH ALPHA FROM FULL ALPHA, PLACE IN X FOR SPEC TEST J.MCGECHIE (3324) 7/10/80

Sheet No. 1 of 1

Line No.	Instruction	Last X	X	Y	Z	T	Register	P(4)	R	A	L	P	H	A	R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R	M(1)									
									O(1)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
01 *BLG																																
02 ROL	† P						ABC																									
03 ROL	J O																															
04 RCL	N							DEFGHIJ		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
05 ROL	L							KLMNOPOQ																								
06 *	" "							DEFHIJ		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
07 RSTO	L	" "																														
08 STO	[M						RSTUVWX																									
09 *H*****																																
10 STO	\ N																															
11 CLX										φ																						
12 I+I										1.1																						
13 X\ N							RSTUVWX																									
14 H**							RSTUVWX																									
15 X\ N							"X"																									
16 X\ M							φ																									
17 X\ N							RSTUVWX																									
18 X\ L	M						"X"																									
19 RIM							KLMNOPOQ			DEFHIJ		PPC	"X"																			
20 STO \ N							KLMNOPOQ																									
21 RIM							DEFHIJ			ABC			"X"																			
22 STO J	0						DEFHIJ			ABC			"X"																			
23 ****							DEFHIJ			ABC			"X"																			
24 STO [M							DEFHIJ			ABC			"X"																			
25 RIM							DEFHIJ			ABC			"X"																			
26 X\ N							RSTUVWX			KLMNOPOQ			"X"																			
27 RCL	J O						JKLMMNOPOQ			RSTUVWX			"X"																			
28 RCL							KLMNOPOQ			JKLMMNOPOQ			"X"																			
29 X\ [M							DEFHIJ			JKLMMNOPOQ			"X"																			
30 X\ N							DEFHIJ			JKLMMNOPOQ			"X"																			
31 STO J 0							ABC			J			"																			
32 CLR							JKLMMNOPOQ			RSTUVWX			"X"																			
33 STO † P							φ			J			"																			
34 H*****							JKLMMNOPOQ			QRSUVWX			"X"																			
35 X\ Z							JKLMMNOPOQ			JKLMMNOPOQ			φ																			
36 STD	J " "						JKLMMNOPOQ			JKLMMNOPOQ			"X"																			
37 X\ Q							JKLMMNOPOQ			JKLMMNOPOQ			φ																			
38 RT							JKLMMNOPOQ			JKLMMNOPOQ			"X"																			
39 RTN							JKLMMNOPOQ			JKLMMNOPOQ			φ																			

```

T= 0.0000
Z= 0.0000
Y= "
X= "J"
ABCDEFGHI
A
40LBL J
41 XEQ G
41 PRA
43 GTO J
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
XEQ J
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ABCDEF
ABCDE
ABCD
ABC
AB
A
Z0
BvBua Ü
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
XEQ G
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
PRSTK
T= 0.0000
Z= "KLMNOP" ← NB normalized
Y= " " ← from NNN to d by
X= "X" PRSTK

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PRP "

01 LBL G

02 RCL ↑

03 RCL I

04 RCL \

05 RCL [

06 " "

07 RSTO L

08 STO [

09 "F*****"

10 STO \

11 CLX

12 1.1

13 X<>\

14 "F+"

15 X<>\

16 X<>[

17 X<>\

18 X<>[

19 RDN

20 STO \

21 RDN

22 STO I

23 "F*****"

24 STO [

25 RDN

26 X<>\

27 RCL I

28 RT↑

29 X<>[

30 X<>\

31 STO I

32 CLX

33 STO ↑

34 "F*****"

35 X<> Z

36 STO [

37 X<> L

38 RT↑

39 RTN

40 .END.

ABCDEFGHI

XEQ G

PRSTK