April 1, 2014

Dear Friend,

So glad you could come! This folder contains the first public records of the operation of a collection of abstract machines, known collectively as the *Perplex*, whose function is to produce the best possible gibberish with the least possible human intervention.[[1]](#footnote-0) It invents languages--at least some approximation of their outer form--and uses them to communicate with us.

Each day, the *Perplex* composes letters to you and posts them here. The number, length, and character of these letters are all determined by the *Perplex* itself. All the letters of a given language are grouped together. The language is itself produced by its use; indeed, once the *Perplex* stops composing in a language, it is gone for good, and all that will remain is the record here...and whatever trace of it remains with you.

I would personally like to thank Helen Thorington and Jo-Anne Green of New Radio and Performing Arts for their support and encouragement over the years. Not to mention their [excellent program in network art](http://turbulence.org/netartistindex.html).

Kindest Regards,

Ben Dean

p.s. *A More Subtle Perplex* is a 2013 commission of New Radio and Performing Arts, Inc., for its [Turbulence.org](http://turbulence.org/) website. It was made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

1. The particular mechanics of the production of gibberish are open source and evolving. I encourage the interested to look at the [source code](https://github.com/bd/perplex), and to offer their improvements. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)