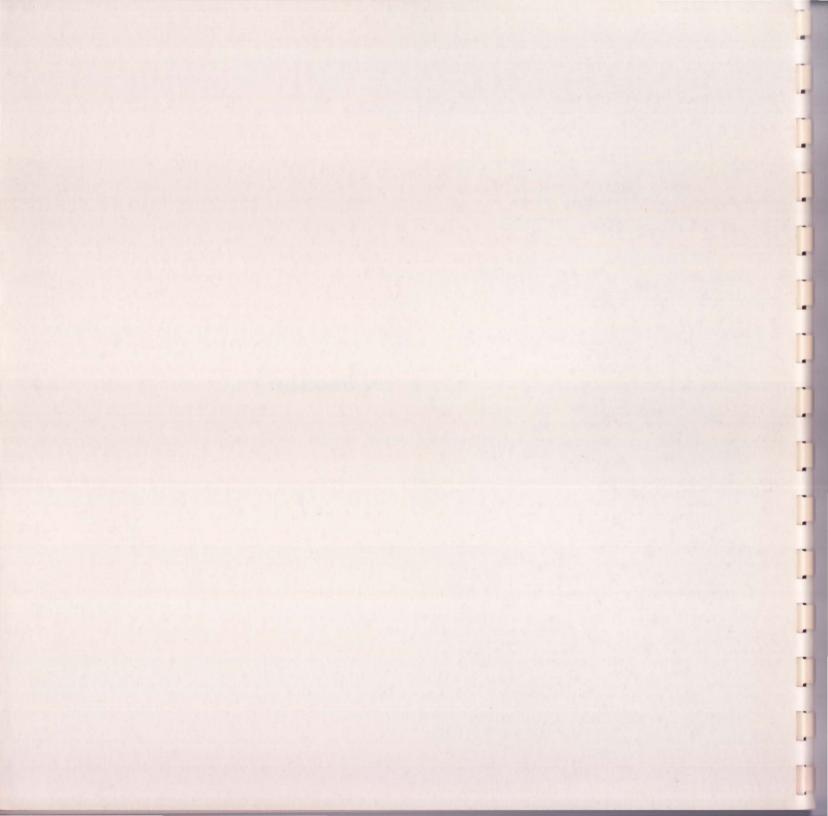
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) systematically
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SYSTEMATICALLY/"SYSTEMATICALLY"

(c) Paul Forte 1979



The idea/material of this reproduced text progressively "deconstructs itself"; realizes its process-content of self-elimination in/through spatial extension. A writing that literally de-scribes the method of its primary objective: a systematic reduction of its words to the framework of their punctuation. A punctuation retained in situ throughout this pamphlet, and then erased en masse on the final page. Page a. initiates this process of successive textual elimination, introduces it as an idea (project); establishing the verbal material (to be) systematically deleted. The number of pages in this pamphlet was/is determined by the number of letters in the longest (uncombined) word of this writing plus three. This word is/was found to (be) "systematically" ...establish(ing) the number of deletion pages herein (excluding title page, page a., and final (numbered) page). This process of "self-erasure" is then realized in the following simple way: on page one all one letter words are removed, on page two all one and two letter words, on page three all one, two and three letter words, and so forth, until on the next to last page nothing remains except punctuation. This next to last page in effect presents a form of residual notation, the project of systematic "self-erasure" remains in or as a deposit; a pattern of (fixed) contextual marks. So to speak, a graphic "after-image" (vestige) of the idea that generates/generated the writing. This graphic vestige is then in turn(ing) erased; leaving on the (following) page a (numerical) trace of the project: a systematic return to the origin of the writing.

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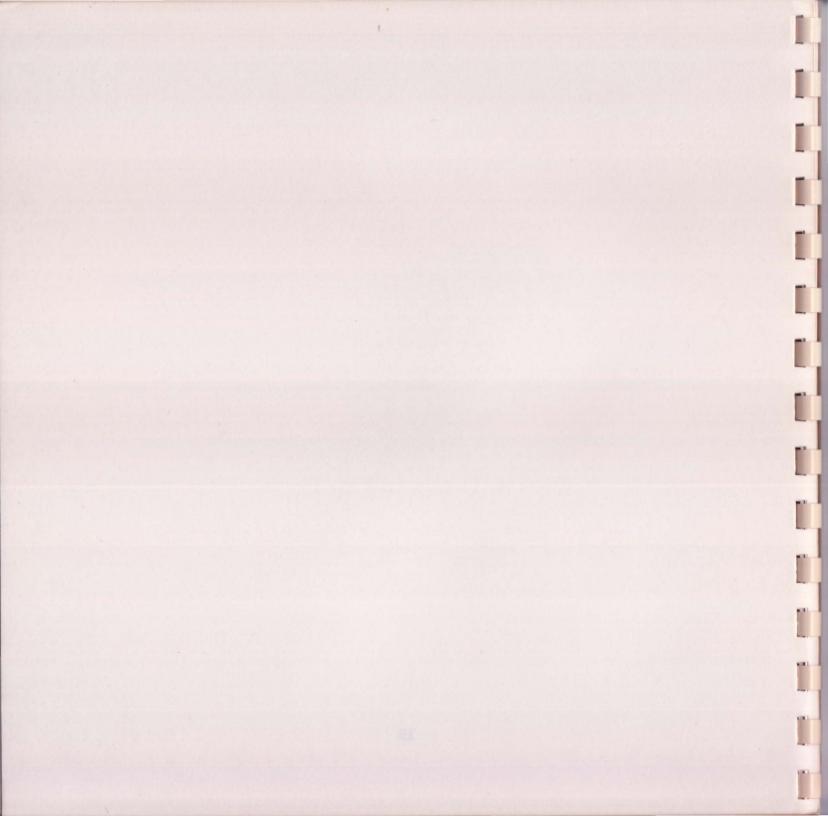
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