Abbreviations Dictionary Expanded International Sixth Edition

Raiph De Sola

Preface

Contemporary conversation and printed communication continue to be filled with undefined abbreviations, acronyms, appellations, contractions, geographical equivalents, initialisms, nicknames, and a host of specialized terms occupying more than twenty-five percent of the mass of words we hear or see in print. And anyone from another discipline, industry, profession, or occupation is almost completely baffled by such talk and writing...

This expanded and revised sixth edition of the Abbreviations Dictionary contains many items not found in other reference works: bell-code signals, Canadian provinces, Mexican states, nations of the world, ports of the world, railroad signals, superlatives, winds of the world, zip-coded automatic-processing abbreviations plus a host of criminal, medical, and military terms.

New items of interest have been collected from newspapers and other periodicals published in many parts of the world. The author's summertime trips aboard freighters produced entries from all parts of the world. Some appear in his Worldwide What & Where, a geographical glossary and traveler's guide, while others are duplicated, in part, in his Crime Dictionary. The underground and the underworld have not been overlooked. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration was most helpful. The compiler's on-going effort to create order out of abbreviatorial and acronymical chaos continues. Extensive and intensive listening, looking, and reading reveal new short forms emerging daily. And the publisher's staff is forever plagued by the author's steady flow of so-called last-minute entries deserving of inclusion. Every effort is made to keep this reference up to date. Readers and reference librarians are again solicited to direct new or revised findings to the author.

Bureaucratically buttressed government creates a host of new short forms. Only old timers seem to recall the attempts of President Hoover to consolidate and streamline government although at least eight presidents since then have pledged themselves and their administrations to stop creating more agencies, more bureaus, more commissions, more committees, and more governmental adornments laden with special abbreviations and acronyms. The end is not in

x Preface

sight. This expanded international sixth edition contains more abbreviations, acronyms, and other short forms than ever before.

Reference librarians everywhere continue to cooperate in compiling short forms and discovering the meaning of many new but hitherto undefined terms. At the Mesa College Library in San Diego, help came from Keith Anderson, Lucy Celia Donck, and Jeanne C. Newhouse, as well as from Curt Lang and Jim Shaff at City College Library. San Diego Public Library professionals who assisted include Patricia A. Allely, Michael J. Archuleta, Barbara Barth, Girard Billard, Ruth Bradaric, Elizabeth Byrne, Jessie Faith, Lettie Ford, David Gault, Deborah Graf, Dorothy Grimm, Dorothy L. Hutchison, Jean Hughes, Matt Katka, Margaret Kazmer, Evelyn Roy Kooperman, Anna M. Martinez, Helga Moore, Angela Patterson, Margaret Queen, Eileen Reynolds, Lyn Slomowitz, Jean Smith, Evelyn Steen, Barbara Tuthill, John Vanderby, Vere Wolf, and others.

Reference librarians and friends here and overseas continue to assist. Arthur Ivory of Christchurch, New Zealand and David Allen of Halifax, Nova Scotia, augmented the continuing cooperation of San Diego's many reference librarians mentioned here and in previous editions. Other who assisted include Dr and Mrs Elwin Marg of the University of California in Berkeley; Professor Michael S. Snowden; Mr and Mrs John Silverstein; Mr and Mrs K.G. Brown; Dean A. Stahl, Chief Engineer Woodrow W. Eden of the *Great Republic*; Doctora Irmaisabel Lovera De Sola of Caracas, Venezuela; Margo Sasse, director of the Serra Research Center; Captain Nathaniel Angell of the *President Van Buren* of the American President Lines.

As this sixth edition of the Abbreviations Dictionary was being readied for press, a number of short forms arrived from Luigi Montagna of Vertex Trust in Vivegano, Italy. We thank him for his cooperation and his input.

Other friends who assisted include Jerome J. Barstow of San Diego, as well as David and Harold Cary; Mr and Mrs Sam Ruth, as well as Kari Sherkin of Toronto, Canada; plus my good partner and wife for more than thirty-five years, Dorothy Clair De Sola.

The entire staff of Elsevier North Holland continued to aid in the editing, marketing, and production of this Abbreviations Dictionary; special thanks to Kenneth J. Bowman and Ethel G. Langlois. Unitron Graphics, Inc, especially Nina Wintringham must be thanked, along with Joanne Jay, Maura Grant, Marie Parrino, Virginia McDonald, Kathleen Tierney and Anne Friedman, responsible for the production of this expanded international sixth edition.

Introduction

Definitions of Terms

- abbreviations abridged contractions such as acdt: accident; AEC: Atomic Energy Commission; NASA: Atomic Energy Commission; NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- acronyms words formed from letters in a series of related words such as ABLE: Activity Balance Line Evaluation; AGREE: Advisory Group on Reliability of Electronic Equipment; DYNAMO: Dynamic Action Management Operations.
- anonyms attempts of authors to enjoy anonymity while maintaining their identity by such devices as the capitalized diphthong AE standing for Aeon, pen name of George William Russell.
- contractions words shortened by dropping non-pronounced letters; omitted letter(s) which are indicated by apostrophes as in can't: can not; li'l: little; doesn't: does not; let's: let us.
- eponyms designations derived from family names, nicknames or names of places or persons; e.g., Hapsburg dynasty, *Eroica* symphony, Paris of America (Montreal), Raynaud's disease.
- geographical equivalents entries such as Far East: countries and islands of East Asia or in the Pacific—eastern Siberia, China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Indochina, the Philippines, the Malay Peninsula.
- initials FDR: Franklin Delano Roosevelt; HST: Harry S. Truman; JFK: John Fitzgerald Kennedy; LBJ: Lyndon Baines Johnson; initials of all American Presidents are included as well as initials of other noted personalities.
- nicknames Al: Alfred; Bea: Beatrice; Hal: Harold; Ike: Dwight David Eisenhower; Issac.
- short forms amps: amperes; Olds: Oldsmobile; pots.: potentiometers.

xii Introduction

signs \$ & & —dollars and cents.

slang shortcuts B-girl: bar girl; C-note: \$100 bill; 1-G: \$1000.

symbols AL: aluminum; Pt: platinum; Rx: prescription; recipe.

Editors—Teachers—Writers

Editors, teachers, and writers will perform a splendid service for readers if they insist that abbreviations and acronyms be defined the first time they are used. The old argument, "everyone knows what that stands for," no longer is true. Many abbreviations stand for at least ten different things. Many acronyms, also, stand for several different things.

The style of writing abbreviations and acronyms requires the attention of editors, teachers, and writers. They should be unwilling to let things get out of hand to the point that a paragraph comes cluttered with unexplained capital-letter combinations. Technical literature will become almost impossible to read if the permissive trend continues wherein all abbreviations and acronyms appear in solid capital letters and without benefit of preliminary definition.

Throughout this Abbreviations Dictionary an attempt is made to follow the rules of English grammar. Capital letters are reserved for proper nouns. Lowercase letters are used for common nouns. However, when custom has become so strong that correctly written short forms are not recognized quickly, their more common equivalents are added parenthetically; icbm (ICBM): intercontinental ballistic missile.

Explanations

If readers and researchers did not continue to find themselves engulfed and ensured in the modern abracadabra of abbreviations and acronyms, in the bewildering bafflegab and gobbledygook of computerese, corporationese, initialese, officialese, pentagonese, politicalese, and technicalese, there would be no need to provide this new international sixth edition of the Abbreviations Dictionary.

Because so many creators of abbreviations and coiners of acronyms fail to define their shortcuts the first time they use them, and because so many who use them also fail to define these things, it becomes increasingly difficult to understand what people are saying or writing when their sayings and writings are filled with abbreviations, acronyms, and anonyms, contractions, initials, nicknames, pseudonyms, short forms, signs, slang shortcuts, and symbols created for their own convenience, without regard for their ability to create communicative and easily understood statements.

Daily speech, newspapers, magazines, books, and signs along the airways, highways, railways, and waterways reveal the universality of these shortcuts to communication and the growing tendency to use and devise more and more of them. This appears to be done in response to the rapid development of technolog-

Introduction xiii

ical civilization. But witness the confusion compounded when someone without a knowledge of Spanish turns on the C tap in a shower bath in Acapulco, Buenos Aires, or Madrid. Hot water streams out instead of cold. North is N in most languages of western civilization, but west can be W or O or even V.

Abbreviations of every sort cover contemporary civilization like a deep and ever-deepening snowdrift, concealing the main features of the landscape, leaving the beholder mystified and perplexed by the overwhelming obscurity imposed by these letter and number combinations. Usually these shortcuts to communication are created without reference to the niceties of typography, the requirements of official and logical regulations, or even the rules of grammar. Most appear without definitions. More and more appear each year. And more and more duplicate already existing abbreviations standing for other things. The letter a, for example, stands for more than twenty-five different things. Capital A stands for more than thirty different things. And so it goes through the alphabet, with many varied combinations of letters and numbers, signs, and symbols.

Arrangement

Everything in this book is arranged in alphabetical and numerical order. For entries containing the same letters, lowercase preceds capital (aa, AA); roman precedes italics (AWA, AWA); unpunctuated precedes punctuated (BAE, B.A.E.). An Arabic numeral precedes its Roman equivalent (3, III).

The following connectives are ignored in the alphabetical arrangement: & (ampersand), and, by, in, of, or, + (plus), the, to. All other articles, particles, prepositions, and the like (between, de, del, di) are treated alphabetically. For example, U of P is alphabetized as UP; U de ST appears as if it were UdeST.

A dollar sign (\$) is treated as if it were a lowercase "d," the pound sign (£) like a lowercase "p," and a mu (μ) like a lowercase "m."

In the case of a parenthetical plural ending, the parentheses will be ignored [e.g., paren(s) is treated as parens].

Golden Rule

"When in doubt, spell it out," insisted Ralph Bayless when he was chief engineer of all General Dynamics engineering organizations of Convair. He urged all to define abbreviations the first time they were used.

If, for example, a Gulf Missile Range is being described, and the term GMR will be used again and again, the text should begin something like this:

The Gulf Missile Range (GMR) affords facilities for national defense and space exploration. GMR personnel are active in all phases of aerospace research, development, and engineering. GMR headquarters are in Mobile.

Common sense rules about abbreviations are most often ignored. Therefore it is necessary to repeat that short words like Maine, Ohio, Samoa, etc., should not

xiv Introduction

be abbreviated, although their unofficial abbreviations exist and are shown in this book. Similarly it is best to avoid the truncation of words spelling other words when abbreviated: cat.: catalog; king.: kingdom; man.: management.

Because this is a reference dictionary there are many duplications. Many items are included so it will not be necessary for readers to try to guess what the abbreviations are intended to mean. Many unauthorized abbreviations are included for the same reason—to help readers find their way through the alphabet soup.

Capitalization

Capitalization of abbreviations, according to Department of Defense Military Standard 12-B (Mil-Std 12-B), must follow the rules of English grammar. All proper nouns are capitalized. All common nouns are written in lowercase letters. Units of weight, measure, and velocity, such as lb, kg, in., cc, mm, rpm, and the like, appear in lowercase to avoid confusion with other letter combinations they resemble.

Many military establishments and offices use full capitals for everything because message machines are provided only with capital letters. That is why many engineering drawings supplied the armed forces contain all abbreviations in capital letters. It is also true many draftsmen are afraid small letters will fill up, especially a's, b's, e's, g's, o's, and the like. Therefore they also like to use capital letters. In text, however, 1500 RPM presents a typographical blob, as compared to the more sophisticated 1500 rpm.

At first loran was LORAN. As people became more used to it, it became Loran. Today it is loran. The same is true of other combinations. The trend is to capitalize only those letters standing for proper nouns, running all common nouns in lowercase. Nevertheless, for the sake of readers and researchers, some incorrectly rendered abbreviations appear in this book. Many people have a marked tendency to capitalize everything they think is important. If this tendency is unchecked, confusion follows. All abbreviations and acronyms look alike. So follow the commonsense rules of good grammar and correct usage.

Chemical element symbols, however, have the first letter capitalized: Au (gold), Zn(zinc), etc. The second letter of a chemical symbol always appears in lowercase.

Exceptions

The singular, plural, and tense of the words abbreviated do not alter abbreviations except in a few instances, such as fig.: figure; figs.: figures; lb: pound; lbs: pounds; no.: number; nos: numbers; p: page; pp: pages; S: Saint; SS: Saints.

However, readers should be aware the International (SI) System of Measurements calls for the abolition of all pluralized abbreviations. Hence in stands for

Introduction xv

inch or inches, lb for pound or pounds, oz for ounce or ounces. This system will probably gain widespread approval.

Documentary abbreviations are rendered as follows: FARs (Failure Analysis Reports), or IRs (Inspector's Reports) or RARs (Reliability Action Reports). In the singular they appear as FAR, IR, RAR.

Italics

Items from Latin and other non-English languages, as well as titles of books and periodicals, are usually set in italic type. Many physical symbols are also set in italics to differentiate them from other letter combinations they resemble.

Punctuation

Short forms are devised to save time and space and to overcome the necessity of repeating long words and phrases. All punctuation is avoided in modern practice unless the form is taken from Latin or there is some conventional use demanding punctuation, as in the case of academic degrees and a few governmental designations. U.S.A. is the country; USA is the army. D.C. is the District of Columbia; DC is direct current when used as a noun. Cash on delivery is not cod but c.o.d. Similarly, fig., figs. and no. require periods to keep readers from thinking they may be words instead of abbreviations for figure, figures, and number. Again, when in doubt, spell it out.

Capitalization and Punctuation Trends

American as well as British and Canadian publishers appear to be following the sensible trend to capitalize only those letters normally capitalized: proper nouns and important words in titles. They reserve lowercase letters for abbreviations consisting of adjectives and common nouns. This obviates the chaos brought about by those who capitalized all the letters in every abbreviation and then compounded their error by placing unnecessary full stops or periods after every letter as was the custom in bygone times.

Most periods are dropped because it is generally realized the purpose of all abbreviations is the thoroughgoing promotion of brevity. More than a decade ago, when Rudolf Flesch compiled one of his many useful books, How To Be Brief—An Index to Simple Writing, he stated:

To save even more space, leave out abbreviation periods whenever you can. The British omit them regularly . . . Mr, Mrs, Dr, St (Saint), Thos, Chas, jr. Periods are often left out after standard abbreviations like US, UN, FCC, PTA . . . following the pattern of most telephone books (e.g., plmbg & heatg supls, atty, flrst, accents, svee, rl est).

xvi Introduction

Chemists, dentists, doctors, medical reference librarians, nurses, and psychiatrists used to write as if they were completelty unaware of the rules of correct and effective English communication, confounding many chemical symbols with abbreviations and then capitalizing everything. They seemed to be in a world of their own and quite unaware that what they capitalized also stood for one or more other things in other and even everyday fields. Thus it sometimes becomes necessary to show abbreviations in both styles, correct and incorrect, so people may find out what they mean one way or another. Hence gmp (GMP): guanosine monophosphate. It precedes GMP: Green Mansion Properties.

The reason for following the rules becomes apparent if we examine another entry: hpl: high(est) point level; human parotid lysozyme (HPL); human placental lactogen (HPL). It is followed by HPL: Halifax Public Library; Hamilton Public Library; Hartford Public Library; Houston Pipe Line; Houston Public Library.

Signs and Symbols

Frequently used signs and symbols are in the back of this dictionary. Many are found on typewriters (&: ampersand—the and sign; *: asterisk; ¢: cent; \$4 dollar; %: percent).

Symbols include the chemical elements (Al: aluminum; Au: gold—from the Latin aurum; C: carbon; Sn: tin—from the Latin stannum). All are listed in the alphabetical section without special definition to indicate they are not abbreviations but symbols. The chemical elements are also grouped together in the back of this dictionary.

Airlines use two-letter symbols for convenience in baggage handling, ticketing, and scheduling operations. Thus American Airlines is AA, Delta Air Lines is DL. National Airlines is NA, Pan American World Airways is PA. United Air Lines is UA. These two-letter designations are listed in a separate section at the back of the book as well as alphabetically along with other multiletter airline abbreviations.

Railroads and steamship lines are included both in the alphabetical section and in their own sections at the end of the book. Naval craft are designated by many arbitrary symbols. All available are given in the alphabetical section.

Contents

rretace	ix
Introduction	xi
A to Z	
Abbreviations; Acronyms; Anonyms; Appellations; Computer Terminology; Contractions; Criminalistic and Data-Processing Terms; Eponyms; Geographical Equivalents; Government Agencies; Historical; Musical, and Mythological Characters; Initialisms; Medical and Military Terms; Nations of the World; Nicknames; Ports of the World; Short Forms; Shortcuts; Signs and Symbols; Slang	
Airlines of the World	893
American Eponyms, Nicknames, and Sobriquets	897
Astronomical Constellations, Stars, and Symbols	899
Bell Code from Bridge or Pilothouse to Engineroom	900
Birthstones—Ancient and Modern	901
Canadian Provinces	901
Capitals of Nations, Provinces, Places, and States	901
Chemical Element Symbols, Atomic Numbers, and Discovery Data	903
Civil and Military Time Systems Compared	906
Climatic Region Symbols	906
Diacritical and Punctuation Marks	908
Earthquake Data (Richter Scale)	908
Fishing Port Registration Symbols	910
Greek Alphabet	911
International Civil Aircraft Markings	911
International Conversions Simplified	911
International Radio Alphabet and Code	912

viii	Со	nten

International Yacht Racing Union Nationality Codes	913
Mexican State Names and Abbreviations	913
Nations of the World and Nationalities	914
Numbered Abbreviations	915
Numeration	921
Ports of the World	922
Proofreader's Marks	922
Railroad Conductor's Cord-Pull Signals plus Engineer's Whistle Signals	923
Railroads of the World	923
Roman Numerals	935
Russian Alphabet	935
Ship's Bell Time Signals	936
Signs and Symbols Frequently Used	936
Steamship Lines	937
Superlatives	941
U.S. Naval Ship Signals	955
Vehicle Registration Symbols (Index Markers)	957
Weather Symbols (Beaufort Scale)	961
Wedding Anniversary Symbols	962
Winds of the World	962
Zip-Coded Automatic Data-Processing Abbreviations	965
Zodiacal Signs	966

Expanded International Sixth Edition

Abbreviations Dictionary

Ralph DeSola

Abbreviations • Acronyms
Anonyms • Appellations
Computer Terminology • Contractions
Criminalistic and Data-Processing Terms • Eponyms
Geographical Equivalents • Government Agencies
Historical, Musical, and Mythological Characters
Initialisms • Medical and Military Terms
Nations of the World • Nicknames
Ports of the World • Short Forms
Shortcuts • Signs and Symbols
Slang • Superlatives
Winds of the World
Zip Coding
Zodiacal Signs



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-Shakespeare

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A

- a: abbreviation; absent; acceleration in feet per second; account; acre; adjective; adult; aerial; afternoon; altitude intercept; amateur; ampere; annealing; anthracite; arc; are (unit of metric land measure); area; argent; at; atmosphere; audit; auditor; automatic; available; aviation; aviator; axis; azure; distance from leading edge to aerodynamic center (symbol)
- a': all (contraction); a minute (angle); a prime
- a": second (angle); a doubleprime
- a: am, an, an der (German—on the, at the); angle of attack; annus (Latin—year); arteria (Latin—artery); attenuation constant (symbol); autonomous consumption (macroeconomics symbol)
- A: absolute; absolute temperature; academy; accumulator (computerese); acid; acoustic source; actual weight of an aircraft; address (computer symbol); adulterer; adulteress (capital letter A branded on the foreheads of all who were convicted of this crime in the early days of New England)—also known as the scarlet letter because branding caused bleeding; aircraft; airman; Alaska Steamship Company; Alcoa Steamship Company; Alfacode for A; ambassador: America: Amer-Americanization; Americanize; Amos. The Book of; amphibian; Anchor Line; anode; anterior; April; argon; Army; artillery; aspect ratio: astragal: Atlantic; atomic weight; attack; August; Austria (auto plaque); chemical activity; first van der Waals constant; Fraunhofer line due to oxygen; linear acceleration; mean sound absorption coefficient; total

acidity

A: angstrom unit

- abajo (Spanish-down); abasso (Italian-down); alas (Finnish-down): albus (Latin-white): Alp(en) Alpe(s) (German-Alp; (French-Alp; Alps Mountains); Alteza (Spanish-Highness); Alt (Germanold)-as in Alt Heidelberg; aprobado (Spanish-approved)-passed in an examinstion: arrival; arrivare (Italian-arrival); arrive; arrive (French-arrival); auf (German-up); Aulus (Latin-Aulus Gellius)-2ndcentury author noted for his Noctes Atticae about languages and literature as well as natural history; aus (German-out); avbeta (Swedish-departure); mountain meadow(s); The Alps) Alpi (Italian-The Alps)
- A: aas (Dano-Norwegian—hills)
- A-1: air personnel officer; excellent; first class; first rate; Lloyd's Register symbol indicating a vessel's equipment is first rate; personnel section of an air force staff; skyraider single-engine general-purpose attack aircraft flown from aircraft carriers; top quality; tops; very best
- A-I: (motion pictures) for general patronage
- A1c: Airman, first class
 A/1C: Airman First Class

merly AD)

- A-1 Skyraider: Douglas singleengine attack aircraft (for-
- A-2: air intelligence officer; almost A-1 in quality; intelligence section of an air force staff; just short of being the best
- A-II: (motion pictures) for adults and adolescents only A₂: aortic second sound; Asian
- A/2C: Airman Second Class

influenza virus

A²C²: see AACC

- A-3: air operations and training officer; operations and training section of an air force staff; Skywarrior twin-engine turbojet tactical all-weather attack aircraft operating from aircraft carriers; training and operations
- A-III: (motion pictures) for adults only

A/3C: Airman Third Class

- A-3 Skywarrior: Douglas carrier-based twin-engine jet reconnaissance and light bombing plane (formerly A3D)—USAF B-66 Destrover
- A-4: air material and supply officer; material and supply section of an air force staff; Skyhawk single-engine turbojet attack aircraft operating from aircraft carriers; supply and materiel
- A-IV: (motion pictures) for adults with reservations
- A-5: planning; supersonic twinengine - turbojet all-weather attack aircraft operating from aircraft carriers
- A-6: communications
- A-6A: Intruder twin-engine turbojet long-range carrierbased low-altitude attack aircraft
- A-6 Intruder: Grumman carrier-based twin-engine jet low-level attack bomber (formerly A2F)
- A-7 Corsair II: Ling-Temco-Vought carrier-based singleengine jet light-attack bomber
- A-32 Lansen: (Swedish—A-32 Lance)—Saab single-seat single-engine jet fighter-interceptor
- A-37: radar-homing or television-guided air-to-surface missile made by Hawker-Siddeley in Britain and Matra in France—Martel
- A-60: Saab twin-engine twoplace jet trainer-utility air-

- craft also called the Saab
- A-106: Agusta antisubmarinewarfare single-engine singleseat helicopter
- A-109: Agusta high-performance eight-seat twin-engine helicopter
- aa: acetic acid; achievement age; acting appointment; adjectives; alveolar-arterial; always afloat; aminoacetone; approximate absolute; armature accelerator; arteries; ascending aorta; author's alteration; equal parts
- as (AA): achievement age; antiaircraft; ascorbic acid
- a-a: air-to-air
- a/a: antiaircraft
- a & a: abbreviations and acronyms; additions and amendments; aid and attendance
- sa: arterias (Latin—arteries); (Hawaiian—block lava) pronounced ah-ah
- AA: absolute alcohol; absolute altitude; achievement age; Addicts Anonymous; Administrative Assistant; Aerolineas Argentinas (Argentine Airlines); Airman Apprentice; Alcoholics Anonymous; Aluminum (Company of) America; American Airlines; American Association; Ann Arbor (railroad); Ansett Airways; antiaircraft; Appropriate Authority; arithmetic average; Arlington Annex; Asian-African; Athletic Association: author's alteration(s): Automobile Association; Aviation Annex; Aviatsionnava Armiya (Russian-Air Army)
- A.A.: Associate in Accounting; Associate in Arts
- AA: Air Almanac; Astronautica Acta (Journal of the International Astronautical Federation)
- aaa: abdominal aortic aneurism; acquired aplastic anemia; acute anxiety attack; amalgam; androgenic anabolic agent
- aa & a: armor, armament, and ammunition
- Asa: Alaska (government style is to spell it out); unofficial abbreviation
- AAA: Agricultural Adjustment Administration; Agricultural Aircraft Association; Alaska (unofficial abbreviation—

- government style is to spell it out); All American Aviation; Allegheny Airlines (3-letter coding); Allied Artists of America: American Academy of Advertising; American Academy of Allergy; American Accordionists Association; American Accounting Association; American Airship Association; American Antartic Association; American Anthropological Association; American Arbitration Association; American Association of Anatomists; American Astronomers Association: American Australian Association: American Automobile Association; antiaircraft artillery; Antique Airplane Association; Appraisers Association of America; Archives of American Art; Army Audit Agency; Associated Agents of America; Association of Attenders and Alumni (Hague Academy of International Law); Association of Average Adjusters
- AAA JAFL-CIO): Actors and Artistes of America
- A.A.A.: Amateur Athletic Association (British)
- AAAA: American Association for the Advancement of Atheism; American Association of Advertising Agencies; Army Aviation Association of America; Associated Actors and Artists of America
- AAAB: American Association of Architectural Bibliographers
- AAAC: American Association for the Advancement of Criminology; Antiaircraft Artillery Command
- AAACE: American Association of Agricultural College Editors
- AAAD: American Athletic Association for the Deaf
- AAAE: American Association of Airport Executives
- AAAEE: American Afro-Asian Educational Exchange
- A.A. Ag.: Associate of Arts in Agriculture
- AAAH: American Association for the Advancement of the Humanities AAAI: Affiliated Advertising
- Agencies International

 AAAID: Arab Authority for
 Agricultural Investment and

- Development
- AAAIMH: American Association for the Abolition of Involuntary Mental Hospitalization
- AAAIP: Advanced Army Aircraft Instrumentation Program
- AAAIS: Antiaircraft Artillery Information Service; Antiaircraft Artillery Intelligence Service
- AAAIWA: Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
- anal: abolish all abortion laws

 AAAL: American Academy of

 Arts and Letters
- AAALAC: American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care
- AAAM: American Association of Aircraft Manufacturers; American Association for Automotive Medicine
- AAAN: American Academy of Applied Nutrition
- AAAOC: Antiaircraft Artillery
 Operation Center
- AAAR: Association for the Advancement of Aging Research
- AAARC: Antiaircraft Artillery Reception Center
- AAAS: American Academy of Arts and Sciences; American Academy of Asian Studies; American Association for the Advancement of Science
- A.A.A.S.: Associate in Arts and Science
- AAASA: Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa
- AAASS: American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies
- AAASUSS: Association of Administrative Assistants and Secretaries to United States Senators
- AAAUS: Association of Average Adjusters of the United States
- AAB: Aircraft Accident Board; American Association of Bioanalysts; Army Air Base; Army Artillery Board; Association of Applied Biologists
- AABB: American Association of Blood Banks
- AABC: American Amateur Baseball Congress; Association for the Advancement of Bhnd Children

- AABD: Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled
- AABEVM: Association of American Boards of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine
- AABGA: American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums
- AABI: American Association of Bicycle Importers; Antilles Air Boats Incorporated
- AABL: Associated Australian
 Banks of London
- aaBm: analytical anatomy by the Braille method
- AABM: Association of American Battery Manufacturers
- AABNCP: Advanced Airborne Command Post
- AABPDF: Allied Association of Bleachers, Printers, Dyers, and Finishers
- aabshil: aircraft anti-collisionbeacon-system high-intensity light(ing)
- AABT: Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy
- AABTM: American Association of Baggage Traffic Managers
- aaby: as amended by
- aac: automatic aperture control; average annual cost
- AAC: Aeronautical Advisory Council: Aeronautical Approach Chart; Aircraft Armament Change; Alaskan Air Command; All-American Canal (serving California and Baja California); Alumnae Advisory Center; American Academy of Criminalistics; American Alpine Club; American Alumni Council; American Association Ωf Criminology; American Cement Corporation (stock exchange symbol); Antiaircraft Command; Army Air Corps; Association of American Choruses; Association American Colleges; Automotive Advertisers Council
- AAC: Associação Academica de Coimbra (Portuguese— Coimbra Academic Association)
- A.A.C.: anno ante Christum
 (Latin—year before Christ)
 —same as before Christ
- AACA: Antique Automobile Club of America; Automotive Air Conditioning Association
- AACAP: Association of Ameri-

- can Colleges Arts Program

 AACB: Aeronautics and Astronautics Coordination Board
- AACBC: American Association of College Baseball Coaches
- AACBP: American Academy of Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics
- aace: all-attitude control capability; automatic approach control complex
- AACC: American Association of Cereal Chemists; American Association of Clinical Chemists; American Association for Contamination Control; American Association of Credit Counselors; American Automatic Control Council; Association for the Aid of Crippled Children
- A.A.C.C.A.: Associate of the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants
- AACCLA: Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America
- AACCP: American Association of Colleges for Chiropody-Podiatry
- AACDP: American Association of Chairmen of Departments of Psychiatry
- AACE: Airborne Alternate Command Echelon (NATO); American Association of Cost Engineers
- AACFT: Army Aircraft
- Aachen: German geographical place-name equivalent of Aix-la-Chapelle on the Belgian-Dutch borders of West Germany
- AACHS: Afro-American Cultural and Historical Society
- AACI: American Association for Conservation Information; Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel
- AACJC: American Association of Community and Junior Colleges
- AACM: American Academy of Compensation Medicine
- AACO: Advanced and Applied Concepts Office (USA); American Association of Certified Orthoptists; Assault Airlift Control Office(r)
- AACOBS: Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services
- AACOMS: Army Area Communications System

- AACP: American Academy for Cerebral Palsy; American Academy for Child Psychiatry; American Association of Colleges of Podiatry; American Association of Commercial Publications; American Association of Convention Planners; American Association of Correctional Psychologists
- AACPP: Association of Asbestos Cement Pipe Producers
- AACPR: American Association for Cleft Palate Rehabilitation
- AACR: American Association for Cancer Research
- AACR: Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules
- AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- AACS: Airborne Astrographic Camera System; Airways and Air Communications Service; Army Airways Communications System
- AACSA: Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa
- AACSB: American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business
- AACSL: American Association for the Comparative Study of Law
- AACSM: Airways and Air Communications Service Manual
- AACT: American Association of Commodity Traders; Armenian Assembly Charitable Trust
- AACTE: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- AACUBO: American Association of College and University Business Officers
- and (AAD): alloxazine adenine dinucleotide
- AAD: Aircraft Assignment Directive; American Academy of Dentists; American Academy of Dermatology; Army Air Defense
- AADA: Advanced Air Depot Area; American Academy of Dramatic Arts; Army Air Defense Area
- AADC: Army Air Defense Command(er)
- AADCCS: Army Air Defense Control and Coordination System
- AADCP: Army Air Defense

Command Post

- AADE: American Association of Dental Editors; American Association of Dental Examiners
- AA de L: Academia Argentina de Letras (Spanish-Argentine Academy of Letters)
- AA Dip: Architectural Association Diploma
- AADIS: Army Air Defense Information Service
- AADLA: Art and Antique Dealers League of America AADM: American Academy of Dental Medicine
- AADMS: Advanced Academic Degree Management System AADN: American Association
- of Doctors' Nurses

 AADOO: Army Air Defense
- Operations Office(r)

 AADP: American Academy of
- Denture Prosthetics
 AADPA: American Academy
- AADPA: American Academy of Dental Practice Administration
- AADS: Advanced Army Defense System; American Association of Dental Schools: American Association of Dermatology and Syphilology; Army Air Defense System
- ane (AAE): above airport elevation; acute allergic encephalitis; average annual earnings
- AAE: American Association of Endodontists; American Association of Engineers; Army Aviation Engineers; Asia Australia Express
- AAEA: American Agricultural Editors Association
- AAEC: Association of American Editorial Cartoonists; Australian Atomic Energy Commission
- AAEDC: American Agricultural Economics Documentation Center (USDA)
- A.Ae.E.: Associate in Aeronautical Engineering
- AAEE: American Academy of Environmental Engineers; American Association of Economic Entomologists; American Association of Electromyography and Electrodiagnosis
- AAEFA: Army Aviation Engineering Flight Activity
 AAEH: Association to Advance
- Ethical Hypnosis
- AAEKNE: American Association of Elementary-Kinder-

- garten-Nursery Educators
- AAELSS: Active-Arm External-Load Stabilization System
- AAEP: American Association of Equine Practitioners
- AAES: Advanced Aircraft Electrical System; Australian Army Education Service
- AAEW: Atlantic Airborne Early Warning asf (AAF): acetylaminofluorine;
- ascorbic acid factor
 a-a-f: acetic-alcohol-formalin
- a-a-f: acetic-alcohol-formalin (fixing fluid)
- AAF: American Advertising Federation; American Air Filter (company); American Architectural Foundation; American Astronautical Federation; Army Air Field; Army and Air Force; Army Air Forces
- A.A.F.A.: Associate in Arts in Fine Arts
- A.A. Fair: Erle Stanley Gardner
- AAFB: Auxiliary Air Force Base aafc (AAFC): antiaircraft fire
- control

 AAFC: Air Accounting and Finance Center; Army Air

 Forces Center; Army Air

 Force Classification Center;

 Association of Advertising
- Film Companies

 AAFCE: Allied Air Force, Central Europe
- AAFCO: Association of American Feed Control Officials; Association of American Fertilizer Control Officials
- AAFCWF: Army and Air Force Central Welfare Fund; Army and Air Force Civilian Welfare Fund
- AAFE: Advanced Applications Flight Experiment; American Association of Feed Exporters
- AAFEC: Army Air Forces Engineering Command
- AAFEMPS: Army and Air Force Exchange and Motion Picture Service
- AAFES: Army and Air Force Exchange Service
- AAFH: Academy of American Franciscan History
- AAFIS: Army Air Forces Intelligence School AAFM: American Association
- of Feed Microscopists
 AAFMC: Army Air Forces Ma-

- AAFMPS: Army and Air Force Motion Picture Service
- AAFNE: Allied Air Force, Northern Europe
- AAFNS: Army Air Forces Navigation School
- AAFOIC: Army Air Forces
 Officer in Charge
- AAFP: American Academy of Family Physicians
- AAFPS: Army and Air Force Pilot School; Army and Air Force Postal Service
- AAFRS: American Academy of Facial, Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgery
- AAFS: American Association of Foot Specialists; American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- AAFSE: Allied Air Force, Southern Europe
- AAFSS: Advanced Aerial Fire Support System
- AAFSW: Association of American Foreign Service Women
- AAFTS: Army Air Forces
 Technical School
- AAFU: All-African Farmers'
 Union
- AAFWB: Army and Air Force Wage Board
- AAG: Air Adjutant General; Association of American Geographers
- AAGC: American Association of Gifted Children
- AAGFO: American Academy of Gold Foil Operators
- AAGL: American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopists
- AAGp: Aeromedical Airlift Group (USAF)
- AAGP: American Academy of General Practice
- A. Agr.: Associate in Agriculture
- AAGR: Air-to-Air Gunnery Range
- A.Agri.: Associate in Agriculture
- AAGS: All-American Gladiolus Selections
- AAGUS: American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons
- aagw (AAGW): air-to-air guided
 weapon(s)
- anh (AAH): anti-armor helicopter
- AAH: American Academy of Homiletics
- anha: awaiting action of higher authority
- AAHA: American Animal Hospital Association; American

teriel Center