

INTRODUCTION

Entering CHIP-8 programs using the RCA COSMAC VIP's system monitor has obvious disadvantages. No doubt you have used one of the editors available through VIPER*, or have written an editor of your own to display addresses and whole instructions on the screen. While this is an improvement, you are still programming in hex. If you're at all like me, you have by now acquired a ream of notes - all of which are more or less (more than likely "less") understandable since the time you wrote them.

CHIP-8 Assembler-3 allows programming in CHIP-8 by using the Text Editor-21* (or any other editor) to prepare a source listing for your program. Instead of calculating GOTO target addresses, CHIP-8 Assembler-3 allows the use of English (or other) language labels to direct the program flow. Comment lines may be written into the program, sections may be joined together regardless of their position in memory, and commonly used subroutines may be stored on tape in source form to be later assembled anywhere you wish in RAM. Debugging is facilitated by the comments which, instead of being buried in that ream of dog-eared, yellowing paper, are stored along with your program. Complete instructions, hints for modifications, a ne game "Get It Together", and program listings are provided. Error messages during assembly detect common mistakes and direct you to them before you test your program. A Subroutine Library starter of five subroutines is also included. This is a Total Programming System!

* VIPER is a newsletter dedicated to the VIP. A subscription blank and more information is at the end of this book. Text Editor-21 is part of Tom's first book, PIPS FOR VIPS, which is available for \$19.95 (with cassette) from ARESCO, Box 1142, Columbia MD 21044.