File 20080915.1200: John Wilkins did his undergraduate degree in Arts at Magdalen Hall, Oxford; later he became Warden of Wadham College, and then Head of Trinity College in Cambridge. After the Restoration of Charles II, he was kicked out of Cambridge, and became a member of the Royal Society.

Wilkins showed in his book in 1641 a five bit binary encoding of the letters of the Roman alphabet. He called them 'fingers' rather than bits.

I wonder if Baudot was familiar with [1]?

References

[1] John Wilkins. *Mercvry, or the Secret and Swift Meſſenger:* Shewing, *How a Man may with* Privacy *and* Speed *communicate his* Thoughts *to a Friend at any diſtance.* Printed by *I. Norton*, for *Iohn Maynard*, and *Tomothy Wilkins*, and are to be ſold at the *George* in Fleetſtreet, neere Saint *Dunſtans* Church, London, 1641.