

Chapter 6

How to Submit Your Solutions for Credit

You are encouraged to send in your solutions (sols) of the ciphers published in *The Cryptogram* to the Solution Editor. The first five words or so of recovered plaintext and/or the recovered keyword are sufficient to show proof of a solution. Unless explicitly requested, keywords, however, are not required to claim credit.

Solutions are due at the Solution Editor's desk on the first day of the FOURTH MONTH following publication. For example, solutions for the January-February issue are due on or before May 1. For reference, the due dates are given at the top of the Solvers List, as is the address to which solutions should be sent. All solutions for one issue should be submitted together on the same sheet of paper. At the top of your submission, you should include a summary line giving your nom, the issue, the number of ciphers solved in each department, the total number claimed for the issue, and the resulting Year-To-Date total. The summary provides a check point to help the Sols Editor avoid common data entry errors, overlooked solutions, etc.

Solutions may also be submitted by email to <acasols@cryptogram.org>. Please use ordinary text within the e-mail (NO attachments, NO word processor formats or formatting) with one solution per line. Include a summary line at the top of the submission with NOM, issue, column and special totals, total for the issue and YTD total.

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JA2002  AA PP CC XX EE SS Issue YTD
MY NOM  23 14 10 6 15 3   71 312
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Late updates obviously make more work for the Sols Editor.

Each issue of *The Cryptogram* contains a Solvers List for the third issue previous, a table of Solvers List Statistics, and the solutions for the issue two issues previous.

The department abbreviations (AA, PP, etc.) as described below are suggested. The Specials department (SS) includes all problems identified with the “-Sp” mnemonic (such as C-Sp-1 or E-Sp), those in the Analyst Corner, and any other non-regular ciphers designated as “submit for credit”, Ornaments, etc. An asterisk may be used in place of a number when credit is claimed for solving all regular ciphers in a department.

AA for Aristocrats,
PP for Patristocrats,
CC for Cryptarithms,
XX for Xenocrypts,
EE for Cipher Exchange,
SS for Specials (including Analyst Corner)

The figures in each column show the number of successful solutions in each class for that issue of *The Cryptogram*. The last column is the running Year-To-Date total for the calendar year. The maximum score possible is shown at the end together with the number of persons submitting solutions. An asterisk in a column means all ciphers in that particular department have been solved. An asterisk behind the name or nom means that all departments have been completed, except Specials. The latter are not required for a "complete" (asterisk), since they are unusual. The Table of Statistics will show you how many solvers solved each problem, giving you an idea of which ones were found to be easy and which difficult. [In each department, the editor attempts to rank the problems from the easiest to the most difficult.]

It is possible that you may get stuck on a cipher, and require help. Feel free to write to the Department Editor for a further hint. Whether you then enter the solution for credit is entirely up to you. The scores in the Solvers List reflect your own personal pleasure and standards; you will not be asked whether yours is a joint effort, or whether you used dictionaries or computers, or other aids to help. The scores are not meant to be any more competitive than you want them to be. While it is true that you may gain more satisfaction from solving a tough cipher than from solving one with a generous tip, each contributes its own solving pleasure. Your score is your record of your progress. Not everyone has the skill, time, or energy to scale the heights.

You may also claim credit for problems submitted and published in *The Cryptogram*. In this case, just add the solution to the rest of your solutions being claimed for the issue in which your problem is printed.

An annual Honor Roll is published showing those with 300 or more solutions for the year, and Certificates of Achievement are given after each 1000 solutions. As there about 100 cons in a typical issue, it may take you some time to get your first certificate!

The submitted solutions also give us some idea of who is doing what. They help all the editors. They also add up over the years. If you dislike some, or cannot spend your limited time on those requiring extra effort, there is no shame in a blank or a single entry in a department.