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What do Cipher Titles have to do with it?

*COPST - Contribution of Personal Solving Techniques

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LIONEL

The Null cipher, appearing in our *SO2013 Cm as E-6, 27 of 32 seniors agree*, prompts this message of the importance of studying a cipher's title. Being aware of a construction's title for solving clues is one of the first instructional pieces of advice we provide for our new solvers. An amazing amount of experienced solvers neglected to relate this Null's titled numerical clue to its numerical key – $27/32 = .84375$. Other helpful construction **titles and cribs** which would have aided the solver with a simple Google reference during the past year include ND2013 E-8 *Fractionated Morse, Well before Rosebud*, Actor, Director reference appears in plaintext, SO2013, X-6 *Swedish Aristocrat, Vegetarisk kost* – Vegetarian diet, *SOE-19 Quagmire*, and *run came at the end of the second refrain* (Google provided insight into World Leader's name that appeared in the plaintext), JA2013, A-16. *Has sixteen vertices* – Tesseract, JA2013, A-13. *Aaahhh* – Fireworks, JA2013, E-10 *Route Transposition, Terpsichorean tongue* – Dance terminology, JA2013, E-23 *Quagmire IV, Seventy-seven hundred men* – Sailors Creek State Park, MJ2013, E-2 *Ragbaby, Retrograde motion* – Hummingbird, MA2013 E-17 *Playfair, West African Proverb. (earring)* – Only a few proverbs to choose with earring, JF2013 E-2 *Railfence, Stellar sequence. (how)* – OBAFGKMRN = mnemonic, star sequence, JF2013 E-6 *Baconian, Russian Proverb (hens)* – Google will indicate few proverbs including the word “hens.”

Portax Period Determination

BION

BION's online version of AAHJU's ID test for Portax ciphers, which also finds their period works well for the SO E-14 Portax construction. Check it out at http://home.comcast.net/~acabion/portax_test.html

Free Code and Cipher Books make great Holiday Gifts –Place an order. The mailing is also free.

<i>Algorithms</i> – Sedgewick	<i>Blue Avenger Cracks Code</i> – Howe	<i>Codes, Secret Writing</i> – Gardner
<i>Codes, Secret Writing</i> – Zim	<i>Cryptanalysis</i> – Helen Gaines	<i>Crypto & Spygrams</i> – Gleason
<i>Cryptography</i> – Dwight Smith	<i>Find Out about Secret Codes</i> – Beal	<i>Fun with Secret Writing</i> - Lamb
<i>Invitation to Cryptograms</i> –Williams	<i>Secret Codes & Ciphers</i> – Kohn	<i>Top Secret</i> – Paul Janeczko
Twelve Years of Age and Under		
<i>Alvin's Secret Code</i> – Clifford Hicks	<i>Code Crackers</i> – Kieran Fanning	<i>Secret Agent Activity Book</i> - Elder
<i>Secret Codes Kit</i> – Robert Jackson	<i>Secret Codes Kit</i> – Slinky Inc.	<i>Spy in Old Philadelphia</i> – Anne Emery
<i>Sam Loyd's Best Picture Puzzles</i>	<i>Cat in the Hat, Things in Full Swing Code Activity Book</i> – Dr. Seuss	

Gimme a Break – ND Aristocrats (may be digraphs / trigraphs) (1) unless otherwise stated

A-1, th (6), A-2, that, the (3), A-3, that, A-4, that, the (2), A-5, the (2), A-6, the (2), A-7, that, the, A-8, the, A-9, the (2), A-10, the, A-11, the, you, A-12, it (3), you, A-13, the, A-14, I (2), A-15, that (2), A-16, ing (2), A-17, the (3), A-18, that, A-19, on (7), A-20, would (2), A-21, fair (2), A-22, ing, ion, A-23, because, A-24, but, A-25, after.

Gimme a Break - ND Patristocrats (may be digraphs / trigraphs) (1) unless otherwise stated

P-1, the (2), P-2, Santa, P-3, the (3), P-4, are (2), P-5, the (2), P-6, and(4), P-7, something, P-8, because (2), P-9, you (3), P-10, to the, P-11, that, the(3), P-12, holiday, P-Sp-1, the (3), P-Sp-2, th (4), V = p.

SO X-1. French Aristocrat. K2 Functionaires. (79) Additional crib – “missions.”

THE RAT

- SO X-2. German Aristocrat. K2 Proportional? (83) (graben)** **TSIOLKOVSKY**
The K2 keyword alphabet will lead you to the selection of the correct crib location. Plaintext begins, “W...”
- SO X-7. ??? Dangerous chemical. (72)** **GGMA**
Here’s a switch. We are always prompting awareness of column unused language types in an issue to translate into the X-7 unknown. In this issue, our X-7 language appears the most often in the SO column.
- SO X-8. Dutch Patristocrat. K2V Proverbs. (101) (vinger geeft)** **GGMA**
See page 28 of the *ACA and You Handbook* for an explanation of the K2V keyword alphabet. The alphabet is simply split around the keyword. The crib fits in only one place and will give away the plaintext letters “m” through “t.”
- SO E-8. Quagmire I. Sound representations. Period Eight, plaintext begins, “The.....”** **NIVEK**
- SO E-9. Two alphabet Baconian. Twisted proverbs. (get, play)** **MARSHEN**
Here are two Baconians in one, with two solutions for the same ciphertext. First solution, crib drag (get) yields four locations with no conflict. Pick the first location. Second crib drag (play) yields only one possible crib location. Both solutions are generated by a patterned Baconian bilateral alphabet. For crib dragging instructions, contact LIONEL.
- SO E-11. Unknown. What, me work? (reason – second plaintext word.)** **APEX DX**
Regular cipher type missing from *Cipher Exchange* to fit the construction format of E-11 is the Ragbaby Cipher.
- SO E-25. Cm Bifid. Novel plan. (inth ehopehe canbere vived) Crib in position 46, begins, “A man”** **BION**
- SO E-26. Myszkowski. Being good isn’t enough. (VYWUOMY) Period nine, begins “Expect....”** **G-MAN**
- SO C-2. Sudoku. (Two words.) Solution in row two.** **VERMONSTER**
- SO C-Sp-1. Double Key Cube Root. (Two WORDS, 0-9, Three words, 0-9.)** **FOMALHAUT**
The *Cm MJ08 Tyrograms* column explanation of cube root solving will lead you easily to the first two digits of the root (the first being, 1). It’s all downhill in obtaining subtraction values from there.
- ND-5. Sequence Null 2. Key = Square root of 2, ten column headings 0-1.** **LIONEL**
- ND A-24. And money talks. K3 (91) Look for “rich.”** **OZ**
- ND A-25. Overeating. K3 (81) Look for “consuming.”** **DUMPSTER**
- ND-6. Addition. N & Y must = 0 or 9, H must be an even #, G & B must = less than 9.** **LIONEL**
- ND P-10. Brought from abroad. K2 (104/23) (FCEY) African foods.** **G-MAN**
- ND X-11. Spanish Incomplete Columnar. Very shy. Period Eight. Plaintext begins “Queri....”** **EL CONDOR**
- ND E-1. Complete Columnar. Inner hazard. (DQGORVH) Period ten Lincoln quotation.** **DANEEL**
- ND E-2. Railfence. Aerodynamic. (QCNB NBY) Six rails, Offset 3, Begins “Samaras....”** **G-MAN**
- ND E-3. Homophonic. Feline. Title hints at cats or lion for plaintext and key help.** **COLD DUCK**
- ND E-6. Unknown. Be fair. (good) Vigenere type, begins “Local.....”** **G4EGG**
- ND E-7. Amsco. Reality check. (NBY MYWIHX) Period seven, begins Proverb.....”** **G-MAN**
- ND C-7. Sudoku (Two words) Solution in first block of middle blocks.** **DABASAP**
- ND C-12. Division. (Three words, 9-0) F = 9, W = 6, Y = 0.** **COLD DUCK**

Sunny Cipheryng, LIONEL

cc: ACA Executive Board