

Chapter 9

The Cipher Exchange and Cipher Guidelines

The Cipher Exchange (**CE**) is that department of *The Cryptogram* that deals with ciphers which are **NOT** simple substitutions of the Aristocrat/Patristocrat variety. Here you will find the fruits of several hundred years of development of cryptography, as cryptanalysts discovered new ways to attack a cipher, and the encipherers then complicated the ciphers to compensate. Some of the ACA systems were used historically in precisely the form we use; some are simplified to highlight unique aspects of that cipher type; and some were invented by ACA members.

CE ciphers given in *The Cryptogram* are all solvable by pencil and paper methods, although computers and other mechanical aids are often used to assist. The ciphers are printed in approximate order of difficulty (as determined by experience) in *The Cryptogram*. They are listed in alphabetical order below, together with the length recommended for a suitable plaintext.

AMSCO (period times 8-12 lines deep)

The first entry may be either a digraph or a single letter. In both even and odd periods the first column and the first row always alternate.

Solvers should be aware that a null is not required when the end of the text does not fill out the digraph-single letter or single letter-digraph pattern.

Key: 41325

pt: Incomplete columnar with alternating single letters and digraphs.

4	1	3	2	5
i	n	o	m	p
t	e	c	o	l
n	a	r	w	i
l	t	e	r	n
i	n	g	s	i
e	l	e	t	t
s	a	n	d	d
a	p	h	s	

CT:

CECRT EGMEN PHPLU TNANT EIOMO WIRSI TDDSI NTNAL INESA ALEMH ATGLR GR.