**The Norbury Chronicle**

**newsletter of the Holmesian Studies SIG of American Mensa**

**since '88, Baker Street Irregulars scion since '95**

"Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed." (Mark 4:22)

Issue XVII

SIG News

The SIG news is that this issue is finally out! The summer was unusually busy and my father died, so I went back up to Michigan, but here it is. As always the more you send in the less your editor has to supply and the sooner the next issue.

Cliff Gravell says that he's working on a Holmes play and was formerly a member of the Holmes SIG and Fragile Physical Instruments of Sherlock Holmes.

Kim Walker-Daniels "has been B. S. I. for years" and so must have much to teach us who are novices.

Lucian Lepaul writes thatbthe SIG "should be fun. I've always been a Holmes fan." Could you write us giving the reasons why?

Mary Kelly called *Sherlock Holmes Through Space and Time* "good reading".

Steve Fowler describes himself as "an inveterate mystery aficionado", so he must have developed some shareable opinions.

William Hansbury was formerly a member of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*.

Scions

Now that we've begun mentioning other scions, Sherlock in L. A. #12 (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056) had, besides its usual listing of fine Holmesian books and collectibles, a section listing newsletters:

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' (New York, NY), Altamont's Agents' (Schenectady, NY) *Naval Signal*, The Baker Street Pages' (Bronx, NY) newsletter of the same name, The Baker Street Underground's (Cornell University) *Underground Jottings*, The Board School Beacond's (Randallstown, MD) *The Report Card,* The Bootmakers of Toronto's (Toronto, Can.) *The Canadian Holmes*, The Cavendish Squares, Ltd.'s (St. Louis, MO) one and only *The Garroter*, The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers' (Pittsburgh, PA) *The Northumberland Dispatch*, The Gamekeepers of Northern Minnesota's *The Game-bag*, The Hansoms of John Clayton's (Peoria, IL) *Wheelwrightings*, Holmes of the Big Sky's (Missoula, MT) *The Montana Times*, Hugo's Companion's (Chicago, IL) *The Devon County Chronicle*, The Master Class' (Philadelphia, PA) *Homeswork*, The Occupants of the Empty House's (Frankfort Hts., IL) *The Camden House Journal,* The Priory School of New York's (Bronx, NY) *The Holmesian Observer*, The Scandalous Bohemians' of New Jersey's (Middletoen, NJ) *The Scandal Sheet*, The Scowrers and Molly Maguires' (San Francisco, CA) *The Vermissa Herald*, The Three Garradebs' (Mt. Kisco, NY) *The Prescott Press*, The Trained Cormorants' (Long Beach, CA) *The Cormorant's Ring*.

PORLOCK'S PUZZLES

We have been trying to organize our collection of ciphers since the last issue. Here's just a sample, using the name "Jesus" with its repeated "S" as exemplar (mostly).

**ADFGVX**: [Germans 1918] 6x6 matrix substitution transposed by using a codeword-ordered matrix and regrouping it into fives thus: Jesus = ADXGA XXDAX

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A** | **D** | **F** | **G** | **V** | **X** |
| **A** | F | L | 1 | A | 0 | 2 |
| **D** | J | D | W | 3 | G | U |
| **F** | C | 1 | Y | B | 4 | P |
| **G** | R | 5 | Q | 8 | V | E |
| **V** | 6 | K | 7 | Z | M | X |
| **X** | S | N | H | O | T | 9 |

**Autokey**: key that changes with each communication [Girolamo Cardano's 16th C. repeating key] or later running key that uses only a priming key and message itself [Blaise de Vigenère]

Jesus + J = SWWYQ

**Baudot**: [for teletype by J. M. E. Baudot] A = 11000, B = 10011, C = 01110, D = 10010, E = 10000, F = 10110, G = 01011, H = 00101, I = 01100, J = 11010, K =11110, L = 11010, M = 00111, N = 00110, O = 00011, P = 01101, Q = 11101, R = 01010, S = 10100, T = 00001, U = 11100, V = 01111, W = 11001, X = 10111, Y = 11001, Z = 10001, ¶ = 01000, carriage return = 00010, letter shift = 11111, idle = 00100, blank = 00000,

Jesus = 11111110101111110000101001110010100

**Bifid**: [Felix Delasteele, 1840-1902] 5x5 matrix dinome substitution transposed and re-substituted, Jesus = 32 12 45 52 45 = 35 25 12 24 45 = NGEDS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **1** | F | E | L | I | X |
| **2** | A | B | C | D | G |
| **3** | H | J | K | M | N |
| **4** | O | P | Q | R | S |
| **5** | T | U/V | W | Y | Z |

**Carbonari**: [used since 1811] like polyphonic, using keyphrase, "Buona ser, amici della libertá!", but with numbers to distinguish multiples, Jesus = A2AA3I2A3

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** |
| B | U | O | N | A | S | E | R | A1 | A2 | M | I | C |
| **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |
| I1 | D | E1 | L | L1 | A3 | L2 | I2 | B1 | E2 | R1 | T | Á |

**Dumas**: [used between Charles William Dumas and Benjamin Franklin, 1776] 682-symbol key used: "Voulez-vous sentir la différence? Jettez les yeux sur le continent septentrional de l'Amerique. Dans les résolutions vigoureuses de ces braves colons vous reconnoitrez la voix de la vraie liberté aux prises avec l'oppression ...", Jesus = 32 5 11 3 12

**Even-number**: [Little Orphan Annie, 1934] Jesus = 2010384238

Fersen: [Count Hans Axel Fersen for letters from Queen Marie Antoinette] 13 letter pairs designated by key letter: Jesus = MGHVXNT

M kn or sv wz ad eh il mp qt ux yb cf gj N ab cd ef gh ij kl mn op qr st uv wx yz

**Gronsfeld**: [from Gaspar Scott, 1659, as told to by Count Gronsfeld] dekalphabetic substitution with keynumber, such as phone number or golden series (modulo 10): 13471..., Jesus = KHWBT

**Keyword**: usually one without repeating letters, such as, absolute, Blackstone, countryside, Democrat, dumbwaiter, Republican, Watfordshire, in monoalphabetic substitution and/or transposition: Jesus = NBQTQ or with 5-letter 42531 transposition = TBQQN

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |
| R | E | P | U | B | L | I | C | A | N | D | F | G | H | J | K | M | O | Q | S | T | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Lovell**: [James Lovell,1777-82] using keyword and 27 alphabets including & and nulls ("baulks") above 27, Jesus = 153910270117

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| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** | **&** |
| R | E | P | U | B | L | I | C | A | N | D | F | G | H | J | K | M | O | Q | S | T | V | W | X | Y | Z | & |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| S | T | V | W | X | Y | Z | & | R | E | P | U | B | L | I | C | A | N | D | F | G | H | J | K | M | O | Q |
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |

**Masonic**: non-alphabetic substitution, e. g.,  **|• |•| \•/ /•\ \•/**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **C •|** | **F |•|** | **I /J |•** | **L |**  | **O | |** | **R |**  |  | **S \•/** |  |  | **W \/** |  |
| **B •|** | **E |•|** | **H |•** | **K |** | **N | |** | **Q |**  | **V •>** |  | **T <•**  | **Z >** |  | **X <** |
| **A •|** | **D |•|** | **G |•** | **J |** | **M | |** | **P |**  |  |  **U /•\** |  |  | **Y /\** |  |

**Month**: codewords with first and second digits indicating month and letter in month's name yielding all but K, Q, W, X and Z, which could be assigned the numbers ending in 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0 and still leave 22 other nulls. The most common letter, E, has 9 designations, J has 3, U has 6, S just one. Jesus = 116599917291

**Myer**: [Albert Myer's patented cipher disc] uses any of the 29 combinations of the two sequences:

RKZUYFTPNJBLWIOHASQGDVMECX -tion -ing -ed

1 11 18 111 118 188 181 1111 1118 1181 1188 1811 1818 1881 8111 8118

8181 8188 8111 8118 8181 8188 8811 8818 8881 8888 818 811 881 888 81

Jesus = 11 81 811 111 811

**One-time Pad**: [Germans 1918-1923] order alphabet in columns by keyword, the 8 most common letters get 0 though 7, the rest with period and slash get 70 through 99, digits are tripled, key number is added, such as pi:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **T** 0 | **R** 1 | **A** 2 | **I** 3 | **N** 4 |
| **B** 80 | **C** 85 | **D** 89 | **E** 5 | **F** 97 |
| **G** 81 | **H** 86 | **J** 90 | **K** 94 | **L** 98 |
| **M** 82  | **O** 6  | **P** 91 | **Q** 95 | **S** 7 |
| **U** 83 | **V** 87  | **W** 92 | **X** 96 | **Y** 99 |
| **Z** 84 | **.** 88 | **/** 93 |  |  |

Jesus = 900 578 307 + 314 159 265 = 1214 737 572

**Permutation**: anagram-like transposition without substitution, alphabetic anagram = alphome, Jesus = EJSSU

**Pangramic**: uses pangram (phrase or sentence containing whole of alphabet) as key, counting words and letters in words, such as in "Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs."

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** |
| 12 | 31 | 13 | 61 | 54, 64 | 51 | 83 | 44 | 42, 52, 72 | 81 | 14 | 71 | 21 |
| **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |
| 65 | 32, 62,75 | 11 | 73 | 76 | 84 | 43 | 74, 82 | 53 | 41 | 33 | 22 | 63 |

Jesus = 8154848284

or the more simple monoalphabetical substitution:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |
| P | A | C | K | M | Y | B | O | X | W | I | T | H | F | V | E | D | Z | N | L | Q | U | R | J | G | S |

Jesus = WMNQN

**Polygraphic**: includes algebraic, playfair and type using matrix pair, substituting letters on opposite vertices of rectangle made by reflecting letters in other matrix

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| R | E | P | U | B |  | D | E | M | O | C |
| L | I/J | C | A | N |  | R | A | T | E | B |
| D | F | G | H | K |  | G | H | I/J | K | L |
| M | O | Q | S | T |  | N | P | Q | S | U |
| V | W | X | Y | Z |  | V | W | X | Y | Z |

Jesus = JESXUS = EAYQSO

**Polyphonic**: [ascribed by Edgar Allen Poe to Duchess du Berry, 1832] used codephrase without X or Z. Jesus = EUIOI or 59 other possibilities (!)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |
| L | E | G | O | U | V | E | R | N | E | M | E | N | T | P | R | O | V | I | S | O | I | R | X | E | Z |

**Quadratic**: [Gen. Leslie Groves, Manattan Project, 1945] 10x10 matrix with multiple substitution (e. g., Ezra 7:21 in RSV with F = PH, J = I, QU = KW)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **0** |
| **1** | A1 | N1 | D1 | I1 | A2 | R1 | T1 | A3 | X1 | E1 |
| **2** | R2 | X2 | E2 | S1 | T2 | H1 | E3 | K1 | I2 | N2 |
| **3** | G1 | M1 | A4 | K2 | E4 | A5 | D2 | E5 | C1 | R3 |
| **4** | E6 | E7 | T3 | O1 | A6 | L1 | L2 | T4 | H2 | E8 |
| **5** | T5 | R4 | E9 | A7 | S2 | U1 | R5 | E10 | R6 | S3 |
| **6** | I3 | N3 | T6 | H3 | E11 | P1 | R7 | O2 | V1 | I4 |
| **7** | N4 | C2 | E12 | B1 | E13 | Y1 | O3 | N5 | D3 | T7 |
| **8** | H4 | E14 | R8 | I4 | V2 | E15 | R9 | W1 | H5 | A8 |
| **9** | T8 | E16 | V3 | E17 | R10 | E18 | Z1 | R11 | A9 | T9 |
| **0** | H6 | E19 | P2 | R12 | I5 | E20 | S4 | T10 | T11 | H7 |

Jesus = 1410245655

**Trifid**: [Feliz Delasteele, 1840-1904] 3x9 matrix trinome substitution transposed and resubstituted.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **11** | **12** | **13** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **31** | **32** | **33** |
| **1** | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
| **2** | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R |
| **3** | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | blank |

Jesus = 211 122 311 313 311 = 213 331 211 112 131 = LYJBG

**Voynich**: [Voynich manuscript in Latin] number substitution

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **US** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 |

Jesus = 1449

**Whistle**: [Jack Armstrong] . = "Attention!", .. = "Be on guard for trouble.", \_.. = "In danger! Come at once!", ... = "We're being Watched.", \_ \_ = "Important news! Meet me at once."

**Wig-wag**: [Albert Myer's flag telegraphy, 1856] used by both sides in Civil War

Jesus = lcl llr ccl lcc ccl c

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** |  |
| rrl | rlr | lrr | lrl | llr | rll | rlc | crl | lrc | lcl | clc | lcr | rcl | cll | llc | crc | rcr |  |
| **R** | **S** | **T** | **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** | **Y** | **Z** |  | **.** | **end** | **affirm** | **stop** | **error** | **repeat** | **right** | **left** |
| ccr | ccl | rcc | lcc | lll | crr | clr | rrr | rrc | c | cc | ccc | llllc | llllllccc | rlrrlrc | rlrrlrrlrc | rllrllrllc | lrrlrrlrrc |

"Crime is common, logic is rare." (Sherlock Holmes)

Gifts?

In *Bits & Pieces*, the catalog of the Great International Puzzle Collection (1 Puzzle pl., B8019, Stevens Pt., WI 54481-7199) we see advertised "The Puzzling Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", each not only a 550-piece jigsaw puzzle, but a mystery story as well, "The Adventure of the Fellow Lodgers" and "The Phantom of Sorrel House. "Read the mystery story inside, assemble the jigsaw, then try to solve the crime."

The CBD (Christian Book Distributors) Christmas catalog had three volumes of the Baker Street Brigade series by Jake and Luke Thoene: *The Mystery of the Yellow Hands, The Giant Rat of Sumatra* and *The Jewelled Peacock of Persia*. (There'll be a review of them later, when we've finished them.)

From the previously mentioned *Sherlock Holmes in L. A.* we have offered: *The Elementary Methods of Sherlock Holmes* by Brad Keefauver and *Sherlock Holmes and the Origins of Psychology* by Prof. Richard Kellogg.