

TENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAMS



(FIRST YEAR DIDN'T COUNT)

Each of the numbered messages below has been encoded from some original text by replacing one letter consistently by another throughout the message. Thus, for example, GLOOMY TIME could turn into CHEERS WORK, with G becoming C, L becoming H, etc. Different messages have different encodings. Your job is to discover the original messages. Sometimes a word in the encoded message gives a hint about the true message. Long messages are often easier to decode than short ones, because there are likely to be common words in them, such as “the,” “and,” “that,” etc. The messages are not necessarily listed in order of increasing difficulty. The first few messages have a Christmas theme; they get more secular later. Good luck, and have fun.

Answers are available from wright@uoregon.edu.

1. J B I X W K X E T W , E V E R Y , W E A C K Y K B Y B E L L S
Q U I T V B Y I Y U T K B Y W E O X U C I U P K B Y V U I A G V E W
H U I T . I X W Y K U E G U I Y K B Y Q S W K Y I S U P
A U O Y V B X J B B U W K W U P E T M Y A W J B E T K Y G P I U Q
E H U O Y . V X K B K B Y Q K B Y Z U S P C A K X G X T M W P X I W K
H Y M C T U P M U G X T J E I T E K Y E T G K B Y O X I M X T ' W
W U T . - I Y O Y X A A Y

2. P E E R D I S T A N T L Y O F Y , S F B E T D F C T N I I F L S N
L Y R A E Z K L Y R U E T D F . Y E C G F I F L S E X
F Y R K F A A H K T A A . B E G ! B E G ! B F A Z A D I S T A N C L A
H E S Y X E S N I T A . I F I L N I E W F ' R N I F I F L U ' Y K G
R E E S L Y R O L Y T A H K F A A F R F U F S O E S F . D I S T A N
C L A H E S Y X E S N I T A . D I S T A N C L A H E S Y X E S
N I T A . - O F R T F U L K E S T P T Y

3. ARKS WR HAUNT PNMWP'L KWEU, LEAAP N
TAFTU KNEETS LISP, FISHS N ZAEISH TNWP
ISH ONOU, WR N ZNRVSH BAH IWL OSP. ZNHU
FNL EINE ZAEISH ZWTP. XSLCL KIHWE, ISH
TWEETS KIWTP. — KSKWT BHNKRSL NTSDNRPSH

4. TOKEN LONDONFUL TISHONU SONKF YEBHML
JC AKPOS IEE LNISNU BA SON PFBXAU SON
IAPNE BY SON EBFU HIRN UBTA IAU PEBFC
LOBAN IFBXAU. IAU PEBFC LOBAN IFBXAU.
— AIOXR SISN

5. HITS RANK HIGH DGAHG'D NA ILD KGS;
IT'D UNGPTP UNHD NX HNSD GAP ONNPLTD NA
ILD DUTLOI. GAP TYTES FNHITE'D ZILUP LD
ONLAO HN DMS, HN DTT LX ETLAPTTE ETGUUS
RANK INK HN XUS. — FTU HNEFT

6. LULLS BEFOR E WENT UP RMEOCR, RAGS
BEFOR E RICH. FCIINC BEFOR E WNJOATC
LUUM, SCIIUB, LIAC, EFH TCH. FUB N OYNFM
N'II ICEDC OU SUA BYEO OU VNDC OYC TCRO.
JYUURC PUT XC, HCET REFOE JIEAR; SUA BNII
MFUB OYC LCRO.
— BNRYP AI OYNFMNFV

7. Z SQUAREFIR EULL! Z SQUAREFIR
EULL! FOSQ CHLIROUL EQZO SIP'RE BAKL FL;
Z SQUAREFIR EULL! Z SQUAREFIR EULL! FOSQ
CHLIROUL EQZO SIP'RE BAKL FL;
QZY ZWELP QIR EQL SQUAREFIR EULL IWWZUNLN
FL EQL BULIELRE BHLL!
Z SQUAREFIR EULL! Z SQUAREFIR EULL! FOSQ
CHLIROUL EQZO SIP'RE BAKL FL. - GLEELU AP
BLUFIP

8. NICK QIIMLOC SOWK IZK WID CHEKH OEF ZA
ROLEX WOF KI KTO DOLEFOOD. - ROE XDOOENHE

9. HO TURCESHOS YSKZG RKPWTYIDZ TO 2009
PG EDYDHEMIDEY HS SID KOTLDEYTSG CX
RDOOYGWLHOTH YMICCW CX UDZTMTOD DYSTUHSDZ
SIHS RDCRWD TO RCYYDYTCO CX H NKO HS SID
STUD CX HO HYYHKWS ADED 4.5 STUDY UCED
WTVDWG SC PD YICS ZKETON SID HYYHKWS SIHO
YCUDCOD TO H MCURHEHPWD YTSKHSTCO ATSICKS
H NKO. - PCP IDEPDES

10. N BNAIGWAI ISTAL CLTCZL HST METH AT
HLZZ HSKI YTB HKEIA ISLF IT BT OLUKWAL N
ETINUL NI KZHKRA UTNEUNBLA HNIS ISLNG THE
BLANGLA. - AWAKE O. KEISTER

11. ELK WAZINKY OR ELSE SYKAOUSTR USTTZE
UZTUKOMK ZH S DZG PLZ OR TZE ST SYKAOUST.
- PONNOSY WSHHH

12. V PLANH IURDYI KNUM "EDVOAVRU CUSUSU"
USH DUTY XM FVXXVSB KLLN RDUS KNUM CUED
USH FRUITY. - GUTVYI EABUR

13. RXXO GBUN BOX GLWSLOBW NPCRAWN
(TOKXUM BUM TAX) AT UBSLOBW IKNSAOP TAO
SHA OXBNAUN. SIXP BOX SIX OXCBKUN, TKONS
AT BWW, AT SIX EOKCBOP NLNSXUBUGX AT
TKXWMHAOJ. NXGAUM, SIXP BOX SIX
LRKFLKSALN OXCKUMXON AT ILCBU
KUSXODXUSKAU XDXU KUSA SIX CANS OXCASX
BUM EXBGXTLW EWBGXN AT UBSLOX'N BEEBOXUS
IXVXCAUP. - NSXEIXU ZBP VALWM

14. WHISTLE HIS LRS KFTSE BWFT ARMOR
ORMQUIST ERHIWST LRSMI LSSLR. - WLSLI
BELMTFY

15. BARN STEWART NUT EWN UWX UTY IDNNTOR
DO NUT GHTO XGTRO'N PTWO NUTL'YT
SDREADNR. - NASW EGOETYN VYGKYWP OGNT