

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAMS



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. These pages themselves, as well as puzzles from previous years, can be found at <http://pages.uoregon.edu/wright/cryptos>.

1. YOUR OBOE RAN THL ENOW COUUNU. YO HO
HO HO HO, HO HO HO HO. AOSH RAN KNB EN
HOLU OKL HOUUNU. YO HO HO, NRP. – HTTISKM
OANOL

2. FUOI BTR GOBBGR GULM BS BTR FTRVTRWI
MSE, "IS ESP TRUW ATUB O TRUW? WOZYOZY
BTWSPYT BTR FNE, FTRVTRWI MSE, IS ESP
TRUW ATUB O TRUW? U FSZY, U FSZY TOYT
UMSKR BTR BWRRF AOBT U KSOHR UF MOY UF
BTR FRU, AOBT U KSOHR UF MOY UF BTR FRU."
– ZSRG WRYZRE

3. YPAONB HAPPY TOWN, ETA SIX
POYRAWOWN. OW RBA PEWA, YWIM OY
NPOYRAWOWN. E HAEXROUXP YONBR, MA'TA
BELLS RIWONBR. MEPZOWN OW E MOWRAT
MIWGATPEWG. – LAEFAUXP YFAWA

4. MARY WA SMILD OLPWO'N RWEI, NEMMO L
DMUDI RLEEDY NTYO, UTYSY L XMETYS DLWO
TYS HLHI, WA L XLAKYS GMS TWN HYO: XLSI
ULN ETLE XMETYS XWDO, BYNZN RTSWNE, TYS
DWEEDY RTWDO. — AYU HYKWA AWAK

5. OC VYZ ASOFSC HEOH ISPNYS HES ANRV
ASOP-IANXSY PAZ, XESG HESZ BSSH XUHE OG
NICHOLAS BNRGH HN HES CMZ, CN RT HN HES
ENRCS-HNT HES LNRYCSYC HESZ PASX, XUHE
HES CASUDE PRAA NP HNZC — OGV CH.
GULENAOC HNN. — LNGHSBTNYOYZ OVOTHOHUNG

6. OI'D IMITEEF MY ISTI FML STAB ISOD
MLIJTXBMLD TIIBCKI ISTI VTOED. BOPDIBOP
HTD HJMPX TUMLI T EMI MV DILVV. PBHIMP.
ISMCTD BGODMP. ISBF STG KEBPIF MV
VTOELJBD, IMM. — UJOTP PMDBJ

7. OTLEMOI KTAI CU KECGIMAPI CU BTMLI
ULCW ACH, MLNEMTCVCXSIKI HSVV MIISXA
TJNMDMKTP KHTAKSTKE NTAKGLB NMLI KC
LTVSXSCGI-MVKML SAPGIKLS TI HSKE AMWTI
IGNE MI NETDLCVTKKSMA MAP KCBCKMKTLSMA. —
INSTANT ATHI

8. BACKBUS ORCO MET IBS CUI KE OE RSCJSU
CUI NOCUI BU PLEUO EP C DTLM ACIS TV EP
OREACN DSPPSLNEU, SYSCUEL LEENSJSYO, CUI
ACLOBU YTORSL FBUK, DL. METL OCNF GETYI
XS OE HEAVENS METLNSYP, YEEF ORSA BU ORS
SMS, CUI NCM, "B GCN CYX CXETO PLSNR,
YEH CY, CUI NSCNEUCY." — CTOREL TULSHCYYSI

9. FUN KUPON YNBOW PX FUN STATION TA
GPWHNOONM ID FUN TESTATION. PRY HOBENF,
PRY APOBY ADAFNW, PRY ZBOBLD, PRY
RETSNYAN: BOO PX TF, BOO PX RA, BYN
HRAUNM, HROONM, AHRE, AUTXFNM, ANF TE
WPFTPE, BEM UNOM FPZNFUNY ID KUBF KN
GBEEPF ANN. — VBFUYDE AGUROC

10. VAGUCMUFPAHD GFL HUAMMSU KFGO TFAL
FLY XBRAY WIAXHW HIFH BSFY HC TUSWRUS
ALWAYS HIS WORBB FLY PAWACL TUCKBSVW. LC
CLS OLCEW EID. — BAHHBS-OLCEL XFGH

11. ZNDTL NPMOY YN FU I SEYYSU ZEST, AND
YOUR IDU YOU ILLIPSY NA YONPMOYL NW YOU
PWYOEWHEWM. — KNOW VIRWIDT HURWUL