

## ANSWERS TO 2009 CRYPTOGRAMS

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold.  
– Anne Murray

2. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.  
– the old soft shoe

3. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
– music questions

4. As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly  
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky,  
So up to the housetop his coursers they flew  
With a sleigh full of toys and Saint Nicholas too.  
– windy poetics

5. So let the jolly sleigh bells jingle,  
Hail our dear old friend Kris Kringle,  
Driving his reindeer across the sky.  
Don't stand underneath when they fly by.  
– Tom Lehrer

6. Everybody professes to know that it would be difficult to find a needle in a haystack, but very few reflect that this is because haystacks seldom contain needles. – Ambrose Bierce

7. Jack planted the magic beans and in one night a giant beanstalk grew all the way from the earth up to the clouds—which sounds like a lie, but it can be done with genetic engineering, and although a few people are against eating gene-engineered foods like those beans it's a high-paying career to think about for when you grow up.  
– Frances Grimble

8. The good Christian should beware of mathematicians and all those who make empty prophecies. The danger already exists that mathematicians have made a covenant with the devil to darken the spirit and confine man in the bonds of hell. – Saint Augustine

9. There is no more irritating fellow than the man who tries to settle an argument about communism, or justice, or liberty, by quoting from Webster.  
– Mortimer J. Adler

10. You know how dumb the average guy is? Well, by definition, half of them are even dumber than that.  
– Bob Dobbs

11. Economists are people who see something working in practice and try to figure out if it would work in theory.  
– social science observer

12. Saskatchewan, land of a thousand vistas. See them all from a single step-ladder. – Canadian flattery

13. Success is a very hideous thing, and its resemblance with merit deceives men. – Victor Hugo

14. If the English language made any sense, a catastrophe would be an apostrophe with fur. – Doug Larson