File 20080915.2347: On p. 7, Wilkins gives the conditions of secrecy; that the method used ought not to call attention to itself (later, he cautions that Experiments in this area might bring one to the attention of the Magistrate). [1, p. 7]

Regarding *Trithemius*: although, according to Wilkins [1, p. 64], Trithemius ascribed too much to the influence of magic and angels. Wilkins, a member of the Royal Society, could analyse such claims as the sympathetic influence of lodestone-treated needles, and argue convincingly that while such an effect might work over a distance of a few feet, there was no scientific reason to believe it would span vast stretches.

On page 73, Wilkins gives a five-bit binary code for the Roman alphabet. On page 74, a ternary code, and on pages 74–75, he describes quaternary frequency-shift keyed modulation, using church bells. [1] (He deals with data compression earlier in the book.)

Chapter XIX talks about the need for objective validation (not by appeal to Magick) of IA systems.

References

[1] John Wilkins. *Mercvry, or the Secret and Swift Meſſenger:* Shewing, *How a Man may with* Privacy *and* Speed *communicate his* Thoughts *to a Friend at any diſtance.* Printed by *I. Norton*, for *Iohn Maynard*, and *Tomothy Wilkins*, and are to be fold at the *George* in Fleetſtreet, neere Saint *Dunſtans* Church, London, 1641.