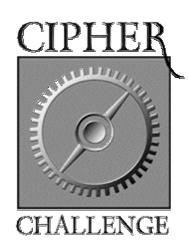
University of Southampton National Cipher Challenge Solutions

Message 5 Plaintext:

My Dear W,

The Countess has informed me that the plans have disappeared and that you are on their trail. From discreet enquiries with her society friends in the Foreign Office it appears that the rogue Spion has contacted French agents.

His flight to Southampton might mean that he plans to escape back to France. If only there were Peelers in Southampton to assist you. It occurs to me that an electric telegraphic device based on our Turning Machine might be useful in the apprehension of such rogues in the future, though doubtless this engine mail as I call it will be the cause of much idle gossip too.



Be sure that the roque is lying low and you will have to be assiduous in your enquiries if you are to find him. The Countess has kindly placed an advertisement in the national Press. She has high hopes that it will yield new avenues of enquiry.

Yours as ever, Chas

Cipher:

• Affine cipher: 23*I+5 mod 26, where I =0,1,2,... corresponds to a,b,c,...

Notes:

- Was engine mail an early form of "e-mail"?
- Wheatstone and Sir Willaim Fothergill Cooke patented an electric telegraph in 1837. More on the history of the electric telegraph at http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/bltelegraph.htm
 http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/8341/telegraf.htm
- Did you spot the hidden reference to "affine" in message 4? look carefully!



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