

MysteryTwister C3

THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

THE VATICAN CHALLENGE – PART 2

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The Secret Archives of the Vatican



Introduction

The Secret Archives of the Vatican (Archivum Secretum Apostolicum Vaticanum) keeps a large number of papal state papers, letter correspondences, and many other historical manuscripts produced over the centuries. Some of them are hand-written ciphertexts waiting for decryption.

Such ciphertexts can be found in the State Archive (Segretario di stato) of the Secret Archives, Archivio Segreto Vaticano.

Challenge (1/2)

The ciphertext we provide here was written in March 14, 1625 and comes from the Segretario di stato, Francia 64 (ASV:Segr.di.Stato:Francia 64), ff. 130r-130v. You can find the transcription in the additional zip file, called "Transcription-Francia-64-10.txt".

The archive's comment of ASV:Segr.di.Stato:Francia 64 is:
Lettere del nuntio in Francia, 1625. Lett. Originale cifre del nunzio alla segretaria dal 16 febr 1625 al 5 decembre 1625. ff. 5-617.
Min. cifre della Segretaria al nunzio, dall 11 settembre 1625 al 30 decembre 1625 ff. 345-622. mm. 310x205. ff. 625 (s. 622).

Challenge (2/2)

Unfortunately, the original cipher images cannot be published but you can order the images for a fee from the archive.

To solve the challenge it is sufficient to use the transcribed text provided in the zipfile.

Good luck! :)