



Yardleygram

In 1932, Herbert Yardley of the American Black Chamber, the forerunner of the NSA, published a book of cryptographic puzzles called *Yardleygrams*. It is set as a fictional challenge between an old spy and a young man interested in codes.

What follows is a paraphrase of one of his ciphers. It can be solved with a pencil and paper. Yardley recommends using graph paper.

Financier

The postal censor intercepted a letter that tests revealed carried a message in secret ink. It had been sent by a nationally-renowned financier. US Intelligence deciphered the message, and then followed the letter. They moved in to make an arrest only to find that at the heart of the plot was not the financier, but his butler. The butler was in the habit of filtering the financier's mail, and so had a perfect opportunity for deflecting blame.

ciphertext:

TISOPEDUOHTNETIRFDNASNOONYADVESMOOROHNETNELLOHLETDCBADNA

decipher: Simple transposition cipher. Try Wordpad or SimpleText, and move the corners.