



Joyeux Noël

Par Daniel TANT

Voici un disque d'Alberti convenant parfaitement comme cadeau de Noël, avec son décor composé de feuilles de houx.

Il est constitué d'une partie fixe avec une couronne extérieure reproduisant l'alphabet dans le sens des aiguilles d'une montre, et une partie centrale mobile avec un alphabet disposé dans l'autre sens. Il est donc utilisable.

La N.S.A. des U.S.A. a créé ce cadeau publicitaire en fin 1998.

THE CIPHER DISK

The Cipher Disk has been used for secure communications since its invention in Italy around the year 1470. While the Cipher has been "reinvented" many times, its functionality has remained close to the original. The Cipher Disk came into wide spread use in the United States during the Civil War. About a half century later, the US Army adopted a simplified version of the disk. This version had the alphabet ordered both in the standard direction and in the reverse standard direction. By rotating the disks messages could be coded and uncoded. During WWI the Army issued the disk in this form to units that needed a Cipher which could be carried and used easily. The Cipher gave a few hours of protection to tactical messages.

To create your own secret code, you and a friend could secretly agree to a setting, prior to exchanging messages. Place "C" on "F" for example, and agree to change the setting daily or weekly to make your messages more secure.

