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#      04/21/2006 NPR's All Things Considered      #
#      Enigmatic CIA Puzzle 'Kryptos' may Be Flawed Time: (4:28)      #
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# URL:: http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4684720      #
#                                                    #
#      R: Reporter      #
#      JS: James Sanborn      #
#      ED: Elonka Dunin      #
#                                                    #
#                               Transcribed By: Jew-Lee Irena Lann      #
#                                                    #
# Please report any boo boo's to jew\_lee@hotmail.com      #
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TIME STAMP: 0:00

R: The CIA has more than a few mistakes over the last couple of years. Well, here's one that's not the agency's fault. The story comes, to us, by way of wired news and it has to do with the sculpture, on the grounds of CIA Headquarters, in Langley, Virginia.

The sculpture has baffled code-breakers for years. It's called Kryptos and it features nearly two-thousand letters, divided into four sections. Three of those coded sections have been solved. But, just this week, the artist and the author of this code revealed that there is an error. And that could be why sleuths have had a hard time figuring out the last part of the puzzle.

To help us sort through what happened, we got the sculpture, Jim Sanborn on the phone, with game developer and part-time Kryptos devotee, Elonka Dunin:

TIME STAMP: 0:43

ED: An analogy, that I use when I am trying to describe the situation to non-cryptographers is Jim came up with a recipe for something and then he gave us the recipe, but he wanted to make it look good on the page, so he remove one element without paying a lot of attention to which element he'd removed. And he accidentally removed a key ingredient...like he'd removed yeast. And we took the recipe and we made what the recipe said. And we said "Hey, Jim it tasted really great! Thanks!" and then...but, later when he checked on it, he was like, "Opps..They ending up making cookies and I intended for them to make ..cupcakes".[Reporter and Elonka laughs]

TIME STAMP: 1:22

SB: Yeah.

TIME STAMP: 1:22

ED: And so he let us know, that well, there's one little piece ...that you probably want to try cooking it again. An..And so we're like very grateful and saying ..So ok tha... well we had a lot of fun, with what we did before, but it good to know that we're going to make it the way you actually intended. So, thank you.

TIME STAMP: 1:33

ED: Huh?..Now Jim, this missing ingredient, if..if I understand this right, was the letter "X", that you had taken off of one line, for aesthetic reasons. It didn't..didn't balance.

TIME STAMP: 1:42

JS: Yeah. I mean I..I ..uh..[Exhales]...there were several ways I could manipulate the lines of text so I would end up with with a panel that is square on the sides. Because a "M" is much longer than an "O"...if you have many "M"s, then you have a longer line. And so I wanted it ...So I wanted to have some control. So there were some things I choose to lef..leave out. And I did leave an "X" out. The "X"s, more or less, represent a..a period. But, because a period isn't really easy to encode, I choose to use "X"s. So, after the end of each phrase, I would put an "X". Well, in taking this one "X" out, the cryptophers were, you know, going swimming along and thinking that they'd gotten the whole thing and it wasn't a period. And...and it is interesting that you leave out one little period, and it makes such a huge difference.

TIME STAMP: 2:30

R: E..E..Elonka, this all hinges on this troublesome panel, which is called part two, of the puzzle.

TIME STAMP: 2:34

R: It's a few sentences. And what we thought it said was:

It was totally invisible How's that possible? They used the Earth's magnetic field X The information was gathered and transmitted underground to an unknown location X Does Langley know about this? They should Its buried out there somewhere X Who knows the exact location? Only WW This was his last message X Thirty eight degrees fifty seven minutes six point five seconds north Seventy seven degrees eight minutes forty four seconds west ID by rows

And then what it actually says, now that we have this... Jim.. fine.. I will just say the last sentence is..:

Thirty eight degrees fifty seven minutes six point five seconds north
Seventy seven degrees eight minutes forty four seconds west X Layer Two

TIME STAMP: 3:26

R: Well, it's all perfectly clear to me now. [Reporter and Elonka laughs] Thank you for straitening that out.

TIME STAMP: 3:29

ED: Yeah.

TIME STAMP: 3:30

R: Le..let me try to break this down a little bit. This wrong version, id by rows, has been out there for what?..almost eight years, now. Right?

TIME STAMP: 3:36

JS: That's right.

TIME STAMP: 3:38

R: So..so Elonka, is..is one of the things that you said to Jim is ..uh.. "Jim, wha..what took you so long?"

TIME STAMP: 3:41

JS: [Laughs]

TIME STAMP: 3:42

ED: [Laughs] No, I was actually very excited. One of our questions, all along, especially about part four is: Is the reason that it hasn't been solved yet, because there's a mistake in it somewhere? And..and so I'm very pleased to hear that Jim is going through, and checking his work. [Reporter and Elonka laughs] because if there is another mistake in K4...and I don't know if he's work backwards through that yet..

TIME STAMP: 4:03

JS: [Interjects] No, that one's actually safe and sound and fairly accurate.

TIME STAMP: 4:07

R: Your sure about that, Jim?

TIME STAMP: 4:08

JS: Yes..I'm pretty sure about that one.

TIME STAMP: 4:10

R: Well, Elonka Dunin, good luck figuring out part four.

TIME STAMP: 4:12

ED: Thank you.

TIME STAMP: 4:13

R: and Jim Sanborn, thanks for being with us.

TIME STAMP: 4:14

JS: Thank you.

TIME STAMP: 4:16

R: Jim Sanborn is the artist who created the Kryptos sculpture at the CIA Headquarters, in Langley, Virginia. Elonka Dunin is a game developer and a co-moderator of a yahoo group devoted to cracking the code of Kryptos.