

**SIR FRANCIS  
BACON'S CIPHER  
STORY, VOLUME 1**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649705221

Sir Francis Bacon's Cipher Story, Volume 1 by Orville W. Owen

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ORVILLE W. OWEN**

**SIR FRANCIS  
BACON'S CIPHER  
STORY, VOLUME 1**



SIR FRANCIS BACON'S  
CIPHER STORY.

DISCOVERED AND DECIPHERED BY  
ORVILLE W. OWEN, M. D.

VOL. I.

DETROIT AND NEW YORK:  
HOWARD PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
1893.

~~807~~

Copyright, 1908,

By ORVILLE W. OWEN.

## Sir Francis Bacon's Letter to the Decipherer.

LONDON, 1623.

MY DEAR SIR :

Thus leaning on my elbow I begin the letter scattered  
wider than the sky and earth ;  
And yet the spacious breadth of this division,  
As it spreads round in the widest circle,  
Admits the mingling of the four great guides we use,  
So that we have no need of any minute rule  
To make the opening of our device  
Appear as plainly to you as the sun.  
But sir, at the same time, there is no orifrex  
For a point as subtle as Ariachne's broken woof  
To enter, in its whole bulk or substance, unless you have  
Found out the guides of all our shifts and changes.  
And if you give away or hedge aside  
From the direct forthright,  
Like to an entered tide they all rush by  
And leave you hindermost ;  
Or like a gallant horse false in first rank,  
Lie there for pavement to the abject nere,  
O'errun and trampled on.  
And for fear that you would go astray from our design  
Before you had your powers well put on,  
We have marked out a plan in this epistle  
To communicate to you how our great cipher ones combine ;  
And we beseech you ask of us  
What questions you may choose  
And in what manner ; and we will answer unpremeditated,  
And you shall find we will,

By the asking of questions and the answers,  
 Tell you in what disjoined and separate books  
 The secrets are laid up; and  
 Thus by question and dialogue of compliment,  
 And talking of the Alps and Apennines, the Perennean,  
 And the River Poe, we will write a letter to your lordship.  
 Now question us and catechise;  
 What you shall ask of us we'll answer.

"Sweet sir, you honour me. I fear with my weak wit  
 I know not how it is to be questioned."

"O sir, that is a question now, and here, like  
 An A B Sey book, comes the answer.  
 You must either be directed by some who know  
 What we are about, or take upon yourself  
 That which we are sure you do not know;  
 And yet it is easy, if only care be taken  
 That the text be torn to pieces and  
 Diligently and severely sifted for the questions  
 And the answers which are well shadowed  
 Out in endless variety; for the story begins  
 With questions, and we put together the question  
 And the answer plainly."

"What shall I do now?"

"Make trial of this union."

"But they are all divided, and I shall not know  
 Which are to be joined, except you tell me both what  
 Is to be enquired and with what view."

"It is necessary to take all the questions  
 To find our cues. Then we will have no screen between us,  
 For the more it seeks to hide itself,  
 The bigger bulk it shows; and if you  
 Can hit upon and pick out the cues,



The chain will draw after it whole bands and troops of works.  
Keep these questions then together,  
And when you have seen more and heard more,  
Proceed accordingly."

"I will obey you in everything.

The way, however, is not easy.  
How can a man who knows not from whence  
The words come, turn the questions?  
The work will be either abortive or impossible,  
Unless my steps be guided by a clew;  
And your honor must not think that which is hid so well  
Can be sifted without an easy and ready rule  
To make it smooth. The first question is, therefore,  
What simple plain rule is there to teach me  
The way to shift?"

"Sir, the mightiest space in fortune, nature brings,  
To join like, likes; and kiss like native things.  
Impossible be strange attempts to those  
That weigh their pains in sense, and do suppose  
What has been cannot be.  
Take your knife and cut all our books asunder,  
And set the leaves on a great firm wheel  
Which rolls and rolls, and turning the  
Fickle rolling wheel, throw your eyes upon FORTUNE,  
that goddess blind, that stands upon  
A spherical stone, that turning and inconstant rolls  
In restless variation. Mark her the prime mover;  
She is our first guide."

"Have I discovered your first great guide and stop?"

"You have, and the first chapter by its aid  
Will now be laid open and found out."

"I understand you, sir, to say I must place the leaves

Upon a great wheel, and cast mine eye first upon  
Fortune itself?"

"You understand well. You have won. You are now  
out of the wood,

And may begin, and throughout your journeys  
You shall have no further difficulty;

For this first guide in its working teacheth you  
The whole. And we will henceforth

Promise you calm seas and voyage expeditious.

And we will warrant you from drowning,

Though your ship were no stronger than

A nut-shell, and as leaky as a sieve.

And indeed, you shall put out to sea with your

Ship tight, and yare, and bravely rigg'd,

The poop of beaten gold, and the silver oars

Will to the tune of flutes keep stroke

And make the waters which they boat to

Follow faster, as amorous of their strokes;

The sails so perfumed, that the love-sick winds

With gentle breath, will swell the silken tackle,

And fan in auspicious gales the purple woven sails,

Which shall be tended by so many mermaids,

Who yarely frame with touches of flower-soft hands,

Their office.

"At the helm will a seeming mermaid steer;

And from the topmast, soaring aloft in the beams o' the sun,

Shall wave the British colours fairer than the princely

Roman eagle of imperial Cæsar, and

Under a pavilion of cloth of gold and tissue,

(Its roof fretted with golden cherubim, hung

Round with tapestry, o'er-picturing with

Divers coloured fancy work smiling cupids,

Pretty dimpled boys depending on their brands,  
Venus and her son dove-drawn,  
Chaste Dian bathing, proud Cleopatra  
When she met her Roman, and Sidus swelled  
Above the banks with press of boats or pride),  
Shall set a burnisht throne where your highness  
May take your rest, and tossing on the ocean,  
Sea, as it were, the pageants of the sea,  
The argosies, who with portly sail like  
Seigniors and rich burgers on the flood,  
Do over-peer the petty traffiquers  
That curtaile to them, do them reverence  
As they fly by them with their woven wings.  
And your train shall bestow your luggage  
In the cabin of our brave vessel, and  
Trouble us not, while we, in our sea voyage,  
Where there is nothing to be seen but sea and sky,  
Will waste the time with such  
Discourse, as we not doubt, will make it go quick away;  
For we will deliver all the story of our life, and the particular  
Accidents gone by since we came to this isle;  
A chronicle of day by day, not a relation  
For a break-fast time, and we will requite  
You for the time you have lost, or at least  
Bring forth a wonder to content you."

"Doth fortune show all?"

"No, she doth not show it all; but turn  
Your fortune's face to face, and point to point;  
And in a moment fortune will cull forth  
Her happy minion."

"Fortune must be joined with another then,  
For the successful directing of the course aright?"