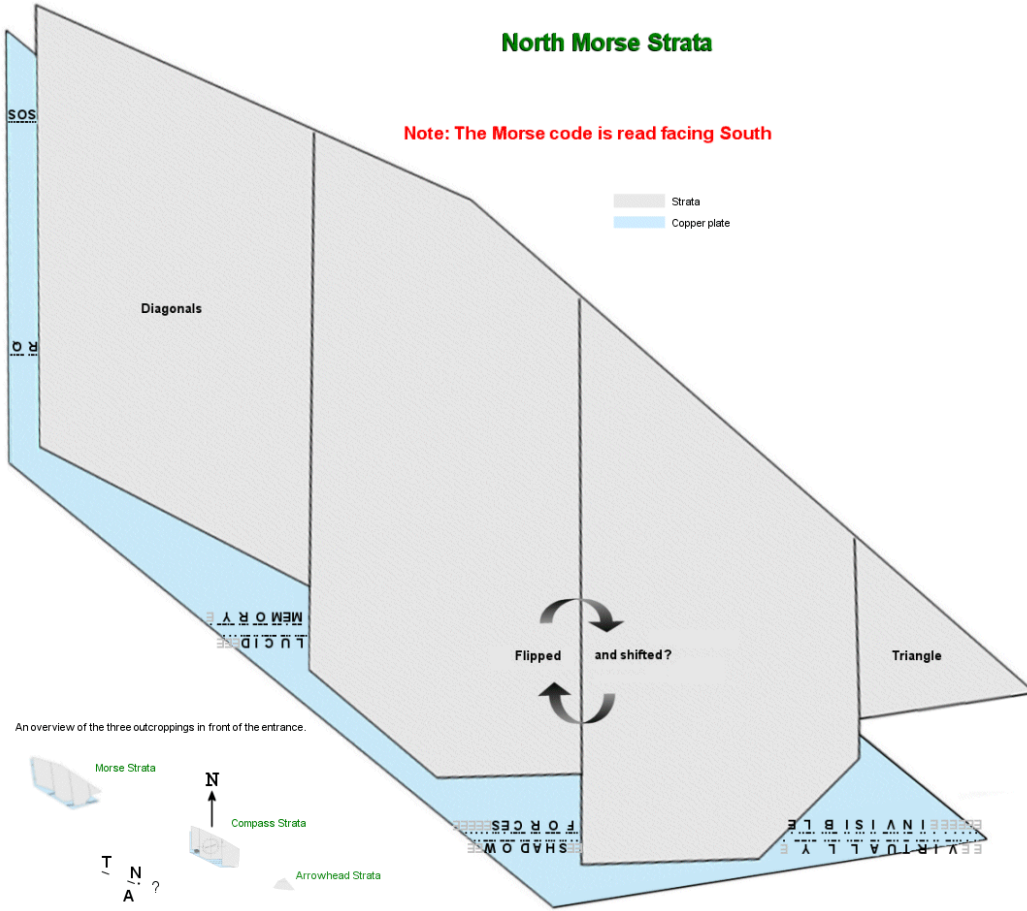


A graphic look at the outcroppings near the front entrance, including Morse code, the compass and lodestone.

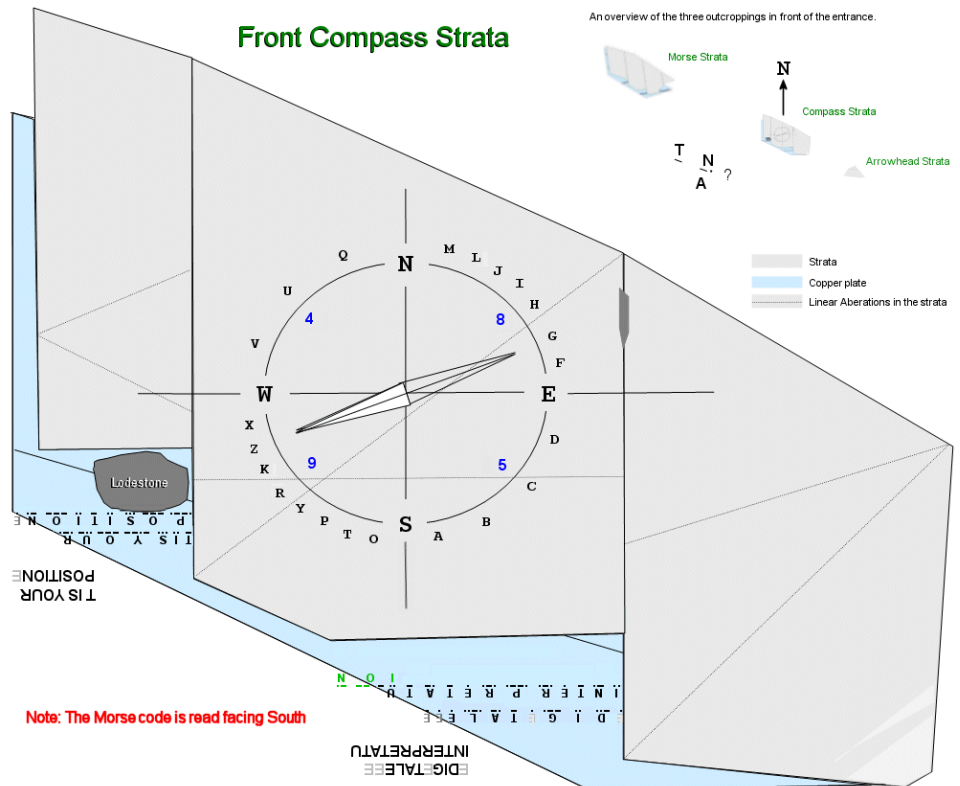
North Morse Strata

Note: The Morse code is read facing South



Front Compass Strata

An overview of the three outcroppings in front of the entrance.



Note: The Morse code is read facing South

Continuing...

On the Origins of Palimpsest: a theory on the acquisition of the K1 keyword

This is an attempt to acquire the keyword **PALIMPSEST** from the Morse coded messages, using the **odd numbered vertices of palindromes** (the letter centering the palindrome).

Here are the **Kryptos** Morse code messages, found on the strata outcroppings in front of the CIA entrance, as read when facing South. The 1's stand for the dits, the 0's for the dashes.

1 011 11 001 1 0 10 1011 1 1 1 11 01 0 1 101 1001 101 1 0 10 0 11 0	E DIGETAL EEE INTERPRETAT/IT/U/(ION)
0 11 111 0100 000 110 101 1001 000 111 11 0 11 000 01 1	T IS YOUR POSITION E
1 1 1110 11 101 0 110 10 1011 1011 0100 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 11 01 1110 11 111 11 0111 1011 1	EE VIRTUALLY E EEEEEE INVISIBLE
1 1 111 1111 10 011 000 100 1 1 1101 000 101 0101 1 111 1 1 1 1 1	EE SHADOW EE FORCES EEEEE
1011 110 0101 11 011 1 1 1 00 1 00 000 101 0100 1	LUCID EEE MEMORY E
101 0010	RQ
111000111	SOS

The end of the Morse INTERPRETAT/IT/U/(ION) has been cut such that, after the last **T**, there is only a double dit and a dash. Clearly, the inference is that the word INTERPRETATION was the original Morse before the abscission (hint). Thus, the double dit was the letter **I**, and the single dash was once accompanied by two similar dashes, to make up the letter **O**. Regardless, all we now have is 11 0, which is most appropriately interpreted as the letter **I** plus a dash. The dash is thus interpreted as a **T**.

<p style="text-align: center;">(U)</p> <p>E D I G E T A L E E E I N T E R P R E T A T I T (O N)</p> <p>1 011 11 001 1 0 10 1011 1 1 1 11 01 0 1 101 1001 101 1 0 10 0 11 0(00 01)</p>	E DIGETAL EEE INTERPRETAT/IT/U/(ION)
<p>T I S Y O U R P O S I T I O N E</p> <p>0 11 111 0100 000 110 101 1001 000 111 11 0 11 000 01 1</p>	T IS YOUR POSITION E
<p>E E V I R T U A L L Y E E E E E E E I N V I S I B L E</p> <p>1 1 1110 11 101 0 110 10 1011 1011 0100 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 11 01 1110 11 111 11 0111 1011 1</p>	EE VIRTUALLY E EEEEEE INVISIBLE
<p>E E S H A D O W E E F O R C E S E E E E E</p> <p>1 1 111 1111 10 011 000 100 1 1 1101 000 101 0101 1 111 1 1 1 1 1</p>	EE SHADOW EE FORCES EEEEE
<p>L U C I D E E E M E M O R Y E</p> <p>1011 110 0101 11 011 1 1 1 00 1 00 000 101 0100 1</p>	LUCID EEE MEMORY E
<p>R Q</p> <p>101 0010</p>	RQ
<p>S O S SOS is a special case in which the letter string SOS is used to represent a single character 'SOS'. The O here is thus, not the vertex.</p> <p>111000111</p>	SOS

The following table outlines the proposed method of acquisition.

P, P 1 st and 3 rd	T E R P R E T E R P R E R P R	E D I G E T A L E E E I N T E R P R E T A T I T (U) 1 011 11 001 1 0 10 1011 1 1 1 11 01 0 1 101 1001 101 1 0 10 0 11 0(00 01)
A	T A T	
I	T I T	
T	I T I	T I S Y O U R P O S I T I O N E 0 11 111 0100 000 110 101 1001 000 111 11 0 11 000 01 1
L	L L	E E V I R T U A L L Y E E E E E E E I N V I S I B L E 1 1 1110 11 101 0 110 10 1011 1011 0100 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 01 1110 11 111 11 0111 1011 1
S	I S I	
S	E S E	E E S H A D O W E E F O R C E S E E E E E 1 1 111 1111 10 011 000 100 1 1 1101 000 101 0101 1 111 1 1 1 1 1
M	E M E	L U C I D E E E M E M O R Y E 1011 110 0101 11 011 1 1 1 00 1 00 000 101 0100 1
E	M E M	

(We'll ignore the trivial E E E's)

We thus have acquired the letters **PPAITLSSME**.

All and only those letters required to form the word PALIMPSEST.

For those with a problem with the acquisition of the L, there is an elegant, encompassing solution to acquire the L, one that requires additional knowledge of the Kryptos environment.

Now, where, oh where, can we find an extra L?

Could it be in the tableau?

Here's a reminder. The tableau has an extra L at the end of row 15.

```

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZABCD
AKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYP
BRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPT
CYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTO
DPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOS
ETOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSA
FOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSAB
GSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABC
HABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCD
IBCFEGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDE
JCFEGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEF
KDFEGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEF
LEFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEF
MFGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEF
NGHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJL (row 15)
OHIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJL
PIJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLM
QJLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMN
RLMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQ
SMNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQU
TNQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUV
UQUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVW
VUVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWX
WVWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXZ
XWXYZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXZK
YXZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXZKR
ZZKRYPTOSABCDEFGHIJLMNQUVWXZKRY
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZABCD
    
```

So there you have it. The letters of the word **PALIMPSEST** can be acquired using the vertex of palindromes found in the Morse code messages, and (if need be) with the purchase of the letter **L** dangling at the end of the tableau's row 15.

The major strength of this theory is the fact that it can be applied very quickly, with virtually no paper work.

The only weakness of this theory is that it doesn't provide a ready means to infer the order in which the letters are arranged. This is, of course, a minor weakness; for anagram users, this would not be a problem.

Another strength of this theory is that no letters other than those found in the word PALIMPSEST were forced upon us.

Also note that if the 2nd **I** in DIGITAL was not replaced, then this theory would have forced upon us the letter **G**. Perhaps one reason why Jim Sanborn chose to make that change.

Just a thought.

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