

Lecture at Yandex on Tuesday, 25th April 2017

The Greatest Codebreaker and His Mathematics

Béla Bollobás

Cambridge and Memphis

Many of the best cryptographers and cryptanalysts of the last four centuries were mathematicians, but mathematicians as codebreakers really came to prominence in WW II. In my talk I shall say a few words about a host of famous codebreakers in Europe over the centuries before I turn to the greatest of them all. I shall sketch the main events of his life and present some of his mathematical achievements. My talk is aimed at a general audience rather than specialists in code-breaking or in combinatorics.