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Dear Readers

In this issue we are delighted to reproduce three award-winning articles on Cryptography by Professor Nuno Crato. These articles were awarded first prize in a special competition organized by the European Mathematical Society on Raising Public Awareness in Mathematics. We are very grateful to the Professor Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen, Chair of the Committee for Raising Public Awareness in Mathematics, and Professor Nuno Crato for allowing us to reproduce these articles here.

Also in this issue is an article by Michael Deakins which explores the importance of hidden assumptions in reasoning based on logic and probability, and an article by Jim Franklin which lets you know that if you enjoy mathematics then you can make a very good living out of it. I have personally enjoyed reading all the articles in this issue and I highly recommend them for stimulating holiday reading this summer.

Don't forget to attempt some of the problems from the Problems Section too. These nice recreational challenges will take you well beyond the monotony of Sudoku.

Thank you for sharing another year with us.

Oh, one other thing as this is the end of volume 42 of *Parabola* I couldn't resist the temptation to reprint an article that I wrote with Murray Batchelor many years ago. A slightly shorter version was published in *New Scientist*. Of course it was all nonsense and not meant to be an irritant to Douglas Adams who objected, "I may be a pretty sad case but I don't write jokes in Base 13!"

B.I. Henry
Editor