

President Madison Encrypted Letter Contest

AFIO is sponsoring a contest to decrypt a coded letter sent by U.S Secretary of War, John Armstrong, to U.S. President James Madison in the early 1800s. Secretary Armstrong communicated with President Madison through a series of encrypted letters. The James Madison Estate has recently discovered an encrypted letter that was sent on Feb 20, 1808, but has not yet been decrypted. We invite our codebreaking enthusiasts to try their hands at decrypting the letter located below and sending the results to the AFIO by **December 31, 2025**. The winners will receive a commemorative AFIO 50th Anniversary coin and bragging rights.



Below is some additional information that may help you:

- Examples of previous letters sent by Armstrong to Madison:
 - 1. To James Madison from John Armstrong, 7 June 1806.
 - 2. To James Madison from John Armstrong, 15 July 1804
- Additional information on Secretary Armstrong

Submit your questions or results to feedback@afio.com. Good luck!

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