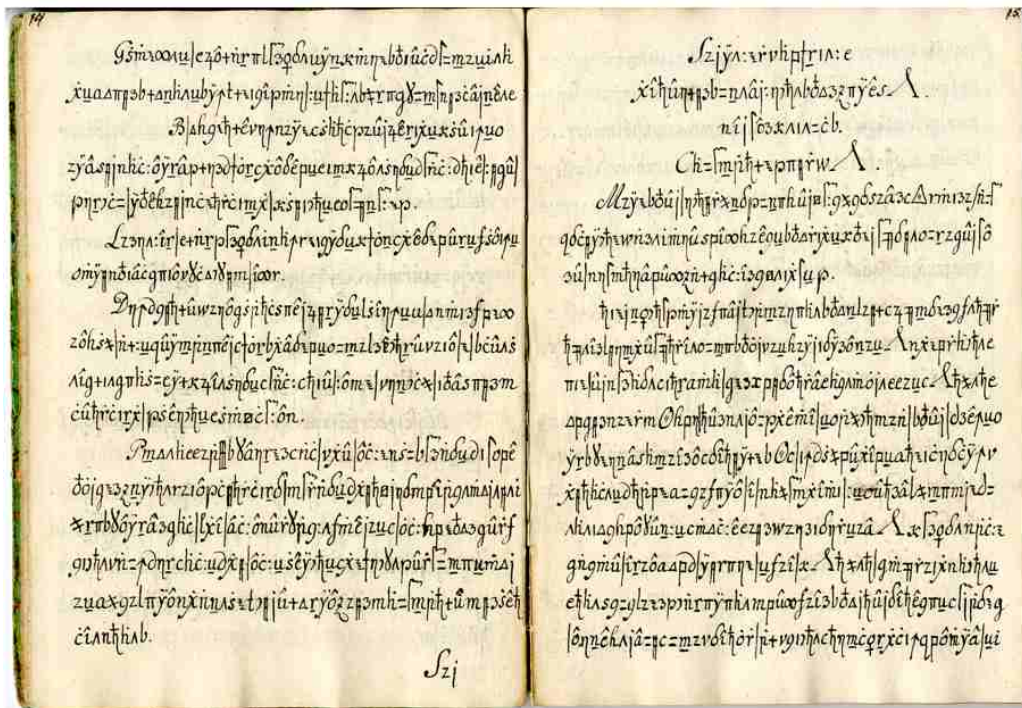




Some favorite articles and comments about the copiale cipher



collected by
Kevin Knight, Beáta Megyesi, Christiane Schaefer
2011

The Authors



Kevin Knight and Beáta Megyesi show the Copiale manuscript in Portland, Oregon during the ACL conference in June 2011, where they unveiled its decipherment. (Christiane Schaefer not pictured.)

Press

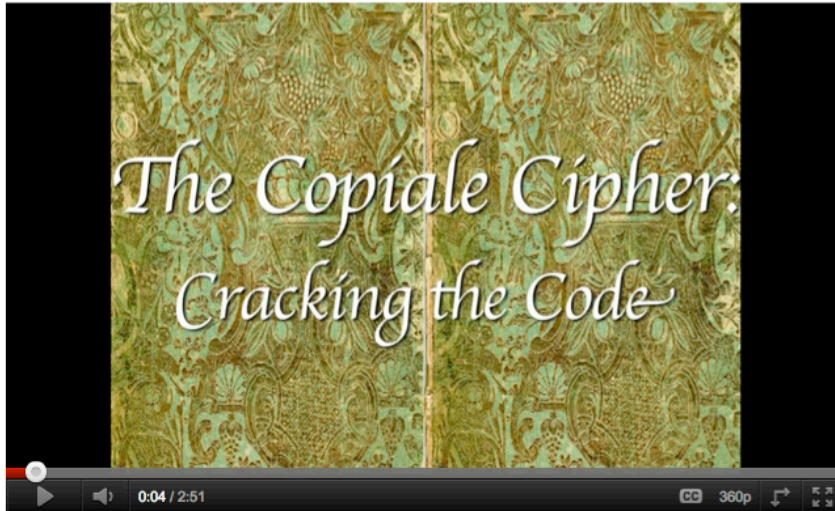
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USC Scientist Cracks Mysterious "Copiale Cipher"

University of Southern California

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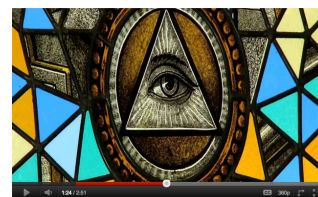
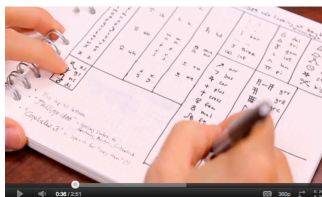
Uploaded by USC on Oct 12, 2011

USC's Professor Kevin Knight is part of an international team that finally cracked the "Copiale Cipher," a strange, 105-page message handwritten in abstract symbols and Latin letters revealing the rituals and political leanings

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As Seen On:
Cosmic Log



Top Comments

Where can we read the actual results and transcript?

PraxisLodge 23 hours ago 12

This man has the calmest voice I've ever heard. His voice and his mode of speech convey enthusiasm about the subject, while at the same time maintains a completely relaxed feeling, as if we are listening to an authentic Guru, who teaches us how to perform meditation.

nadav70 1 day ago 10

How Revolutionary Tools Cracked a 1700s Code

By JOHN MARKOFF

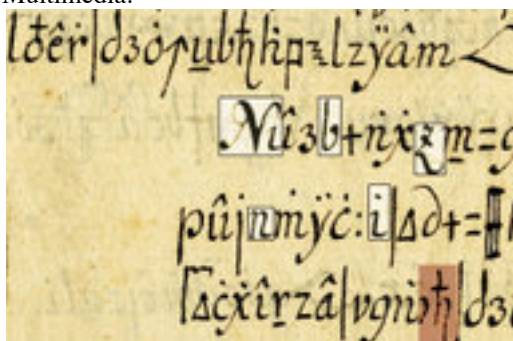
Published: October 24, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/science/25code.html? r=1&ref=science>

It has been more than six decades since Warren Weaver, a pioneer in automated language translation, suggested applying code-breaking techniques to the challenge of interpreting a foreign language.

In an oft-cited letter in 1947 to the mathematician Norbert Weiner, he wrote: “One naturally wonders if the problem of translation could conceivably be treated as a problem in cryptography. When I look at an article in Russian, I say: ‘This is really written in English, but it has been coded in some strange symbols. I will now proceed to decode.’”

Multimedia:



Found in Translation

That insight led to a generation of statistics-based language programs like Google Translate [1] — and, not so incidentally, to new tools for breaking codes that go back to the Middle Ages.

Now a team of Swedish and American linguists has applied statistics-based translation techniques to crack one of the most stubborn of codes: the Copiale

Cipher, a hand-lettered 105-page manuscript that appears to date from the late 18th century. They described their work [2] at a meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics in Portland, Ore.

Discovered in an academic archive in the former East Germany, the elaborately bound volume of gold and green brocade paper holds 75,000 characters, a perplexing mix of mysterious symbols and Roman letters. The name comes from one of only two non-coded inscriptions in the document.

Found in Translation

How Kevin Knight, a computer scientist, and his team decoded the Copiale Cipher.

FIRST ATTEMPT

The team initially thought the cipher's meaning was contained in the Roman letters (A b c) and tried to decrypt them into 80 languages. It turned out that the characters represent blank spaces and were used to confuse decoders.

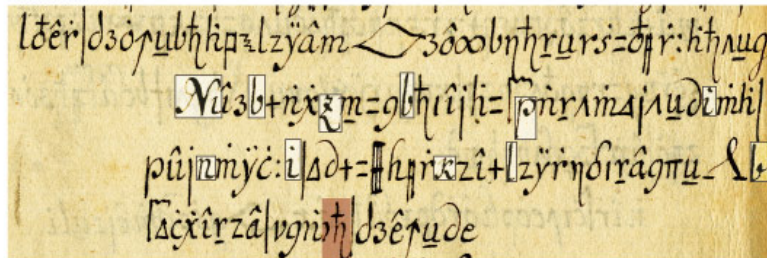
SEARCH FOR A GERMAN 'CH'

The researchers started over and tried to decode all the symbols into German, since the manuscript had been discovered in Germany. Their first step was to find regularly occurring symbols that might represent the common German pair **ch**.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSCRIPTION

After finding a potential **c** and **h**, they used patterns in German (**t** most often follows **ch**, for instance) to decrypt the cipher one step at a time. The team was unable to interpret the large symbols (◇ A), which it thinks refer to the names of "doubly secret" people and organizations.

ORIGINAL TEXT



GERMAN TRANSCRIPTION

versprochen habe die ◇ rey ihnen zuverrahten
Er mag nun hierauf antworten was
er will so muss er dem diriginenden A
folgendes nachsprechen

ROUGH ENGLISH TRANSLATION

to disclose the ◇ to them.
He may answer here whatever he pleases
so he must repeat the following which the conducting A
is saying

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kevin Knight, a computer scientist at the Information Sciences Institute at the University of Southern California, collaborated with Beata Megyesi and Christiane Schaefer of Uppsala University in Sweden to decipher the first 16 pages. They turn out to be a detailed description of a ritual from a secret society that apparently had a fascination with eye surgery and ophthalmology.

It began as a weekend project this year, Dr. Knight said in an interview, adding: "I don't have much experience in cryptography. My background is primarily in computational linguistics and machine translation."

Uncertain of the original language, the researchers went down several blind alleys before following their hunches. First, they assumed the Roman characters and not the abstract symbols contained all of the information.

But when that approach failed, they figured that the code was what cryptographers call a homophonic cipher — a substitution code that does not

have a straightforward correspondence between the original and encoded information. And they decided the original language was probably German.

Eventually they concluded that the Roman letters were so-called nulls, meant to mislead the code breaker, and that the letters represented spaces between words made up of elaborate symbols. Another crucial discovery was that a colon indicated the doubling of the previous consonant.

The researchers used language-translation techniques like expected word frequency to guess what a symbol might equal in German.

“It turned out that we can apply a lot those techniques to code breaking,” Dr. Knight said.

The work is being praised by other experts. “Cracking the Copiale Cipher was a neat bit of work by Kevin Knight and his collaborators,” said Nick Pelling, a British software designer and a security specialist who maintains Cipher Mysteries [3], a cryptography news blog.

But while the cipher was a notable success, Dr. Knight and his colleagues have been frustrated by other, more impenetrable ciphers.

“There are these books and ancient languages of real historical value that contain historical information that we just can’t get out yet, and that’s of interest to a lot of people,” he said in a filmed interview describing the Copiale project.

The work has value to historians who are trying to understand the spread of political ideas. Secret societies were all the rage in the 18th century, Dr. Knight said, and they had an influence on both the American and French Revolutions. He recently shared the decoded Copiale text with Andreas Onnerfors, a historian at Lund University in Sweden and an expert on secret societies.

“When he saw the book and the decoded version, he was very excited about it,” Dr. Knight said. “He found a political commentary at the end that talked about the natural rights of man. That was pretty interesting and early.”

Modern examples of challenging ciphers include the communications the Zodiac killer sent to the police in California in the 1960s and ’70s, and the “Kryptos” sculpture [4], commissioned for the C.I.A. headquarters, which has been only partly decoded.

But the white whale of the code-breaking world is the Voynich manuscript. Comprising 240 lavishly illustrated vellum pages, it has defied the world’s best code breakers. Though cryptographers have long wondered if it is a hoax, it was recently dated to the early 1400s.

With a University of Chicago computer scientist, Dr. Knight this year published a detailed analysis of the manuscript that falls short of answering the hoax question, but does find some evidence that it contains patterns that match the structure of natural language.

“It’s been called the most mysterious manuscript in the world,” he said. “It’s super full of patterns, and so for somebody to have created something like that would have been a lot of work. So I feel that it’s probably a code.”

A version of this article appeared in print on October 25, 2011, on page D4 of the New York edition with the headline: How Revolutionary Tools Cracked a 1700s Code.

[1] <http://translate.google.com/>

[2] <http://www.isi.edu/natural-language/people/copiale-11.pdf>

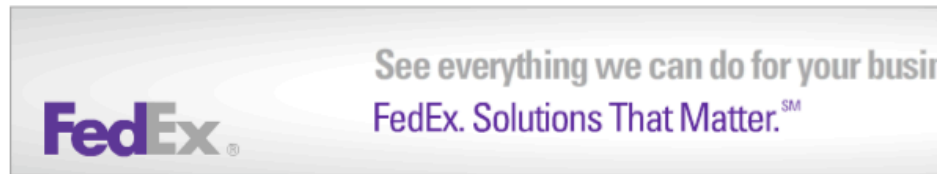
[3] <http://www.ciphermysteries.com/>

[4] <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/21/us/21code.html>

The New York Times

Corrections

WORLD	U.S.	N.Y. / REGION	BUSINESS	TECHNOLOGY	SCIENCE	HEALTH	SPORTS	OPINION
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Corrections: October 27

Published: October 27, 2011

SCIENCE TIMES

[An article on Tuesday](#) about the cracking of an 18th-century code known as the Copiale Cipher misspelled the surname of the mathematician to whom Warren Weaver, a pioneer in automated language translation, wrote a letter in 1947 that suggested applying code-breaking techniques to the challenge of translating a foreign language. He is Norbert Wiener, not Weiner.

AFTONBLADET



[Copiale Cipher](#) ser ut som ett riktigt konstverk i sin grön- och guldfärgade brokad.

Boken påträffades i Östberlin efter kalla krigets slut.

Dess innehåll - 105 sidor av grekiska och romerska tecken, blandade med symboler – har länge varit en hemlighet.

Men i våras knäcktes koden.

Den amerikanske språkteknologen Kevin Knight tillsammans med Uppsalaforskarna Beáta Megyesi och Christiane Schaefer lyckades med hjälp av sina kunskaper i datavetenskap, språk och språkhistoria att lösa gåtan.

Och det man fann väckte stort intresse bland forskarna.

– Det var väldigt spännande när de första sidorna dök upp. Det framgick att boken skrevs av ett hemligt sällskap och om deras initieringsritual, säger Beáta Megyesi.

Ritualiserade ögonoperationer

Den tyska Okulist-orden ägnade sig åt ritualiserade ögonoperationer som en slags symbol för den inre upplysningen.

Dessutom spionerade de på frimurarna och redogjorde noggrant för det hemliga sällskapets ritualer.

– Vi har skrattat ganska mycket åt vissa riter som de hittat på som är ganska barnsliga. Men den är mycket värdefull för idéhistoriker, religionsvetare, och historiker. Även om det till själva dechiffringen bara behövdes 16 sidor bestämde vi oss för att avkoda hela boken, digitalisera den och tillgängliggöra för alla, säger Beáta Megyesi.

En analys av papper och bindning daterar boken till 1760-80-talet. Men Andreas Önnersfors, frimurarexpert och forskare vid Lunds universitet, tror den kan vara äldre än så.

– Jag har föreslagit 1740-talet. Det är en helt unik handskrift. Vi har mycket lite skriftligt material om orden från den tiden, förklarar Andreas Önnersfors, frimurarexpert och forskare vid Lunds universitet.

Unika uppgifter om frimurarna

Boken är uppdelad i tre delar.

Den första beskriver okulisternas egna ritualer, den andra ger en bild av frimurarordens verksamhet och ritualer under 1700-talet, och den tredje ger en helt ny inblick i hittills okända former av frimureri.

– De beskriver både en esoterisk form av frimureri och en mycket politisk form som låter förvånansvärt radikal. Man talar om naturliga rättigheter som inte får trampas på och som måste försvaras. Det är unika uppgifter, säger Andreas Önnersfors.

Varken okulisterna eller frimurarna var särskilt unika för sin tid. Tvärtom var de hemliga sällskapen utbredda under 1700-talet.

Copiale Cipher kan kasta nytt ljus över några av dem.

– Vi har inte riktigt hunnit smälta det som står. Många gamla teorier måste omprövas på grund av detta.



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Visa kommentarer

Mer med: BEATA MEGYESI

Dimma ner



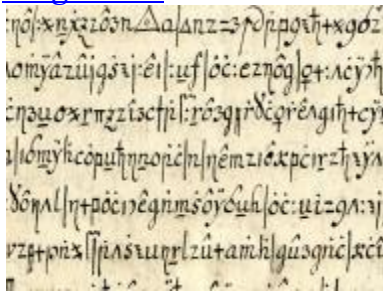
US-Forscher knacken deutschen Geheim-Code

Von Sven Stein

Es war eines der rätselhaftesten Bücher der Welt: der „Codex Copiale“, vor über 200 Jahren aufgeschrieben in einem geheimnisvollen Geheimcode ...

Los Angeles – **Erst jetzt gelang es einem internationalen Forscherteam mit Computerhilfe, das Dokument zu entschlüsseln: das Gesetzbuch einer Geheimloge.**

[Vergrößern](#)



In der Schrift tauchen immer wieder lateinische Zeichen auf

Foto: dapd

Woher das handgeschriebene Buch ursprünglich stammt, ist bislang unklar. Es entstand vermutlich zwischen 1760 und 1780, enthält rund 75 000 Zeichen: lateinische und griechische Buchstaben, teilweise ergänzt durch Haken oder Akzente, dazu abstrakte Symbole. Völlig unverständlich!

Schon Anfang der 1970er Jahre hatten sich Forscher im damaligen Ost-Berlin an der Entschlüsselung versucht – ohne Erfolg.

Die deutsche Sprachwissenschaftlerin Christiane Schaefer (Uni Uppsala) gehört zum Forscher-Team, das jetzt die Geheimschrift entzifferte. „Das war nur möglich, weil Forscher verschiedener Fachbereiche zusammenarbeiteten zum Beispiel Computerlinguisten, Historiker, Handschriftenkundler.

Als Sprachwissenschaftlerin Schaefer einen Vortrag des amerikanischen Computerlinguisten Kevin Knight (Uni Süd-Kalifornien) über Entschlüsselung

von Codes mit Hilfe von Computern hörte, erinnerte sie sich an den Codex Copiale.

„Es dauerte Wochen, die Handschrift Zeichen für Zeichen in den Computer zu übertragen“, so Schaefer. Mit statistischen Vergleichen, wie sie auch bei Übersetzungsprogrammen eingesetzt schaffte die Software schließlich eine erste Entzifferung.

„Als das Computerprogramm die ersten drei Zeilen übersetzt hatte, war klar, dass es sich um altertümliches Deutsch handelt.“

Der Inhalt: Das „Gesetzbuch“ einer Geheimgesellschaft, die sich „Oculisten“ (von lateinisch oculus für Auge) nannten! Beschrieben wird unter anderem der Aufnahmeeritus für neue Mitglieder:

„Wird der Candidat von dem jüngern Thürhüter aus einem andern Zimmer abgeholt und bey der Hand ein und vor des Dirigirenden Tisch geführt“. Er muss seine Treue schwören, bekommt von allen anwesenden Mitgliedern „mit einer kleinen Haarzange ein Haar aus den Augenbrauen“ ausgerupft, muss schließlich eine Verpflichtungsformel nachsprechen ...

Ein Ritus wie aus einem Mittelalter-Roman! Aber wer waren diese Oculisten?

Dr. Aloys Henning, Berliner Augenarzt und Experte für Augenheilkunde im 18. Jahrhundert: „Die ‚Hoherleuchtete Oculisten-Gesellschaft‘ waren eine Augenarzt-Loge in Wolfenbüttel, deren älteste Dokumente von 1742 stammen. Die Mitglieder wollten Quacksalbern und Scharlatanen Einhalt gebieten.“

Ihre Mitglieder fingen als Lehrlinge an, stiegen zu Gesellen und Meistern auf. „Auch Frauen wurden aufgenommen, was weltweit einzigartig ist“, so Henning. Doch über die geheimen Riten der Loge war bislang nichts bekannt, weil sie sich hinter Geheimschrift der Copiale verbargen.

[Die Universität von Uppsala bietet den „Codex Copiale“ zum Download an.](#)



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Copiale Cipher

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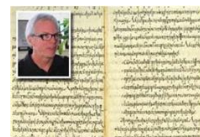
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Computer Scientists Crack the Copiale Cipher



Researchers have used state-of-the-art machine translation software to crack the code used by a secret society in Germany three centuries ago.

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Oct 24, 2011 · It has been more than six decades since Warren Weaver, a pioneer in automated language translation, suggested applying code-breaking techniques to the ... [www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/science/25code.html](#)

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Scientists crack mysterious "Copiale Cipher" | [GrrrScientist...](#) · 16 hours ago

An American-Swedish collaboration has finally cracked The Copiale Cipher, a mysterious 18th century document that no one could read -- until now [www.guardian.co.uk/science/punctuated-equilibrium/2011/oct/26/1](#)





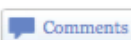


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USC Scientist Cracks Mysterious Copiale Cipher - [USC News](#) · 1 day ago

USC scientist, Swedish researchers decode 18th century document

Breaking the code on the Copiale Cipher revealed rituals and political views of a secret German society and its fascination with ophthalmology. Peers say the team's effort has led to new techniques.

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By Rick Rojas, Los Angeles Times

October 26, 2011

Thousands of characters — letters and obscure symbols — filled the more than 100 pages of a centuries-old text that had been located in East Berlin after the end of the Cold War. No one knew what the text meant, or even what language it was in. It was a mystery that USC computer scientist Kevin Knight and two Swedish researchers sought to solve.

After months of painstaking work and a few trips down the wrong path, the moment finally came when the team knew it was on to something. Out of what had been gibberish emerged one word: *ceremonie* — a variation of the German word for ceremony. Knight said they figured out the rest from there.

Breaking the code on the document known as the Copiale Cipher revealed the rituals and political observations of an 18th century secret German society, as well as the group's unusual fascination with eye surgery and ophthalmology.

But the larger significance of the team's work wasn't necessarily the discovery, it was how they arrived at it.

Knight said he was driven by a puzzle that required him to outwit a centuries-old group's quest for secrecy. He was also inspired by the fact that many others had

tried and failed to decipher it. "I defeated their security!" he said.

"For me, the fun is in cracking the code," he said. "It has passed through a lot of hands, but you persevered and could read what other people couldn't."

In January, Knight began working with Beata Megyesi and Christiane Schaefer of Uppsala University in Sweden. In April, they had it figured out.

"You start to see patterns, then you reach the magic point where a word appears," he said. It was then, he said, "you no longer even care what the document's about."

The team ran statistical analyses of 80 languages, initially believing that the code lay in the Roman letters between the symbols that dotted the pages. Using a combination of brain power and computer wizardry, they broke the code by figuring out the symbols.

Fellow computational linguists and computer scientists said the work of Knight and his team has led to some new techniques to break codes that have long stumped them, such as the Voynich Manuscript, a medieval document, or the last section of "Kryptos," an encrypted message carved into a sculpture at [CIA](#) headquarters.

Graeme Hirst, a professor of computer science at the University of Toronto, said Knight's work reminded him of that of [Alan Turing](#), the English computer scientist and mathematician who cracked German codes during [World War II](#). "Kevin and his team are channeling their inner Turing," he said, "except they are faster and better because of all that we've learned."

The project may have been a joint effort between man and machine, but Hirst said this was evidence that the cunning and nimble researcher was the key to solving the code — not a computer's ability for statistical analysis.

"This is something humans did," he said, "not something computers did."

rick.rojas@latimes.com

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<http://www.toomanymornings.com/?tag=beata-megyesi>

Cryptologists Crack Secret Copiale Cipher, Turn To Ikea Instructions Next

Posted on October 26, 2011

Researchers have cracked a centuries-old secret code using state-of-the-art translation software and will use what they learned to tackle more frustrating cryptographic puzzles like the baffling assembly instructions that come with Ikea furniture.

The mysterious code was taken from a 105-page, 75,000-character German manuscript known as the Copiale Cipher. Written by a Masonic-like secret society between 1760 and 1790, it contains handwritten Greek and Roman letters intermingled with bizarre symbols that had long baffled cryptologists.

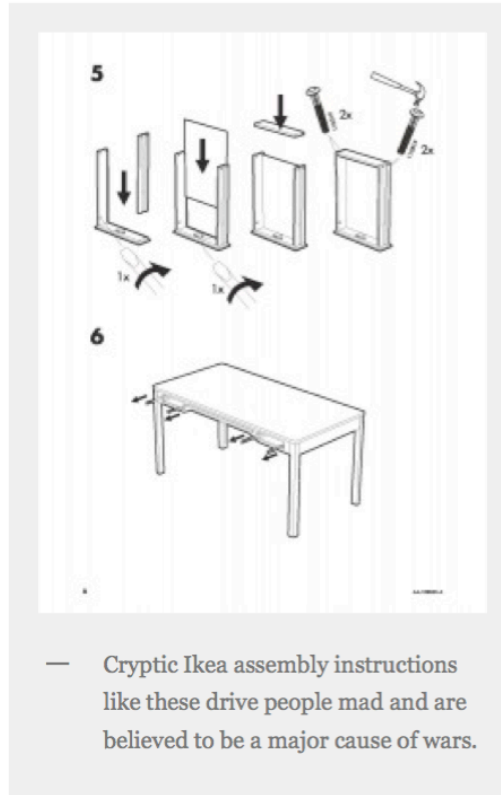
But the researchers say their translation shows it was both a detailed guide for setting up initiation ceremonies and a series of routine grocery lists jotted down by an absent-minded husband.

“Turns out this poor man was less concerned about secret handshakes and blood rituals than he was anxious to please his wife by remembering to pick up everyday items like milk, cabbage and bratwurst on his drive home from work,” says Kevin Knight, a computer scientist at the University of Southern California’s Information Sciences Institute who led the project. Knight is probably best known for inventing Knight Rider, the talking Pontiac Trans-Am famously driven by actor David Hasselhoff in the 1980s TV series Knight Rider.

“This opens up a window for people who study the history of secret societies, and for psychologists who study the complex personal interactions between highly intelligent yet spacey men and the hard-bitten women who nag them into action,” Knight adds.

According to a press release, Knight cracked the Copiale Cipher in cooperation with two colleagues at Sweden’s Uppsala University, Beáta Megyesi and Christiane Schaefer. The internationally acclaimed linguistics professors are both comely blondes who chose to pursue academic careers over more traditional and popular Swedish vocations like promoting socialism and making Swedish meatballs, Volvos and porn.

The team is now turning its attention to other, better-known cryptographic puzzles. Top brain teasers include the Kryptos sculpture on the CIA’s grounds, the cipher used by the Zodiac Killer in 1969, the 15th-century Voynich Manuscript, and Ikea’s infamously maddening assembly instructions.



Cryptic Ikea assembly instructions like these drive people mad and are believed to be a major cause of wars.

“Historians believe secret societies had a role in revolutions, but it’s well documented that many modern wars are caused by homeowners frustrated because they’re unable to assemble a simple bookcase without hours and hours of help from their neighbors or friends,” Knight says.

Megyesi agrees.

“We don’t want to sound too excited—we are Swedish, after all, and enthusiasm is frowned upon here—but privately we like to think our work might help usher in world peace one day,” she says.

Ученые расшифровали древние записи масонов

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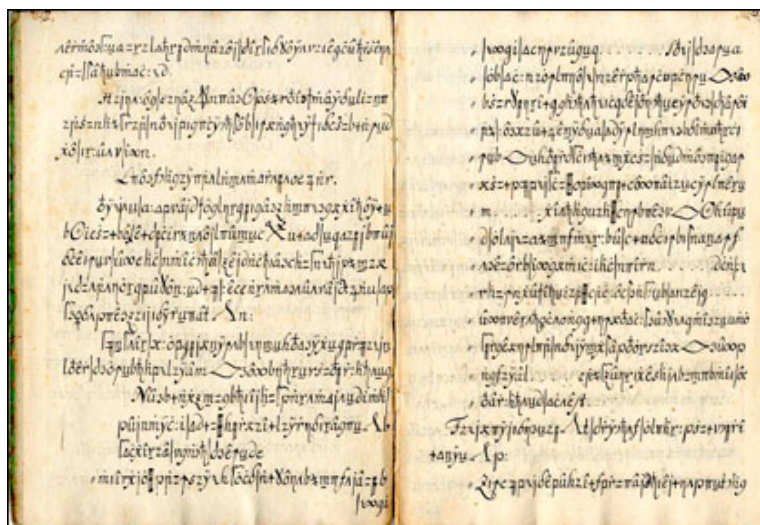
История

27.10.11, Чт, 09:25, Мск

Ученые расшифровали старинный манускрипт *Soriale Cipher*, долгие годы волновавший историков и лингвистов. Рукописная книга, обнаруженная в одном из архивов бывшей ГДР, откуда она попала в частную коллекцию, представляет собой 105 страниц высококачественной бумаги с водяными знаками, в украшенном золотом переплете.

Датируется книга примерно 1760-1780 годами, все 75000 знаков ее текста, кроме подписи владельца («Филипп 1866») и примечания на последней странице («*Soriales 3*») зашифрованы неизвестными знаками вперемешку с латинскими буквами. По этому примечанию манускрипт и получил свое имя *Soriale Cipher*.

Группа ученых из США и Швеции под руководством **Кевина Найта** из Института информационных наук Университета Южной Калифорнии сумела расшифровать криптограмму. Оказалось, книга принадлежала одному из немецких тайных обществ, относящихся к масонам шотландского обряда, и в ней описываются ритуалы ложи. Такие общества, по мнению многих историков, играли большую роль в революциях и государственных переворотах, но многие сохранившиеся документы зашифрованы и не позволяют раскрыть подробности.



Страницы книги *Soriale Cipher*

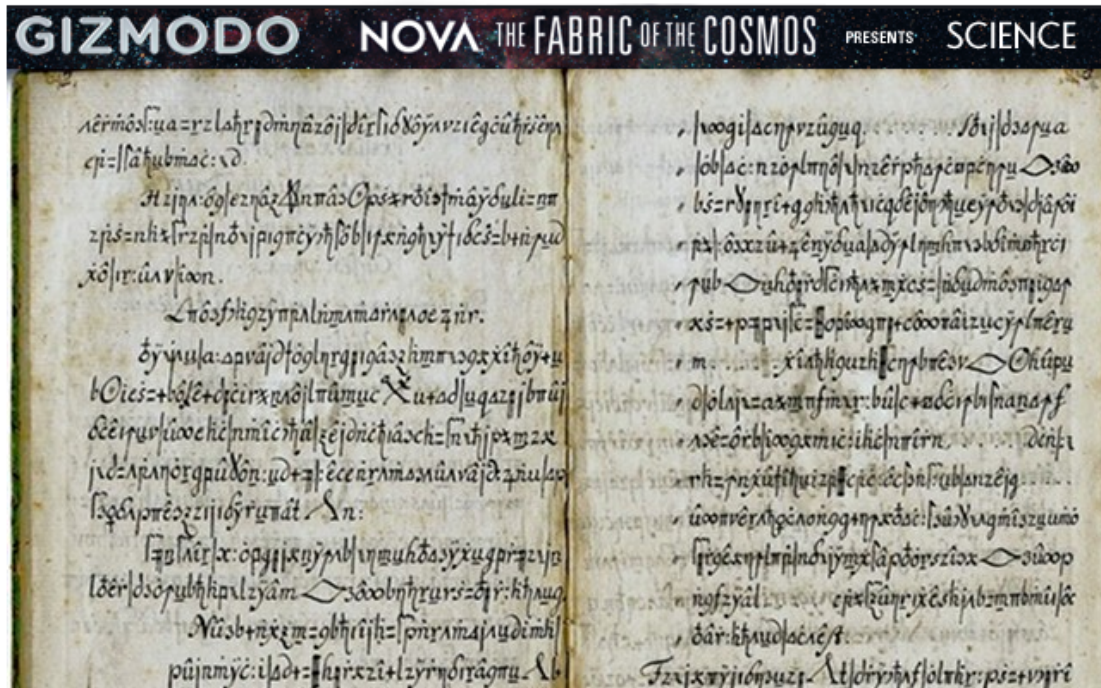
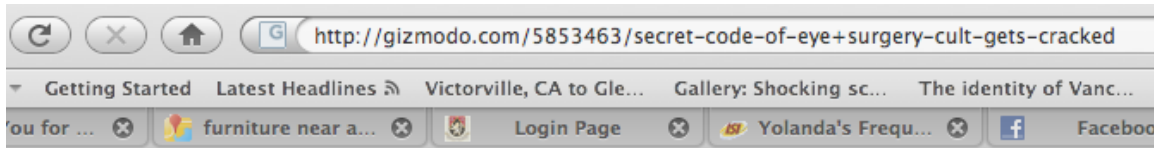
При расшифровке Soriale Cipher ученые сначала предположили, что имеют значение только латинские буквы а остальные знаки нужны для введения дешифровщика в заблуждение. Но этот подход себя не оправдал. Тогда исследователи стали последовательно проверять множество других версий.

Основной проблемой было то, что исследователи не знали, на каком языке нужно читать эту книгу.

Кевин Найт – один из наиболее признанных в мире специалистов по машинному переводу – создал программу статистического анализа, которая пыталась найти осмысленные слова на одном из 80 языков. Важным ключом к пониманию текста стал вывод, что латинские символы – это на самом деле пробелы, а сообщение полностью записано неизвестными знаками. Это позволило разбить текст на отдельные слова, которые и подвергались анализу. Оказалось, книга написана по-немецки, первыми расшифрованными словами стали «церемония посвящения» и «секретный раздел».

Теперь Кевин Найт надеется, что созданная им программа поможет расшифровать другие загадочные криптограммы: зашифрованные письма в газеты от серийного убийцы Зодиака, рукопись Войнича и текст на скульптуре, хранящейся в штаб-квартире ЦРУ.

С исходным текстом книги *Соріале Сірһер*, немецкой расшифровкой и переводом на английский язык можно ознакомиться [здесь](#).



SCIENCE

Secret Code of Eye-Surgery Cult Gets Cracked

BY MARIO AGUILAR + OCT 26, 2011 10:40 AM

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The secret rituals of an 18-Century German occultists have been revealed. The New York Times [reports](#) that an exceptional language nerd cracked their code. It sounds like something straight out of Hellboy, except with fewer fights and more computers.

The Copiale Cipher, a 105 page coded document discovered in East Berlin after World War II has revealed its dark secrets to a team of researchers. Apparently, the text documents the rituals and observations of an 18th century cult preoccupied with eye surgery and ophthalmology. That sounds creepy, but who are we to judge.

The cipher consist about 90 characters including 26 from our boring old Roman alphabet. After determining that the base language was likely German, the

researchers analyzed the most common letters and tried mapping them to common letter clusters in the German language. Slowly real words began to emerge, as did other tricks designed to mislead the would-be code breaker. The Roman letters, by the way, were duds.

Interestingly, the code wasn't broken by cryptologists—it was broken by a team led by Kevin Knight, a computer scientist who specializes in translation algorithms. Their research used a combination of computer transcription tools including—I kid you not—freetranslation.com, to unravel the code.

The document hasn't yet been fully translated so we don't know what it really says. Knight says that the whole text, including the whole weird eye fetish thing, could be cover for yet another embedded code. [[ISI](#) via [LA Times](#) and [NY Times](#)]

THEMA
Kryptografie
Alle Artikel und Hintergründe

27.10.2011

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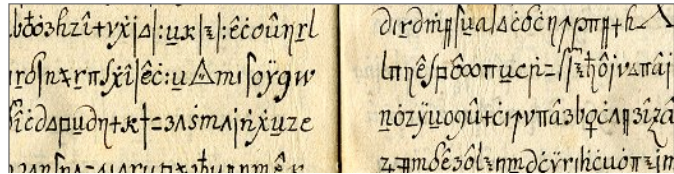
Fotostrecke: Phantasiesymbole beschreiben geheime Zeremonie

Sichere Passwörter: SindSieSchonGeknackt? (16.10.2011)

Mysteriöse Bruderschaft

Forscher knacken jahrhundertealten Geheimcode

Von [Nina Weber](#)

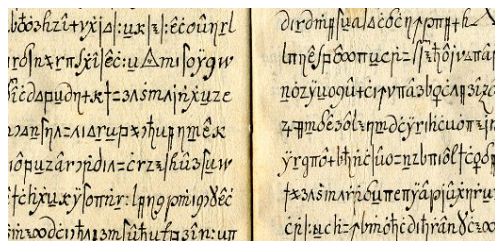


27.10.2011

Mysteriöse Bruderschaft

Forscher knacken jahrhundertealten Geheimcode

Von [Nina Weber](#)



105 eng beschriebene Seiten, keine Abstände zwischen einzelnen Wörtern: Kryptografie-Experten haben einen komplizierten Code aus dem 18. Jahrhundert entschlüsselt. Das Dokument entpuppt sich als deutscher Text - der die Aufnahmezeremonie in eine mysteriöse Geheimgesellschaft beschreibt.

Hamburg - Außenseiter sollten diesen Text nicht lesen können, das wird schon beim ersten Blick offensichtlich: Lateinische und griechische Lettern, mal mit Akzenten versehen, mal ohne, dazwischen verschiedene Phantasiesymbole. Keine

Leerzeichen, die verraten, wo ein Wort endet und ein neues beginnt. Ganz klar: Den in prächtiges gold-grünes Brokatpapier gebundenen "Codex Copiale" sollten nur Eingeweihte verstehen. Nur zwei Hinweise lassen sich einfach lesen "Philipp 1866" - ein Hinweis, den vermutlich ein Besitzer des Buchs geschrieben hat, sowie der Eintrag "Copiale 3" auf der letzten Seite. Entstanden ist das Manuskript wohl zwischen 1760 und 1780, lange Zeit befand sich das Buch in Berlin.

Einem internationalen Forscherteam ist es jetzt mit einigem Aufwand gelungen, das 75.000 Zeichen umfassende Dokument zu entschlüsseln. Dabei machten Kevin Knight von der USC Viterbi School of Engineering in Kalifornien und seine schwedischen Kolleginnen Beáta Megyesi und Christiane Schäfer von der Universität Uppsala eine erstaunliche Entdeckung: Es handelt sich um einen deutschen Text. Darin wird das Aufnahme-ritual in eine Geheimgesellschaft beschrieben, die Art der Zeremonie zeigt eine Verbindung zur Augenheilkunde.

"Geschichtsforscher vermuten, dass Geheimgesellschaften eine Rolle bei Revolutionen spielten, aber das muss alles noch nachgewiesen werden - und viele Dokumente sind verschlüsselt", sagt Kevin Knight.

"Ein totaler Reifall"

Um das Rätsel des Textes zu lösen, mussten die Forscher ihn erst einmal in eine Form transkribieren, mit der ein Computer etwas anfangen konnte. Dafür ersetzten sie die im Manuskript genutzten Symbole durch zwei oder drei Buchstaben lange Folgen. Anschließend analysierten sie unter anderem, welche Lettern häufiger auftraten oder oft nebeneinander standen.

Für die Kryptografie-Experten stellte sich bei der Decodierung ein besonderes Problem: Sie wussten nicht, in welcher Sprache der Text verfasst ist. Zwar nahmen sie an, es könnte sich um Deutsch handeln - sicher waren sie sich aber nicht.

"Wenn du einen neuen Code vor dir hast, sind die Möglichkeiten fast unbegrenzt", sagt Knight. Sobald man eine Hypothese habe, die meist auch auf menschlicher Intuition beruhe, könne man einen großen Teil der Routinearbeit auf den Computer übertragen.

Doch auf diese Weise schlug das Team erst einmal einen falschen Weg ein: Die Wissenschaftler vermuteten, dass nur die römischen und griechischen Buchstaben den Text ausmachten. Deshalb isolierten sie diese von den Phantasiesymbolen und versuchten dann, den Code zu knacken. Dabei versuchten sie es erst einmal mit Deutsch, dann mit Latein, danach mit 40 anderen Sprachen. "Das hat eine ganze Menge Zeit gekostet und war ein totaler Reifall", sagt Knight.

Denn am Ende stellten sie fest: Es verhält sich genau andersherum - die einfachen römischen Lettern haben überhaupt keine Bedeutung und dienen wohl als Ablenkung. Die geheime Botschaft steckt dagegen in den abstrakten Symbolen.

Eine erneute Analyse, welche Symbole häufiger auftraten und öfter nebeneinander lagen, deutete schließlich auf einen Text in deutscher Sprache. Simpel war die Lösung nicht: So verwendeten die Autoren des Textes nicht etwa je ein Symbol für einen Buchstaben. Vielmehr stellten sie einige Buchstaben wie etwa das E durch verschiedene Symbole dar. Und einige Symbole stehen wiederum für ganze Buchstabenfolgen wie "sch", "st" und "ch" - und auch die Umlaute Ä, Ö und Ü haben ein eigenes Symbol.

Wagnis Kryptos-Code

[Die Lösung](#), welche die Wissenschaftler nun auf einer Tagung der Association for Computational Linguistics präsentierten, [enthüllte den Text einer Geheimgesellschaft, \(die komplette Fassung finden Sie hier\)](#). Beschrieben wird eine Aufnahmezeremonie - wobei einiges unklar bleibt, denn Namen und einige Funktionstitel in der Gesellschaft sind mit eigenen Symbolen verschlüsselt.

Bei dem Ritual muss der Neuanwärter unter anderem einen Text von einem unbeschriebenen Blatt Papier vorlesen. Antwortet er, dass er darauf nichts sieht, wird ihm eine Brille aufgesetzt, und seine Augen werden ausgewaschen. Kann er immer noch nichts erkennen, so soll er sich einer Operation unterziehen - dem Neuling wird dann ein Haar aus den Augenbrauen gezupft. Anschließend muss der Anwärter Stillschweigen geloben, in dem dechiffrierten Text liest sich das so: *"Ich n...n ... verspreche so gewiss als mir meine "ehre lieb ist dass ich von alleN heimlichkeiteN" dieser *o* und vonalleN was ich geseheN gehört "und gefühlet niemals wem es auch sey und" auf was für art es auch gescheheN könne etwas "anders bekannt macheN will."*

ANZEIGE

An anderer Stelle wird unter dem Punkt "Kennzeichen eines Gesellen" beschrieben, wie genau die Zeremonie abläuft und welche Voraussetzungen der Anwärter erfüllen muss: *"Erstlich einer berühret mit der rechteN hand sein rechtes auge. ich bestreiche mit der rechteN hand die rechte seite des halses berühret aber der frageNde mit der rechteN hand das lincke auge so bestreiche ich auch mit der rechteN hand die lincke seite des halses."*

Keiner solle als Geselle anerkannt werden, heißt es in dem Text, bevor er *"nicht die lehrlingsfrageN gehörig beantwortet und keiner als geselle erkannt werdeN soll bevor er nicht auch in alleN geselleNzeicheN geschickt erfundeNwordeN und die gantze ceremonie der aufnahme erzehlet hat"*.

Knight und seine Kolleginnen vermuten, dass in dem Text noch weitere verschlüsselte Informationen enthalten sein könnten. Mit ihrer Methode wollen

die Forscher bald auch andere bekannte Geheimcodes angehen, darunter das Kryptos-Rätsel, sagt Kevin Knight. Die mit einem extrem komplexen Code versehene Skulptur steht seit mehr als 20 Jahren auf dem Gelände des US-Geheimdienstes CIA in Langley, Virginia. Drei Teile des Rätsels haben Kryptografie-Experten inzwischen gelöst, doch am letzten Teil sind bisher sämtliche CIA-Spezialisten gescheitert.

From: Anonymous <XX@gmail.com>
Date: October 25, 2011 5:27:56 PM EDT
To: knight@isi.edu, Beata.Megyesi@lingfil.uu.se,
Christiane.Schaefer@lingfil.uu.se
Subject: Copiale Logograms Probable Meaning

Greetings,

As an occultist I was highly interested when I learned of this manuscript.

Despite the fact that many today believe the idea of "occultism" is based on some poor understanding of science or superstition, this is not the case. In fact nothing has changed in regards to the occult secrets as the worldly science has expanded and grown. It remains the same. For the science of occultism is the science of the Mastery of the complete man and all his levels, it is the science which enables man to contact the divine within, full conscious of his own potential and fully able to use that potential for his work in the world, which to the Enlightened Man is the performance of the Divine Will in the world.

Furthermore my intentions in telling you this are simple, as you have labored to translate this text, you deserve to know that the text is not speaking of mundane things, these are not "oculists" worshipping a worldly science, these are men seeking to understand universal and divine law generally understood today as being Karma, and applying the esoteric secrets of the west to do this, hence the Biblical references.

To begin with every Logogram is to be read into in context of what is being said, but also each one has a general meaning, which is the power of any symbol over a mere word. Words are definite, symbols are multifaceted, words are limited to a language, symbols can be universal.

Tri = Circle/Group. It indicates the collected members of any branch of this arcane fraternity in question. Such fraternities tend to operate as follows. There is a core, the highest level, which begin and run all groups and are usually non local. There are groups, the next lower level, which are local but secret. Then there are the external organizations, the "BigX" from which groups recruit new candidates "Nee". The Tri symbol is as you can notice essentially the Eye in the Triangle. It also is being used to indicate the Arcane Circle itself in certain passages, such as the implements and setup of the room where ritual and Initiation is to take place.

Nee = Candidate for Initiation or someone who is already Initiated.

Lip = This could be a closed mouth or eye. In either context it indicates the unknown/secrecy. It has a double meaning, so I am inclined to go with eye symbolism especially in the context of how important the eye is in this document. The uninitiated have their eye (third eye) closed to the higher truth. The initiated are to act as though they themselves are like everyone else. "Be amongst men, but not of them".

O = The Order proper. The symbolism makes me believe that this manuscript is or was part of one of the Illuminati Occult Orders, as a result of the Triangle and Eye/Sight symbolism, and the numerous places where Eyes are emphasized. This is not the "conspiracy" Illuminati, but there was a real occult order by this name, and it still exists today. The closed eye is not only secrecy, but also ignorance of the occult truth of the universe. The O is also the symbol of the Sun, the Inner Sun which illuminates Consciousness, the point in its center the point where the divine influence enters mans awareness. The circle indicates the area of influence of this awareness. Hence, the point is the Master, the circle the Initiates. In general its to be read as "The Order". That this text was found in Germany is no surprise, as if I remember correctly the Illuminati were thought to be based out of Germany or have a large presence there.

Star = This is both the symbol for man, and also that which is Highest in man. The Inner Star by which we are guided onwards and upwards into higher states of Consciousness. In context its used to both mean an external man representing this Inner star, where it indicates a sort of Master or Guru, and also used in context of the rey, meaning more or less influence. Hence, the practices which draw this occult influence to one, as on page 27 where it is used in this context. When the Initiate is asked to be silent about the "Star" of the "O" it is asking him to be silent about the Master of the Order, as well as its general influence. In other words to keep members secrecy, secret.

BigX = The external, known fraternity. Here being called the Masons in the text. It is essentially an organization that seeks to find people who are capable of understanding the occult wisdom by putting forth an external entity which accepts members of all races and creeds. Those who show the most promise are then recruited into the secret order. Notice how the Nee symbol is the same as the X only rather than the lines converging to an apex with a circle on top, they are crooked and the circle is to the side. This indicates the disunity of the masses and uninitiated. Notice the squiggle on the upper right side of the X. It indicates a barrier towards the unity of the "Nee" symbol, were you to slide the lines towards that unity. That barrier is the barrier of ignorance, but more specifically the barrier of the lower self of man, his body, emotions and mind, that blocks the Inner Star, the Higher Self/True Self/God in Man, from sending its rays of influence to mans Consciousness. The removal of this barrier is what the Initiated have achieved, or what the Candidate for Initiation is seeking to achieve.

Gat(e) = This symbol is the Tau cross, but I found only two references of it in the PDF. The Tau cross is a symbol of Initiation in a very particular manner. The Hebrew Tau actually looks just like this "Gate" symbol, but in the text it refers to a "Greek *gate*" upon which is set a triangle table. In Greek the Tau is an uppercase T. The reason for this is that at that time its less likely people were familiar with Hebrew than with Greek, so to say "Greek (Hebrew Tau)" would make it harder for someone to understand. Scholars of that period often knew Greek, Latin, and so forth, but how many knew Hebrew/Aramaic?

Toe = Sign by which one knows their brothers and sisters. It means, generally, a sign. It can be a password, a symbol, a secret handshake. The means by which occultists recognize brothers in other countries and groups without saying anything, therefore preserving secrecy until it is clear that secrecy is not needed. The symbol is not a toe, but is to indicate a hand grip or arm grip.

Sci = I noticed that there is this symbol you call "Sci". This does indeed symbolize God. Though it appears only once, it appears to be the infinity symbol with its center raised to a point. Or, infinity raised unto itself, a point unknown. It might also indicate a phallus, representing the creative force of the Logos. Either way, it represents God.

Krussdell = The meaning of this appears to just signify the end of part of the book.

BigL = The meaning of this is clear in context, since one forms the reverse of an L if one is following the instructions here given.

Example:

Your version reads: the book of law of the venerable *lip* *o* secret part.

Secret lessons for the apprentices. First title.

Ceremonies of initiation.

If the security of the *tri* is ensured by a doorkeeper and the *tri* is opened by the conducting *nee* by putting

his hat on, the candidate is taken from another room by a younger doorkeeper and lead by hand to the table of the

conducting *nee*, he asks him:

first of all if he desires to be *lip*, secondly to subject himself to those regulations of *o*

My version reads: the book of law of the venerable *Secret/Unknown* *Order* secret part.

Secret lessons for the apprentices. First title.

Ceremonies of initiation.

If the security of the *Circle/Group* is ensured by a doorkeeper and the *Circle/Group* is opened by the conducting *Initiate* by putting

his hat on, the candidate is taken from another room by a younger doorkeeper and lead by hand to the table of the

conducting *Initiate*, he asks him:

first of all if he desires to be *Unknown, e.g., Initiated into the Secrets*, secondly to subject himself to those regulations of *(the)Order*

The meaning of rey is Ray/Influence/Beam or however you want to conceive it. The Master is considered to be in contact with forces that He serves, that may or may not be incarnate. Hence there is always a secret Ray behind every head of

every organization, in some form or another, whether its another physical Master or an Inner Planes Master.

One thing that is important to understand is that Ritual Initiation confers nothing on a man, it only confirms what they have already attained for themselves. All occult work happens Within, its all Inner Work. The Initiation takes place Inside. Rituals are just official recognitions of this fact. That is, at least, what they were originally intended to be. Now days people think they can "buy" Initiation in organizations like the OTO or Golden Dawn, thinking themselves Adepts when they have not even had the First Initiation (from within), however this is the viewpoint of the profane. I man may become an Adept without a single such ritual, and a man may be "initiated" as a Master and yet understand nothing of the universal and divine laws, making him a fraud. They think that the accumulation of occult knowledge, of passing tests, of being able to analyze a ritual, makes them wise. Wisdom and Understanding come from a place that transcends the accumulation of factual knowledge, and it dawns on the one who has opened themselves to the Unity of Life.

This information is yours, I wish to remain anonymous and do not want credit for this if you do not somehow already know it. Indeed its not that hard to understand for any occultist or even someone who had studied various occult manuscripts and initiations. Thanks for your hard work, it is an interesting read. If you have further questions about the occultism in this manuscript, feel free to ask, I will answer what I can, even if the question is general and not about the manuscript at all.

Either way I wish you the best

May peace be with you

Sincerely,

XX