

# *Education & Enlightenment*

*A Special Committee of*

*The Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada*



## Masonic Cipher

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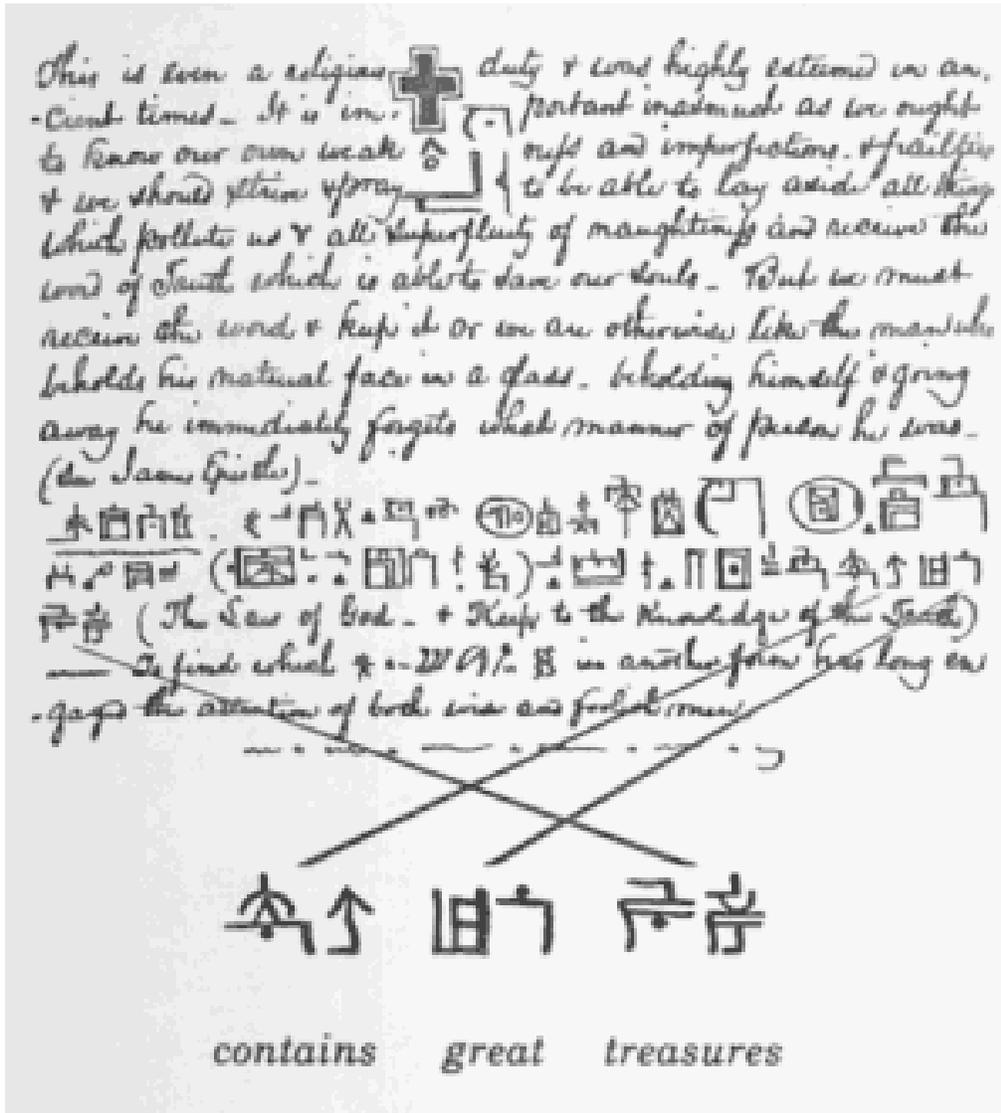
Masonic Cipher is generally a substitution cipher : each letter is replaced by a character. A character could replace a letter or , using Masonic parlance, a Hieroglyph representing a word (e.g. HAB). These are examples of using a key to decrypt a message. In modern encrypting methods there are two types of keys : Public keys and Private keys. when a private key is used then both the sender and the receiver use the same key to encrypt and decrypt. In public key encryption two keys are used for encryption and decryption.

During the early days of spread of Masonry messages would be sent from our secretary through the mail. the messages would get intercepted thus exposing our order to the ridicule of jealous eavesdroppers and dishonest interlopers. I some societies at certain times belonging to a prescribed order could be disastrous to the members. thus it was necessary to encrypt our messages.

In craft masonry we have a date system of adding 4000 to the current year. Ano Lumens AL. This was used in the 19th century lodges. Today being 6015 AL. on the tapestry in the 3rd degree we have the Harris code. TC AL3000 in mirror image. MB HAB read left to right forward. Mem Bet Chet Aleph Bet. MahaBone Hiram Abiff Temple Completed Ano Lumins 3000.

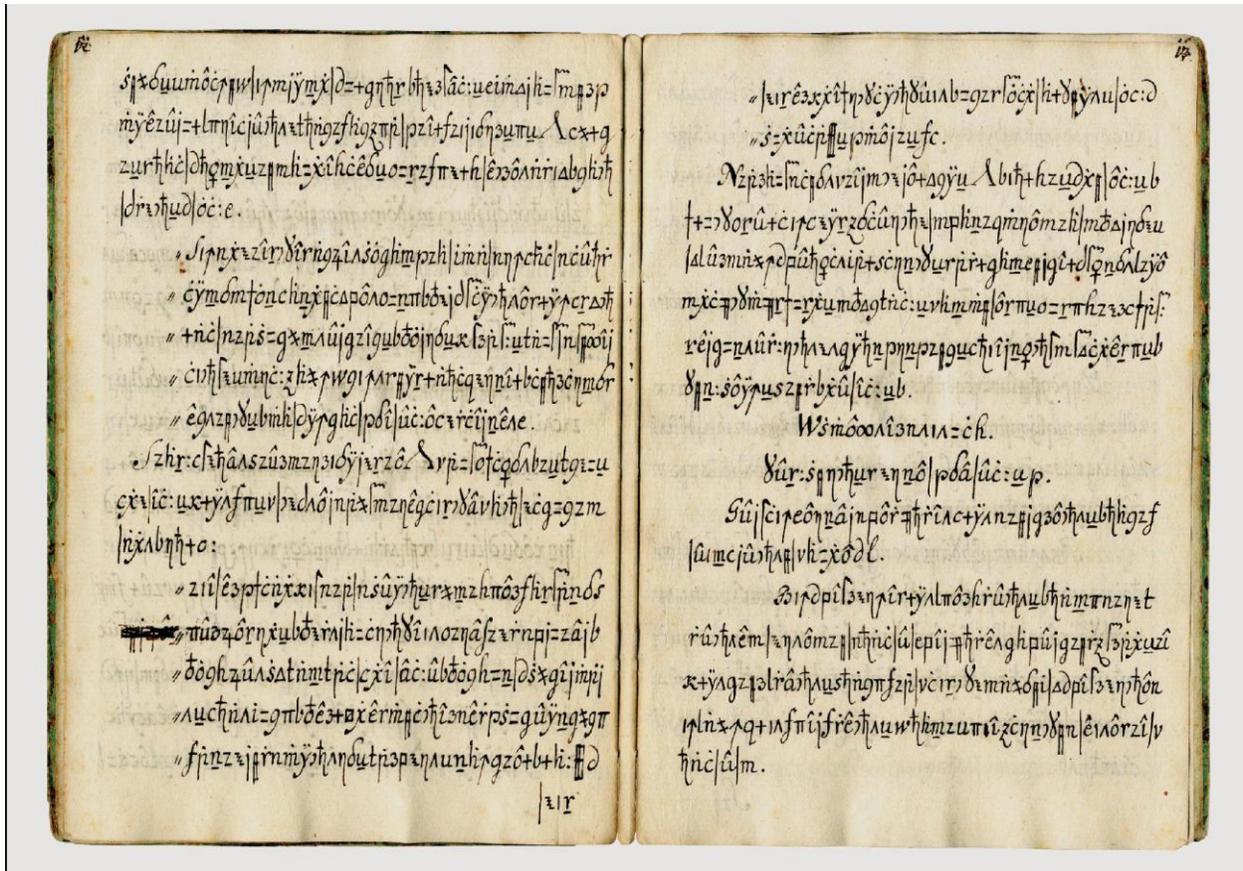


Some famous Masonic cipher manuscripts include Folgers Manuscript



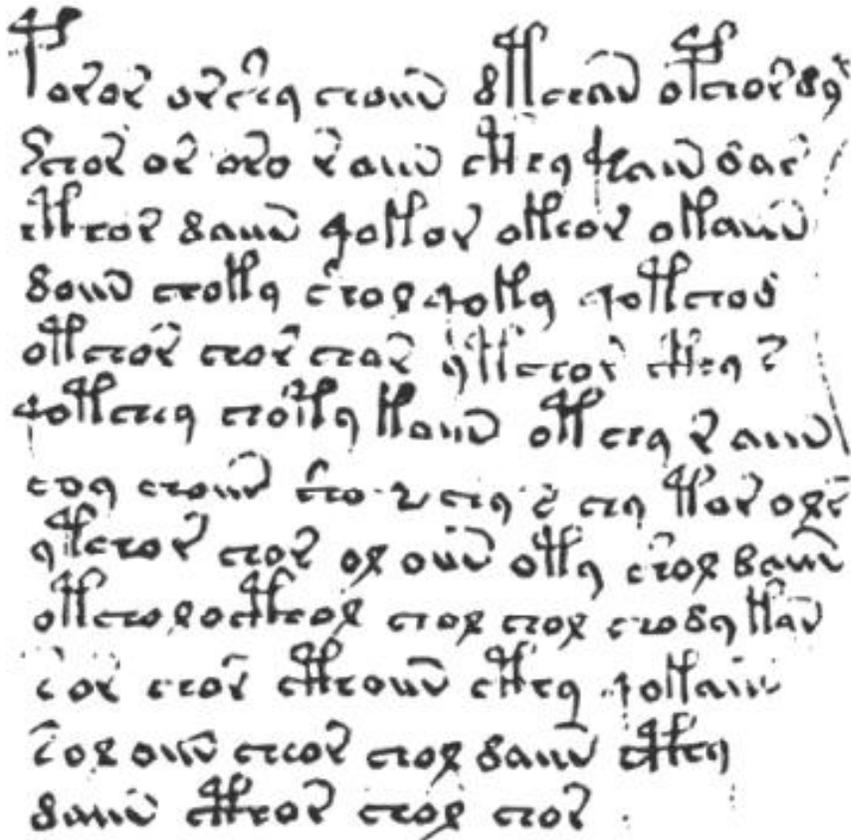
featured in a paper by Brent Morris and the book Committed to the Flames Arto de Hoyas and S. Brent Morris.

The "Copiale" cipher turned out to be a German ritual book just recently deciphered.



The ritual shows how his eyesight is restored through initiation. Christiane Schaefer received from Wolfgang Hock 1998 a photocopy of this manuscript as a parting gift. Schaefer tried decoding using frequency analysis to crack the code but there were over 50 symbols. Then Jan 2011, 13 years later, in a computational linguistics conference on automatic translation helped. What was thought to be Albanian turned out to be German. It contained 88 symbols. Some were symbols for eyes and blank spaces had their own symbols. This is an initiation ceremony for a secret order around the 1730's in Wolfenbüttel, Germany that called itself the Great Enlightened Society of Oculists.

Listed as being an unsolved cipher text, the Voynich manuscript has baffled many cryptographers. Carbon dated as being from the 15th Century. It appears to be a science book.



The Beale ciphers, also referred to as the Beale Papers, are a set of three ciphertexts, one of which allegedly states the location of a buried treasure of gold, silver and jewels estimated to be worth over USD\$63 million as of September 2011. Comprising three ciphertexts, the first (as yet unsolved) text describes the location, the second (solved) ciphertext the content of the treasure, and the third (unsolved) lists the names of the treasure's owners and their next of kin.

Kryptos is an encrypted sculpture by the American artist, Jim Sanborn, that is located on the grounds of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Langley, Virginia. Since its dedication on November 3, 1990, there has

been much speculation about the meaning of the encrypted messages it bears. Of the four messages, three have been solved, with the fourth remaining one of the most famous unsolved codes in the world. The sculpture continues to provide a diversion for cryptanalysts, both amateur and professional, who are attempting to decipher the final section. The sculptor has given clues on several occasions.

During our discussion we talked on the symbols used in our signatures SGC 33.

