



the redgings

Volume 33, Issue 10 | ASDLVGG | June 2022



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

If you are new to the Barony of Lochmere, these websites may be of help:

Barony of Lochmere Homepage: <https://www.lochmere.atlantia.sca.org>

Baronial Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LochmereSCA>

Kingdom of Atlantia Homepage: <https://www.atlantia.sca.org>

Kingdom of Atlantia Event Page: <https://www.atlantia.sca.org/events>

Kingdom of Atlantia Online Event Page: <https://virtual.atlantia.sca.org/calender.php>

The Acorn, Atlantia's Official Newsletter: <https://www.acorn.atlantia.sca.org>

Official SCA Homepage: <https://www.sca.org>

You can also contact the Barony of Lochmere's Chatelain at:
chatelain@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org

LOCHMERE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Populace Meeting

First Monday of every month
7:15 pm Via Google Meet

Archery Practice

Every Thursday (til time change)
Lord Ivan's Home
511 Chad Avenue, Severn, MD 21144

Fighter Practice (Heavy & Rapier)

Every Tuesday
7:00 pm
Severn Christian Church
8132 New Cut Road ,
Severn, MD 21144

Arts and Sciences

Lady Marta de Lyon
moas@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org



CREDITS

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- Crypto Corner article and images: Melchior (Kevin Baun)

INFORMATION ON THE DREDGINGS

The Dredgings is a publication of the Barony of Lochmere of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc.

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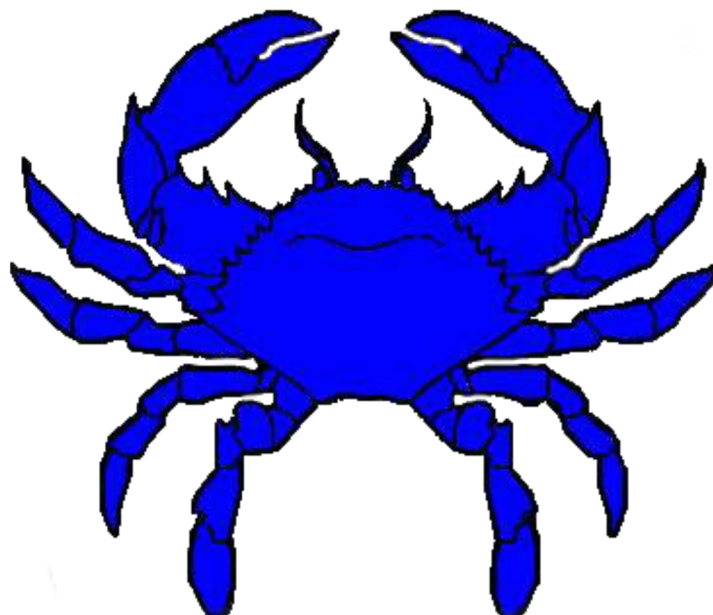
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LOCHMERE BARONIAL OFFICERS

Make sure your information in this newsletter and website is correct. Contact the Chronicler at chronicler@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org for The Dredgings and Webminister at webminister@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org for the website.

Please submit your Baronial Report in advance of the business meeting via email to the Seneschal at seneschal@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org and the Chronicler chronicler@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org.

Thank You!

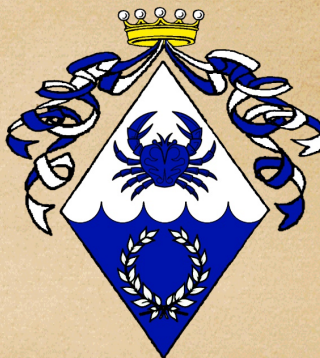


Words from Their Excellencies

Greetings Lochmere,

We've finally come to an end of our busy spring schedule and what a wonderful whirlwind it was. The Ferndale Day event was sadly canceled due to rain so we lost out on that demo opportunity. Fortunately, we're already being invited back for their Oktoberfest event this fall, so keep your eyes peeled for details on that as we get them. And On Target! What a great event to close out our Barony's spring schedule with. I believe we had 52 people brave the heat to come test their mettle against Hercules' trials. The competition was fierce, but your Baron was able to best the hydra and emerge victorious as the champion of the day's tournament. Jonathan Bowman also demonstrated true skill in earning the most points in the main portion of the tournament. I was sad to have to miss the feast as it smelled amazing the whole day. Our next event will be summer University and we hope to see you all there. Lastly, on a more serious note, the plague seems to be on the rise again and as such our kingdom seneschal has released new guidance for the covid policy. If you haven't read it yet, please do, as it will be in effect by the time you read this.

Baron Linhart & Baroness Letia





A Word on Awards

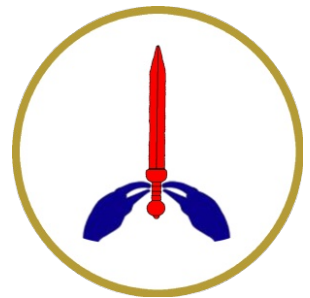
This month we're talking about The Order of the Crab's Claw.

The Crab's Claw is Lochmere's Baronial recognition of in the martial arts.

Any member of the populace of the Barony may be considered for induction into the Order as it is given by the Baronage to "members of

barony who have achieved excellence in the martial arts". This order is open to all. Heavy, rapier, etc. The companions of the Order of the Crab's Claw demonstrate Lochmere's prowess upon the field and support the Barony in service to the Kingdom.

As everyone is aware, the Baronage are not omniscient and must rely on the populace to make them aware of the good and worthy deeds of their populace. If you know someone that you think may be deserving of this recognition use the Electronic System for Polling (<https://polling.atlantia.sca.org>) to submit a recommendation.



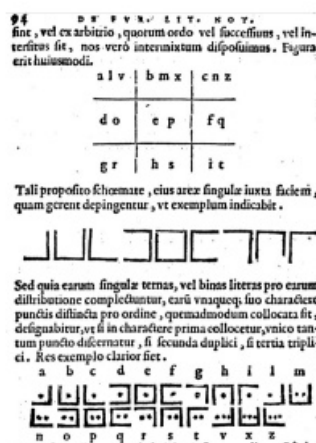
Welcome to the Crypto Corner

Period Cryptography with Melchior

This month we're talking about a the 'pigpen' cipher'.

Attend nearly any introduction to 'medieval' or 'renaissance' cryptography, especially one where children's activities are included, and you are almost certain to encounter the following simple substitution cipher. Indeed, the configuration you see below is reproduced from Dr. Kahn's seminal work, *The Codebreakers* (1967), and is so frequently encountered in this form that it verges on ubiquity for being THE simple substitution example.

Unfortunately, many people stop with Dr. Kahn's description of this as being an 'antique cipher' (p. 772) and only citing its use by the Free Masons during the mid-18th century. While there are many examples of this cipher being used by the Free Masons, often in not-so-subtle ways – such as in tomb stones, the principles of this cipher reach back well before 1600. The most direct example that I have found can be seen in the works of Giambattista della Porta. Very similar variants of this cipher can be found in both 1563's 'notes on writing ciphers' (*De furtivis Literarum Notis de Ziferis*) and of 1593/1606's 'notes on occult writing' (*De occultis literarum notis*) (Primary sources shown below).



A practical application

Looking at the period sources we see that the technique employed is to place the entire alphabet within one grid. It is worth noting that the values present in each of the grid cells varies. This presents the opportunity for nulls to be introduced into the cipher text to thwart analysis. Consider the two symbols below.



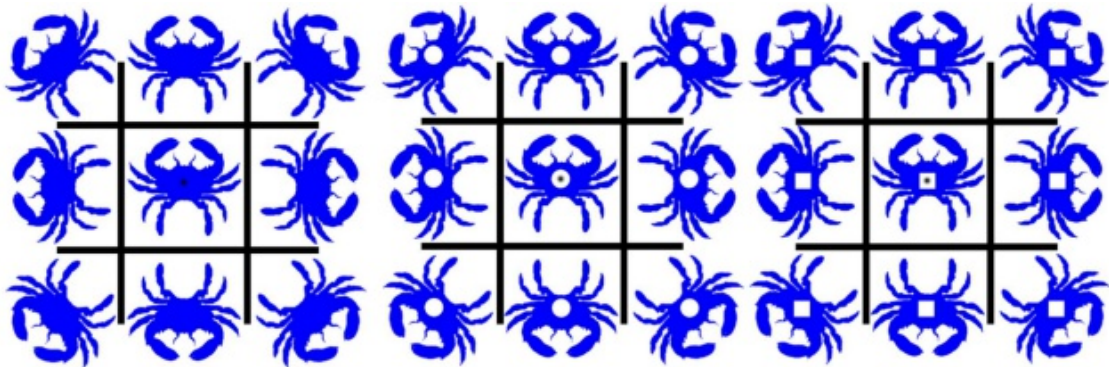
The symbol to the left represents, using the keys from the extent works, represents the letter "U". The symbol to the right, however, represents nothing as there is NO value for the lower left cell of the grid. Later implementations of the cipher, such as seen in *The Codebreakers*, retain the period dot notation but also introduce the four-section cross to achieve a 1:2 length match for the western 26-character alphabet.

There are no null values present. To create a modern practical implementation of this type of cipher we must start by establishing the parameters of the cipher.

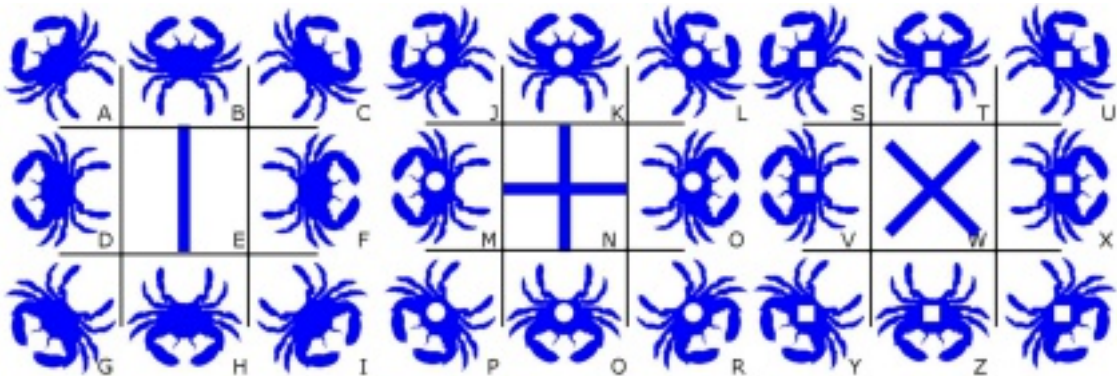
- Characters are aligned to a grid pattern.
- Characters are substituted for symbols relating to each character's position within its cell.
- Allow for nulls to thwart analysis

Based on these rules for period 'pig pen' style ciphers I have created a new cipher. This new cipher uses an animal (a crab in this case) where the direction which the crab is facing denotes its cell and the design on the carapace: none for first position, circles for second position, and squares for the third. I have retained the original three space configuration. Using the 26-character alphabet this allows for a single null value. I have elected to use lines in vertical,

horizontal, or crossed orientation to represent the centers. This adds variance to the cipher while maintaining readability (there are only so many ways to spin a crab around). Implementations of the final cipher are shown below.



A	B	C		J	K	L		R	S	T
D	E	F		M	Atlantia	N		U	V	W
G	H	I		O	P	Q		X	Y	Z



Upcoming Lochmere Events

09-23 - 09-25 : Battle on the Bay : Upper Marlboro MD

Information forthcoming.

01-28 - 01-28 : Henry's Holiday Huzzah! - Midwinter's : Lothian MD

Henry, the eight of his name has gathered his most trusted friends, advisors, and admirers to join him at court for a Holiday Celebration Huzzah! To indulge the Lion of England's pleasure, each of his wives will be in attendance. The women who stood by Henry's side will be stirred to revel in memories as the Kings favorite and bear the sorrow of his fickle whim; recalling the gambles that shackled their fate. Games, competitions of arts and science, music, song, and knowledge will be shared. Partake of Henry's favorite sport, a tournament of joust. Invoking the spirit of chivalry and win renown while guiding a horse and a lance down the tilt and try to unhorse your opponent. Show your finest efforts and creativity and may your craft win the favor of the King himself. Trade baubles and treasures with those assembled to see who is the most clever and thrifty of Henry's guests. Fetch your instrument and warm your voice to make song. We request your musical talent to bring joy and harmony to the revel. In hopes to complete the day with a culinary jewel, a marvelous feast has been fashioned to quench the appetite of Henry himself. The days law shall be honored regarding the repast. Please join the Barony of Lochmere in a day full of fun and friendship in the court of Henry the VIII!

https://atlantia.sca.org/event/?event_id=c68e164c

<https://katlaflokadottir.home.blog/henry-viiis-holiday-huzzah/>



You can find the full Atlantian calender at
<https://atlantia.sca.org/events>

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Knight Marshal: Master Alric the Mad knightmarshal@lochmere.atlantia.sca.org

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Armored Fighting: Mistress Cellach Mór

Rapier Fighting: Noble Blaze Frostell

Archery & Thrown Weapons: Ethan of Lochmere

Equestrian: Lady Aine d'Alton