

MysteryTwister C3

A CRYPTO CHALLENGE BY CRYPTOOL

THE UNKNOWN AUTHOR

**A book without an author – but with a preface
signed with a cipher**

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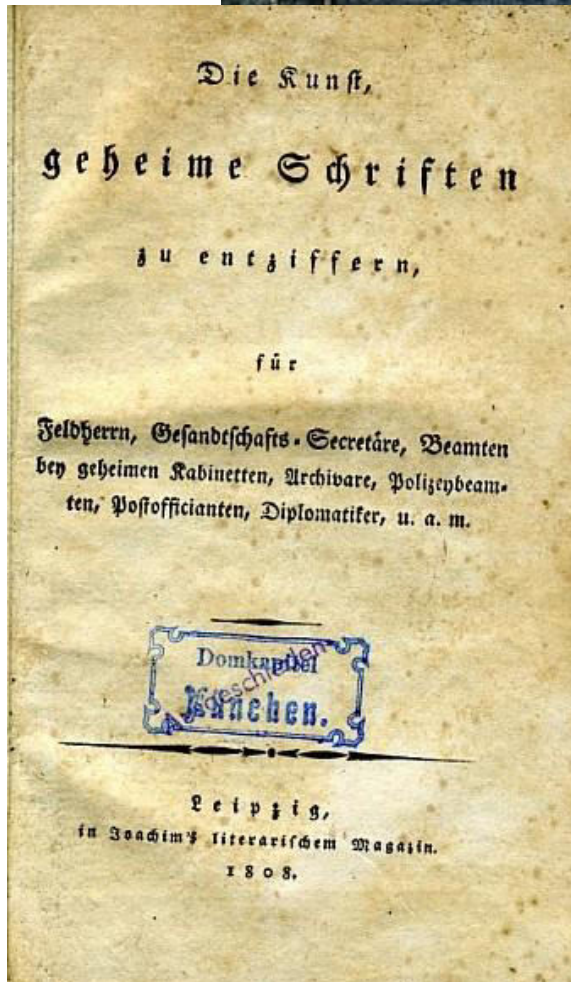
Oktober 2010

In 1808, the following book was published:

„Die Kunst, geheime Schriften zu entziffern, für Feldherrn, Gesandtschafts-Secretäre, Beamten bey geheimen Kabinetten, Archivare, Polizeibeamten, Postofficianten, Diplomatiker, u.a.m.“

(“The art of deciphering secret writings...”)

It mainly explains simple substitution ciphers as well as how to decipher them.



In both fundamental bibliographies about *literature related to cryptology* – Shulman and Galland – the book is mentioned. Unfortunately, in every case, the author is not listed.

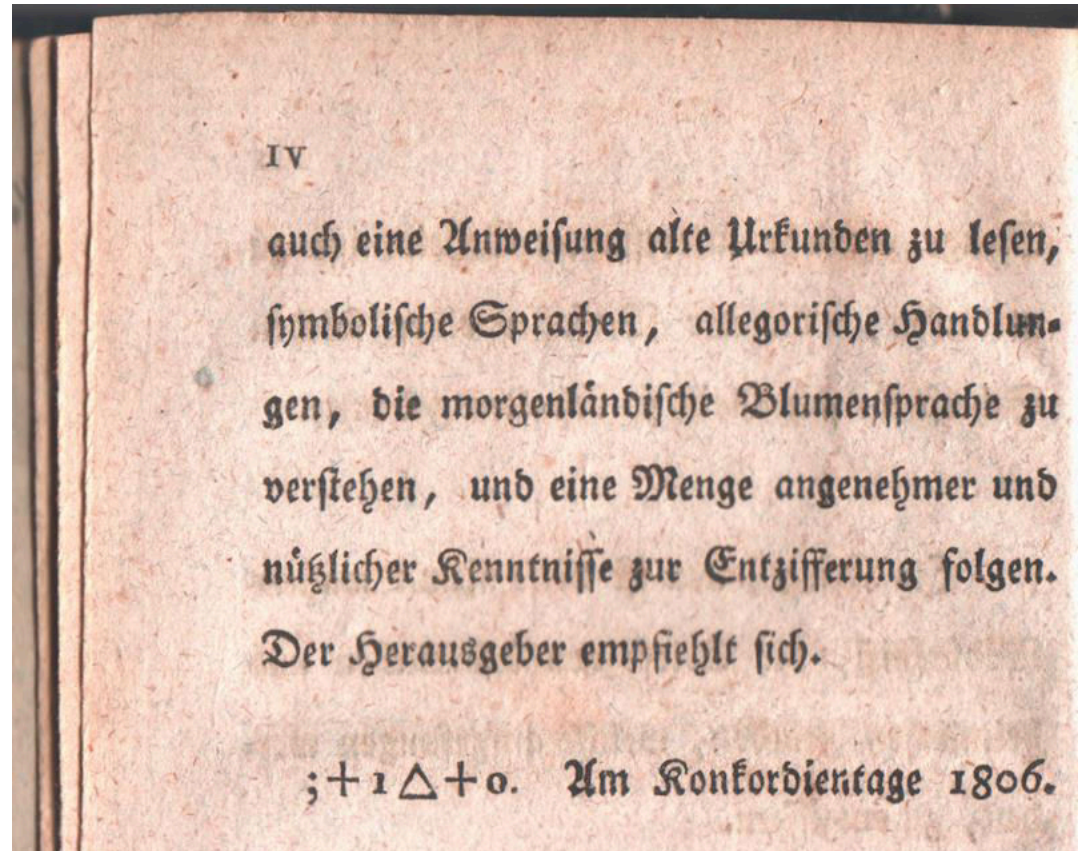
And in reality:

There is no name of an author printed in the book.

However, the preface of the book is signed by a “*publisher*” using the following characters:

;+1Δ+o.

(Semicolon Plus One Triangle Plus Circle Period)



It is possible that the name of the author is printed here. The reason for the secretiveness is unknown.

The book itself contains a training cipher that uses the same mysterious characters. You can find it in another MysteryTwister Challenge (“A LETTER BY THE ASSUMED COUNTESS JULIE VON ORTENBURG”).

If you solve that training cipher and substitute the characters of the publisher’s signature with the given letters, you will simply get nonsense.

However, it may be possible that the solution of the training cipher can help in finding the author’s name.

It is unknown if another substitution was applied or if another cipher step was included.

The author of this book still remains unknown today.

Due to the shortness of the cipher, more than one logical solution is possible.

The goal is to find a plausible name that could be the author of such a book from around 1808.

