

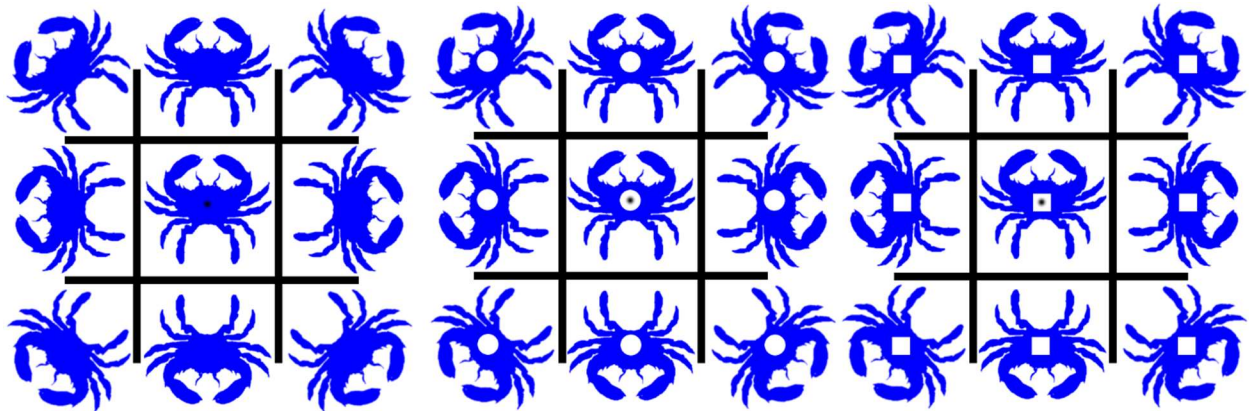
Table notes: Please do not take.

## A Simple Cipher for the Modern Middle Ages

The pictographic cipher shown below is based on the 'Pigpen cipher' and uses the orientation of a common symbol, in this case the crab of Lochmere, in conjunction with 'dots' to signify which letter to use in a given position. Period examples of this type (see Prota, 1563) use the angulations provided by the 'hash' divider such that the top left quadrant would hold the letters A, J, and S. The modern 26-character western alphabet does not nicely align with the 27 available positions within the three iterations of the cipher matrix so I have elected to employ another period technique and add a character which is substituted for an entire word (Trithemius, 1461). In this case the central pictograph represents the word "Atlantia". While this has no practical impact on subverting cryptanalysis it is a fun way to fill out the space.

This cipher key is provided along with an example of how such a cipher could be used within the SCA. The provided example, see page two, uses the cipher designs within the border of a scroll blank or promissory note. Can you decipher this hidden message?

What other ways can you think to use period cryptography in the modern middle ages?



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

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