

The Voynich Manuscript

Transcription and Translation

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The Voynich Manuscript is a hand-written and illustrated codex, written in an ancient script that has yet to be decoded. Scientific appraisals have dated it between 1404 and 1438 and Scholars have concluded the manuscript is everything from an extremely complicated cipher to a simple hoax. Analyses show, however, that the contents were written on valuable vellum using high quality ink, making the hoax theory rather unlikely for a manuscript of approximately 240 pages.

Translation Method

The following memorandum explains the method of deciphering the what will be shown to be multiple encoding levels of Voynich manuscript. The manuscript was written in the **Croatian language** using the oldest known Slavic script, the **Glagolitic Alphabet**. In the 9th century St. Cyril created this script, also known by the Slovak term **Hlaholika**. By transposing, adding, omitting or substituting letters in a word, a further level encryption was achieved. The use of synonyms and tropes added another level and demanded that the reader have an understanding of rhetorical aids and Christian historical knowledge was also helpful.

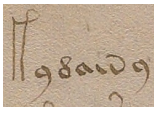
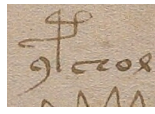
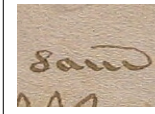
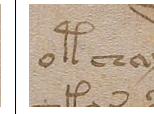
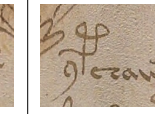
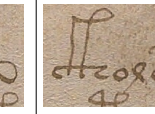
Transcription

Ɑ	Ɱ	Ɐ	Ɒ	ⱱ	Ⱳ	ⱳ	o	a	Ⱶ	g	4o
Kr	M	Mr	P	Pr	T	Tr	a	e	i	o	u
8	2	cc	ω	e	∩	c	ω	2	cz	u	g
j	k	l	m	n	p	r	r	s	ij st	v	jo

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Figure 1: Voynich and Latin Alphabet

Translation Method

Original						
Transcription	Mojero	oPijan	jem	oTijen	oPijem	Mranso
Correction	mjera	pijan	jer	tajan	pojam	mrako
Translation	Relations	drunken	because	secret	understood	darkness

Procedure exemplified using the word 'oPijan':

1. Transcription from the Voynich script into Latin characters = oPijan
2. Exchange of the position of the first and second letters = Poijan
3. Search in an electronic Croatian-English Dictionary¹ for existent words
4. Search result = pijan
5. Translation = drunken

Additionally it must be considered, that the separation of words in the original text may be varied so that left over characters actually belong to the next word or that characters in the following word are needed to complete a previous word. Similarly Glagolitic letter combinations may need to be split into two words. With the handwritten *cz* the transcription to *ij* or *st* must be attained from the context of the sentence.

In a lexical sense the word *relations*, when referred to as drunken, could be synonymous with encryption of phrases.

Cryptography or cryptology; from Greek κρυπτός *kryptós*, "hidden, secret"; and γράφειν *graphein*, "writing", or -λογία *-logia*, "study", respectively.

Cryptography prior to the modern age was effectively the conversion of information from a readable state to apparent nonsense.

The freely translated phrase that results is:

Phrases [are] drunken, because secrets understood [must stay] in darkness...

One can conclude that the Voynich Manuscript was therefore written in
 "Hlaholica Glagolica" or
 "alcoholic words"

adjective from Czech *alkoholický* (alcoholic)

noun from Serbo-Croatian *glagoljica/глагољица*, from Old Church Slavonic *глаголь* (*glagolŭ*, "word, speech")

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¹ The internet dictionary <http://www.dict.cc/> was used for these translations