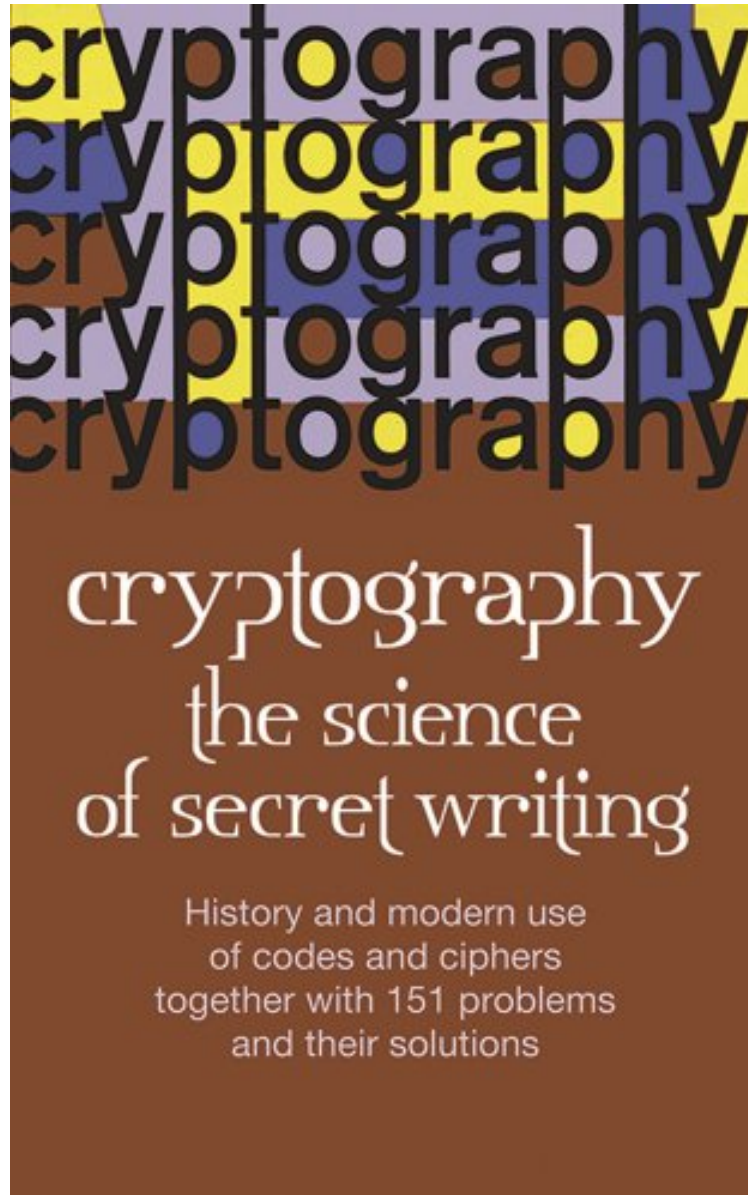


Cryptography: The Science of Secret Writing

Laurence D. Smith

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Laurence D. Smith : Cryptography: The Science of Secret Writing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cryptography: The Science of Secret Writing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Middleman Sales and AuctionsGreat, thanks1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good introductionBy uayfb1This book is a good introduction to what

may be called pencil and paper ciphers; you don't need computers and expensive equipment to use them. The tongue-in-cheek style of the writer was also appreciated. This volume is updated to 1955 (it was originally published in 1943, when I would think a certain amount of censorship would have applied), so items like one-time-pads are not contained; the ciphers are transpositional or substitutional. Very clearly explained how each is done with the weaknesses of these ciphers. Recommended reading for those who like this. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great intro to the field. By Anonymous in PA. Even though this was first written in 1945, it is a classic introduction to the field. Whether one is starting out on a career in the field or one is simply looking to pass time with cryptic puzzles, this is a valuable tool. The exercises help the student progress through various difficulty levels

"Those who delight in puzzles can find much to ponder here." — Science News Letter
"Will be well received by anyone really interested in the subject." — Scientific Book Club Review
Readers interested in secret writing will find this book an excellent elementary explanation of transposition and substitution ciphers, codes, and their solutions. More than 150 problems provide practical application as well as tests of skill and ingenuity. After a brief description of the history of secret writing, the reader is introduced to fundamental principles of ciphers — transposition and substitution — and given an understanding of the various methods of enciphering and deciphering secret messages. The author covers geometrical patterns, route transcription, columnar transposition, and other methods used in transposition; under substitution, he treats mixed cipher systems, single-alphabet and polyalphabetical substitution, mechanical devices, the Vigenère system, etc. A discussion of cryptanalysis leads the reader into 151 problems for which answers are provided at the end. Appendixes offer notes on enciphering Japanese; and explanation of the Baconian Biliteral Cipher; frequency tables for English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.