

“THE MOST MYSTERIOUS MANUSCRIPT IN THE WORLD”

THE ROGER BACON CIPHER MANUSCRIPT

(BACON, ROGER?.) Cipher manuscript on vellum. Text written in a secret script, apparently based on Roman minuscule characters, irregularly disposed on the pages. 102 leaves (of 116; lacks 14 leaves), including 7 double-folio folding leaves; 3 triple folio folding leaves; and one quadruple folio folding leaf. With added signature marks (of the XVth or XVIth century), and foliation (of the XVIth or XVIIth century) 1-11, 13-58, 65-73, 75-90, 93-96, 99-108, 111-116. With about 400 drawings of botanical subjects, including many of full-page size; 33 drawings of astrological or astronomical subjects, plus about 350 single star-figures; and 42 (biological?) drawings, most of which include human figures. The drawings colored in several shades of green, brown, light yellow, blue, and dark red. Large 8vo (c.230 × c.160mm.). Old limp vellum covers (now detached). From the libraries of John Dee(?), the Emperor Rudolph II (reigned 1576-1611); Jacobus Horcicky (Sinapius) de Tepenecz; Joannes Marcus Marci of Cronland (1666); Athanasius Kircher, S.J.; and Wilfrid M. Voynich. Accompanied by an Autograph Letter signed by Joannes Marcus, presenting the book to Athanasius Kircher.

No place or date, (XVth century, or earlier?).

An enigmatic mediaeval manuscript, which for over forty years has baffled the scholars and cryptographers who have attempted to wrest its secrets from it. It has been termed by Professor John M. Manly, who made a detailed study of it, "the most mysterious manuscript in the world."

Fig. 1.—Entry for the Voynich Manuscript from H. P. Kraus Catalog

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