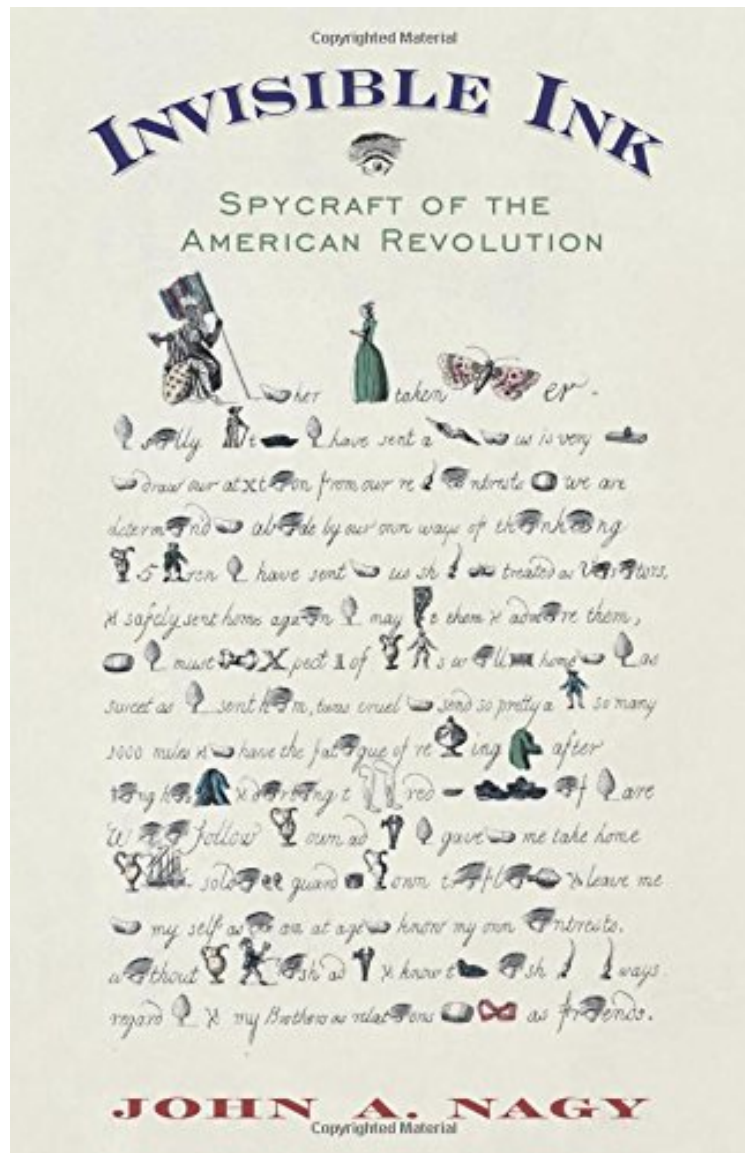


Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution

John A. Nagy

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John A. Nagy : Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book arrived in good time and in the condition stated By Stephen A. Dragos This book arrived in good time and in the condition stated. This book surpassed my expectations. A very enjoyable and interesting read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By gregg m hansen Great 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Revolutionary Spy games in detail By Customer This

book reveals many of the methods the British and Patriots sent messages. Some I had known, others such as using the language of flowers I was unfamiliar with. What sets this book apart is that it is readable. Many history texts tend to be dry and hard to comprehend. This one discusses the people involved and the methods they resorted to in order to stay informed on the enemy's moves. What sets these stories apart is that everyday people were involved in spying for their country; farm girls, innkeepers, tradespeople. The methods utilized and the results they garnered undoubtedly tipped the balance in favor of the American Patriots. This was a very interesting read.

During the American Revolution, espionage was critical to the successes and failures of both Continental and British efforts, and those employed in cloak-and-dagger operations always risked death. While the most notorious episode of spying during the war the Benedict Arnold affair was a failure, most intelligence operations succeeded. Spycraft was no more wholly embraced than by the American commander-in-chief, George Washington. Washington relied on a vast spy network and personally designed sophisticated battle plan deceptions and counterintelligence efforts, some surprisingly modern in form. In *Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution*, award-winning author John A. Nagy briefly traces the history of spy techniques from ancient China through Elizabethan England before embarking on the various techniques used by spies on both sides of the war to exchange secret information. These methods included dictionary codes, diplomatic ciphers, dead drops, hidden compartments (such as a hollowed-out bullet or a woman's garter), and even musical notation, as well as efforts of counterintelligence, including Black Chambers, where postal correspondence was read by cryptologists. Throughout, the author provides examples of the various codes and ciphers employed, many of which have not been previously described. In addition, the author analyzes some of the key spy rings operating during the war, most notably the Culper ring that provided information to Washington from inside British-controlled New York City. Based on nearly two decades of primary research, including the author's discovery of previously unrecognized spies and methods, *Invisible Ink* is a major contribution to the history of conflict and technology.

From the Author JOHN A. NAGY is scholar-in-residence at St. Francis University, Pennsylvania, and a founder of the American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia. He is author of *Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution*, also available from Westholme Publishing. About the Author John A. Nagy is scholar-in-residence at St. Francis University, Pennsylvania, and a founder of the American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia. He is author of *Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution* and *Spies in the Continental Capital*, also available from Westholme Publishing.