

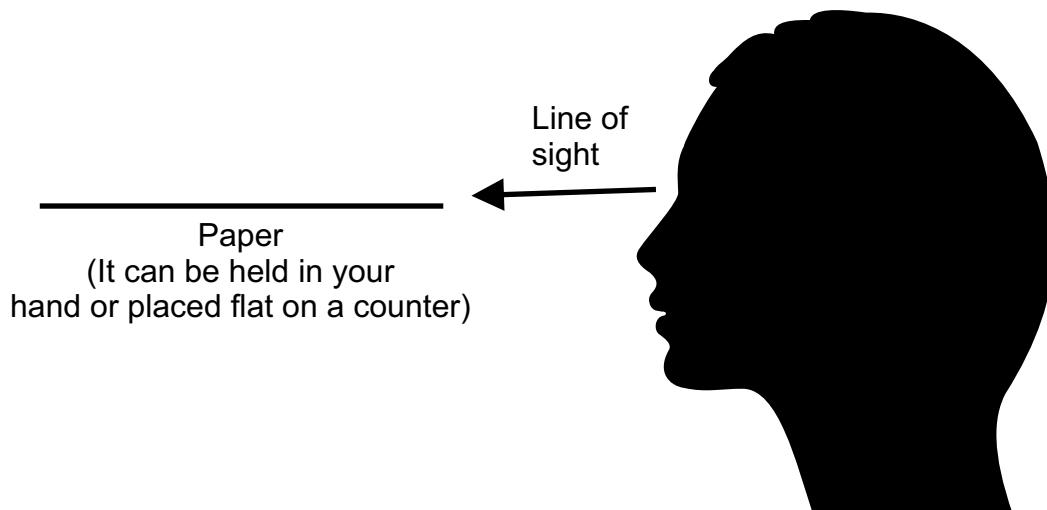
Sighting Trithemian Web™ Lettering

A Trithemian Web™ is composed of extremely elongated letters intersecting at 45 degree angles within a square, puzzle piece shape, or other configuration. Reading always begins in the lower left hand corner of a container and proceeds from left to right. The containers are always rotated clockwise four times - 45 degrees at the end of each letter set. The letters **do not** have word spacing - just letters, numbers, and punctuation.

If there are multiple containers, the reading sequence will be so indicated at the beginning left corner; C1:, C2:, and so forth. These identifiers will be encoded in Trithemian Web™ ciphers.

Horizontal Plane

The first, and most important, concept to grasp is this - the elongated letters within the containers are designed to be viewed on a horizontal plane, like sighting down a gun barrel for lack of a better analogy.

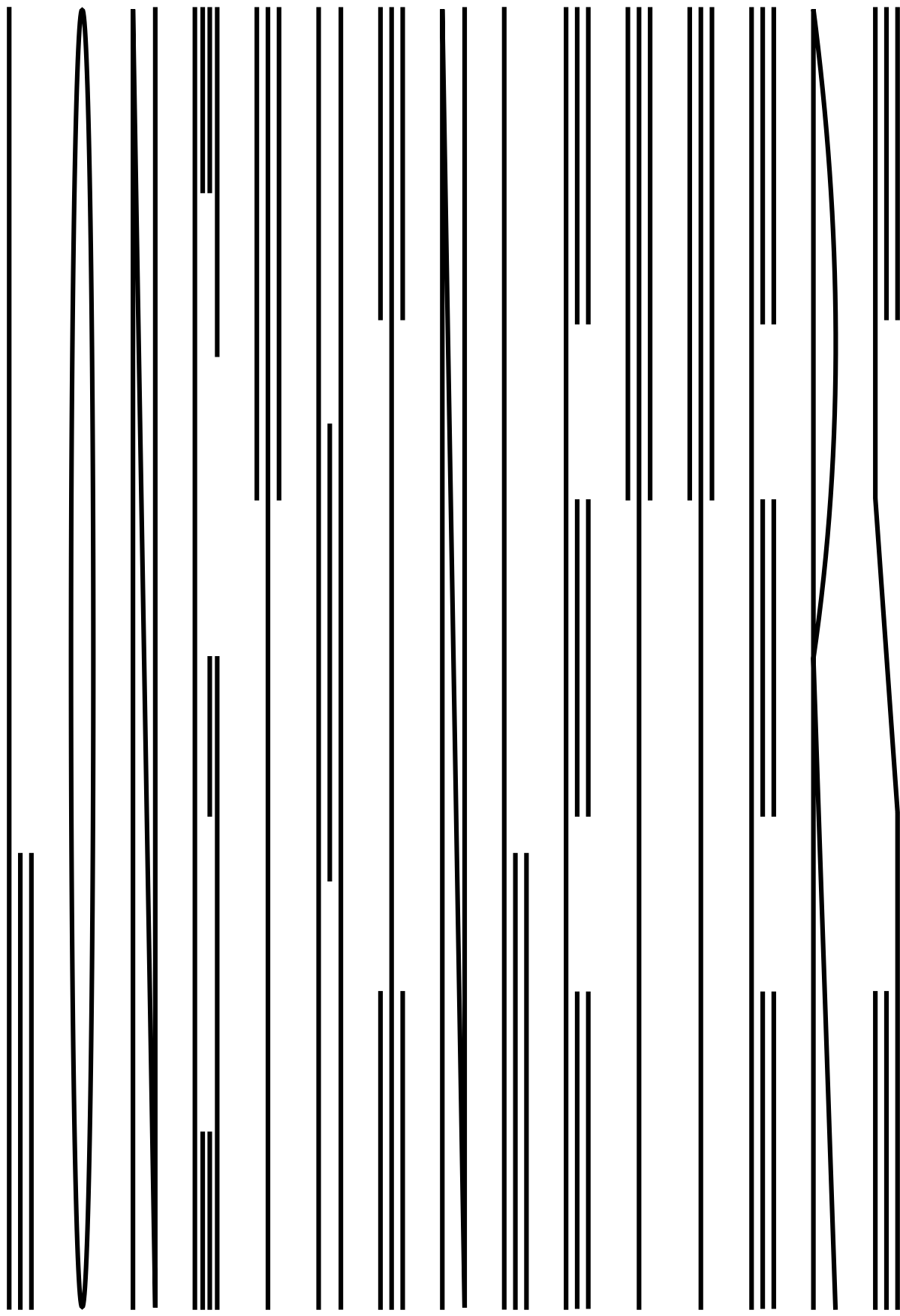


We will begin with a rudimentary example - following page. Print the page, then hold it horizontally at eye level about a foot away from your face. Tilt the page forward or backward until you can clearly read the letters. Your line of sight should be almost perfectly level with the paper. **Tip:** Identifying the letters is much easier if the paper is perfectly flat. I recommend taping the paper down to a piece of cardboard, poster board, or other hard, flat surface. **Clue:** Use only one eye to sight the letters.

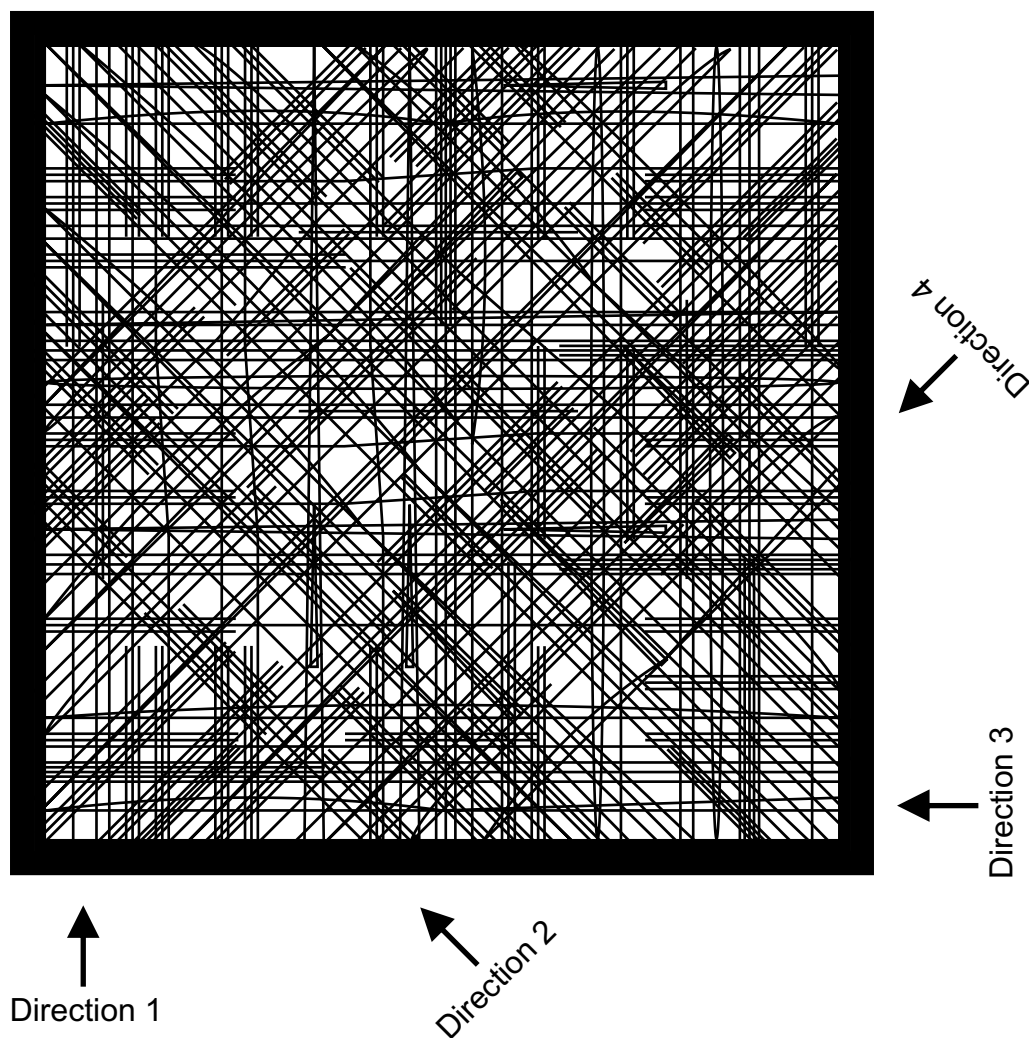
Note: You have an advantage if you are nearsighted. If you wear corrective lenses or contacts, take them off. I'm nearsighted, and I do all my testing with my glasses off.

This is what you should see when you sight across the printed sample. There are no spaces between words.





Keeping with the LONGTHINLETTERS theme, print this page and see if you can read the words in all four directions. Remember, rotate the container 45 degrees clockwise each time - 4 times total.



Adding Elements

The containers are easier to read when there is a uniform color to the letters and other graphic elements are limited or not present. That's where the design difficulty comes in. Individual elements must be blended so the graphics are still visible and the lettering is still readable. That is the challenge. My first Trithemian Web™ has uniform letter coloring and limited graphic additions. Future compositions will introduce more complicated elements.

When I design a container, I make a reduced size paper print and then check it for readability. If it is too hard to discern the lettering, elements are altered and another print is made. In some cases, when I'm designing a very large container, I will make a tiled print, tape the individual pieces together, hang it up and photograph it. I bring the photo into my editing program, crop and resize the image to fit on a standard sheet of paper and adjust perspective distortion. I then print the image and see how it reads.

On my **History** page I discuss my frustration with doing large pieces (and small ones as well if I'm going to be honest) and how, after many years, I solved the persistent problem.

Readability

As I mentioned above, I make prints to insure each letter can be discerned. The blend of graphics and lettering do make the containers more difficult to read. That is by design. I want the audience to have to put some effort in discovering what's contained in a Trithemian Web™.

On the following pages are two containers that feature different blending techniques. They are both readable. Print each one and see if you can identify each letter. The lettering is slightly different in each container.

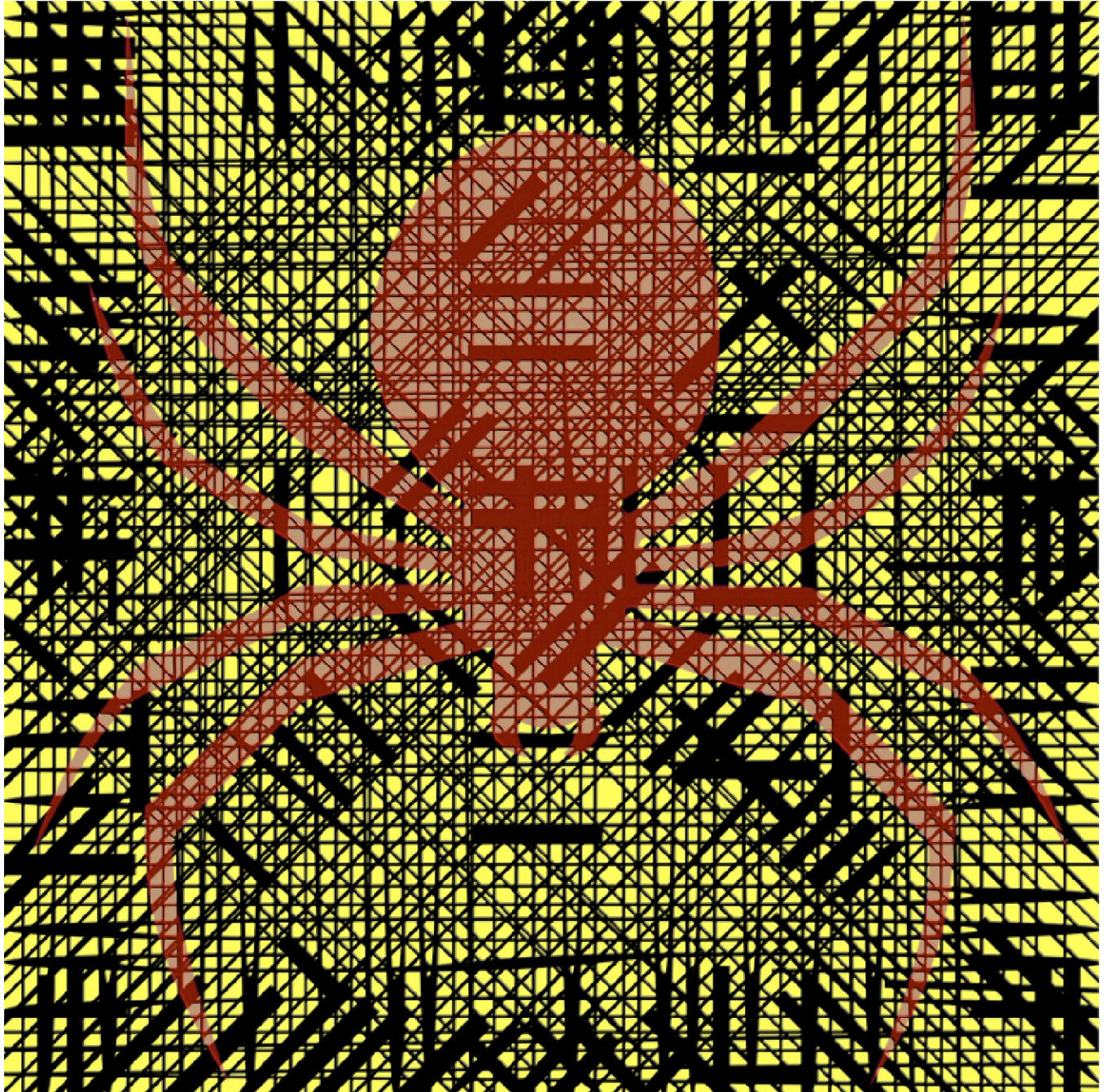
Important Note! Since designing the following pieces I have redesigned the alphabet and punctuation. The graphics are now composed of lines **only** - no fills. This makes the overlays look more like spider webs.

Update-10/23/2021: I am going to introduce a technique I developed when I created my Black Magic cube back in 1980. I recently completed experiments to see if it worked using electronic media. It did! I have made every effort to explain the methods to discern and read my elongated, linear graphics enabling anyone to decipher my cryptograms. However, my upcoming **Black Magic** cryptogram will use a discovery technique that I will not divulge in these instructions. It's simple. And it will work with other selected digital Trithemian Web™ productions. You will have to figure that one out.

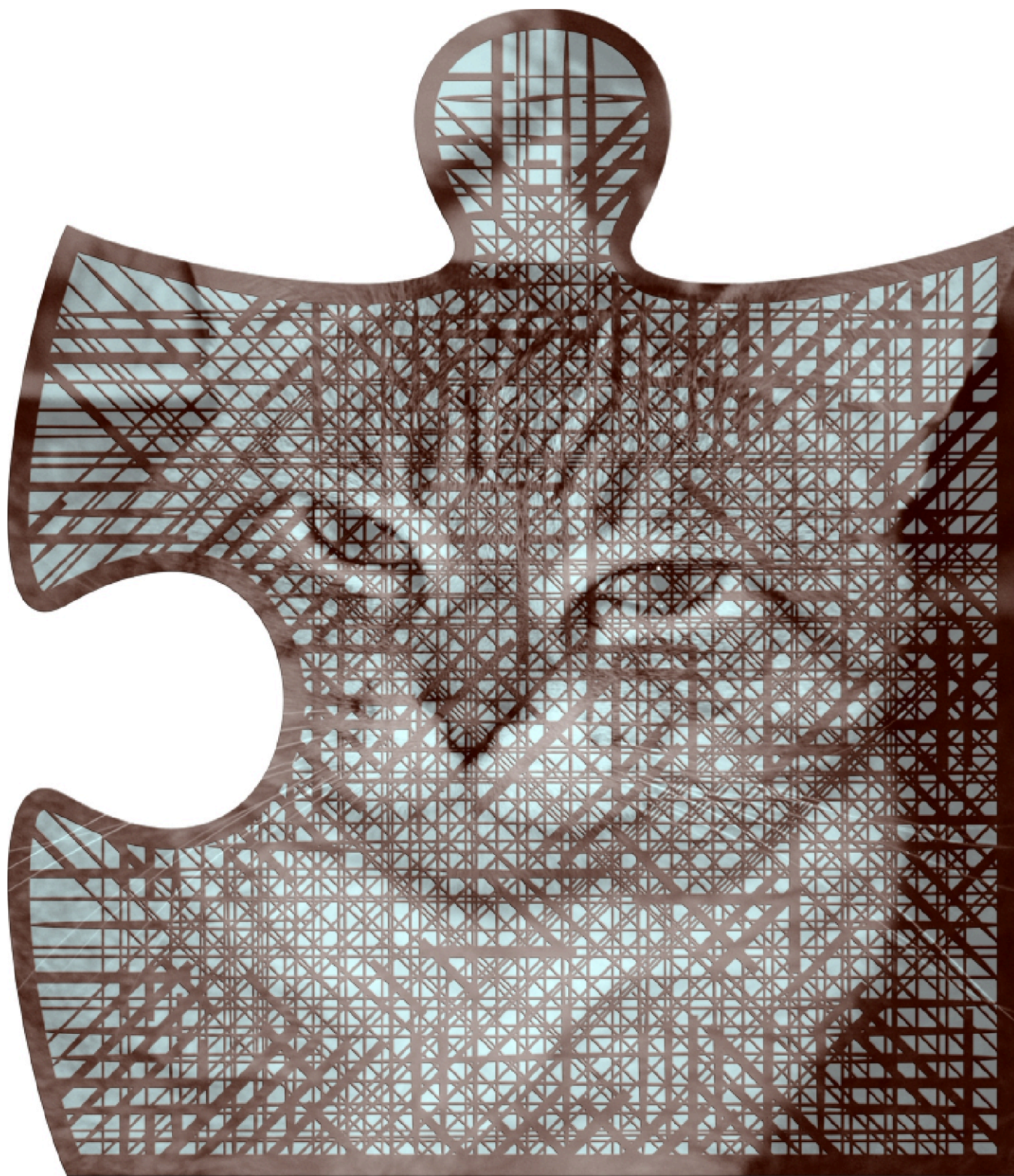
Your Valuable Time

You have taken your valuable time to decipher the body text and discover the name of the piece. Why share that with anyone? Let them invest the time just as you did.

These two graphics feature an older, elongated alphabet that uses fills. As mentioned earlier, my new alphabet uses only lines. You still should be able to read these examples with no problem.

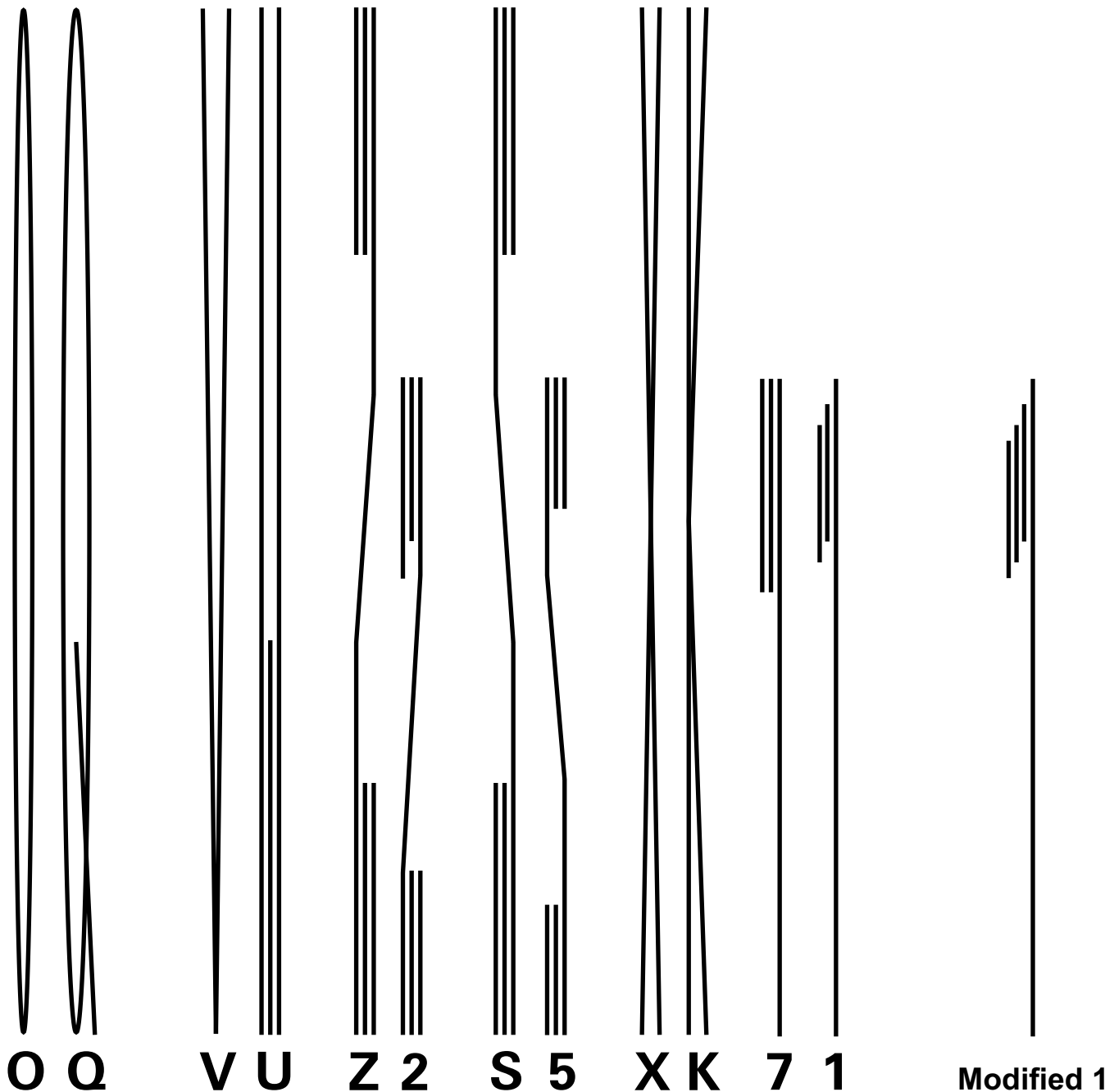


This piece is more difficult to read due to the lack of contrast between the letters and the graphic. However, it is still readable. When you read it, you will discover the letter 'Z' in a few places. I inserted that letter in place of punctuation as an experiment.



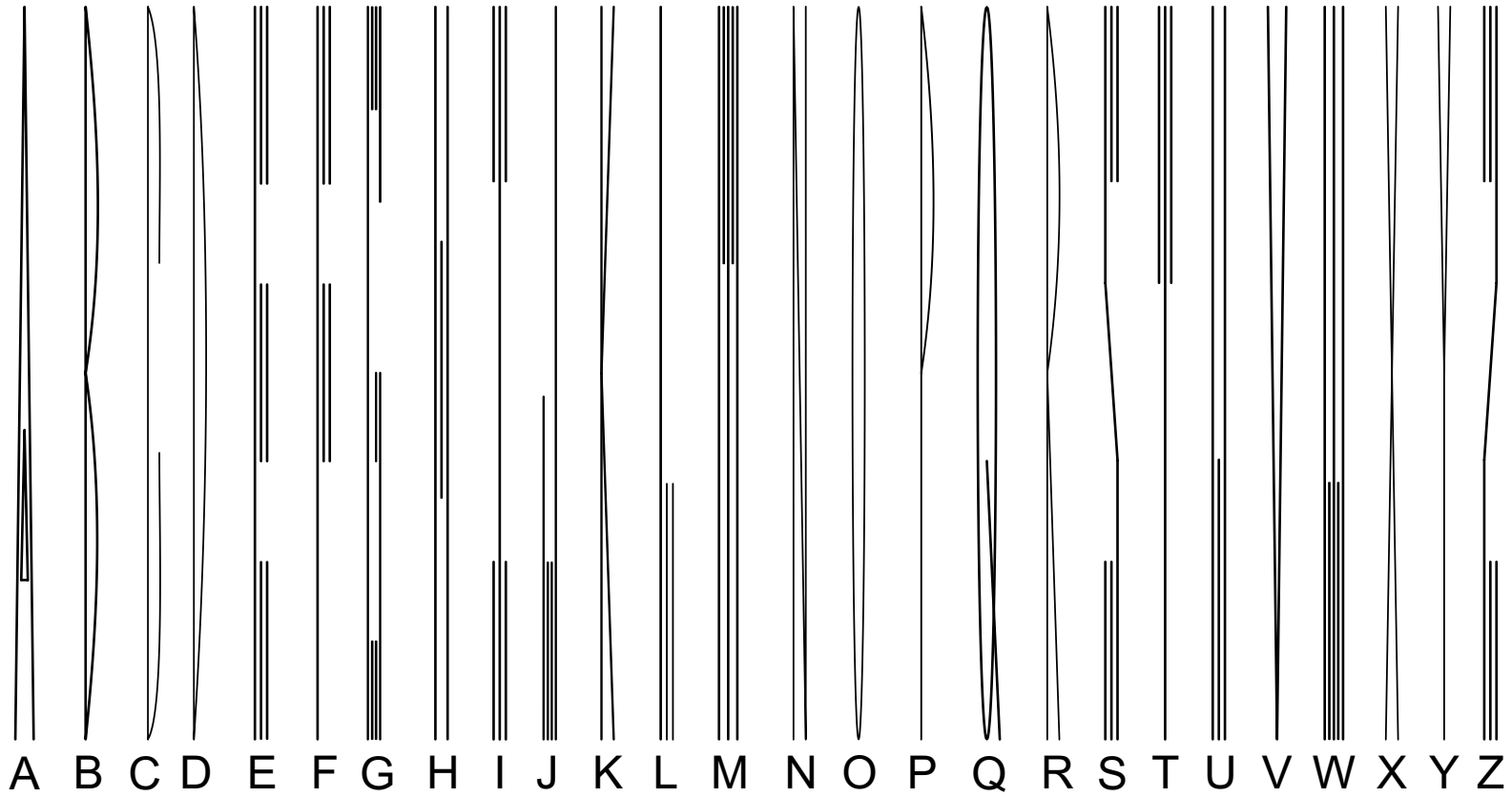
Important Consideration

When you start reading the code letters in a Trithemian composition, several of the elongated letters can be misinterpreted. Below are examples to be aware of. When I use numbers in a composition I make them shorter than the letters. That makes them easier to distinguish. Print this page and sight these letters and numbers so you will be cognizant of the similarities. The full alphabet follows. **Be very careful** not to miss punctuation marks when deciphering. One miss and your entire Ciphertext Sheet will be thrown off.

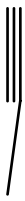



















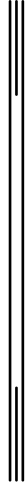
Note: Trithemian Web 1 and Trithemian Web 2 both use the number 1 and 7 with three lines at the top. The lines on the 7 are straight across. The 1 has the lines offset. You have to be very careful not to mix them up. I have since modified the number 1 with an extra line at the top. This will help better distinguish the 7 from the 1.

The Alphabet



Punctuation & Numbers

								
Apostrophe	Period	Comma	Colon	Dash	Semi-colon	Question	Blank Space	Exclamation Point

									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

When blank spaces are indicated, it means that plaintext letters go in those spaces. Those letters will be the answer to a preceding question. Simply fill in the answer to the question on your ciphertext sheet.