



THE 1997 RSA DATA SECURITY CONFERENCE

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

GENERAL SESSION

Cryptography in the Twentieth Century

Speaker

David Kahn

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Presentation Overview: David Kahn is the author of *The Codebreakers: The Comprehensive History of Secret Communication from Ancient Times to the Internet*, published by Scribner, 1996. First published in 1967, it stands as the definitive work on the history and science of cryptology. Now, revised and updated, with a new final chapter that brings this comprehensive study into the computer era, *The Codebreakers* takes us behind the closed doors of cryptology's ancient secrets. From Druidic runes to the Kaballah, from the Gallic Wars to the Persian Gulf, from the XYZ Affair to the Dreyfus Affair, codebreaking has shaped the course of human events and touched everyone.

Speaker Background: David Kahn is best known as the author of *The Codebreakers*, which, after being continuously in print (though sometimes out of stock) since its publication in 1967, has just been issued in a second, updated edition. The new edition includes events in cryptology in the past 30 years, such as the Ultra revelations about the Allied solution of the German ciphers in World War II, the invention of public-key cryptology, and the impact of such computer communications as the Internet. Mr. Kahn, who holds a Ph.D. in modern history from Oxford, is also the author of numerous magazine and encyclopedia articles and books on German military intelligence in World War II and books on the contribution of British and American cryptanalysts to the defeat of U-boats during the Battle of the Atlantic. A founding co-editor of the scholarly quarterly, *Cryptologia*, he often appears on television talking about cryptology. He lives in Great Neck, New York.

PRESENTATION