

21 April 1955

Mr. Henry E. Langen  
14 Mill Road  
Maple Shade, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Langen:

I want to thank you for your very nice letter of 18 April with your congratulations about our winning the Folger Shakespeare Library prize. The manuscript is in the hands of a prospective publisher at the moment and it may be a little while before any announcement about publication will be made. We have, however, every hope that it will be published sometime during this year.

I had received your letter of 20 March and there are several reasons for the delay in commenting thereon. First of all, your letter arrived while I was still in Europe on a few weeks official business and of course it had to wait a little on that account. Next, as soon as I returned I instituted a query to see what happened and before I got the report on that I was taken down with a heart attack and am presently in the hospital where they say they are going to keep me for a little while longer. At any rate, I got the report today and the difficulty seems to be that while on the one hand they didn't appear to need people with your specialized vocational experience and background; on the other hand you failed to indicate on your application blank anything about your experience as editor of THE CRYPTOGRAM, which I take it is still the official journal of the American Cryptogram Association.

What it boils down to is this, if you want to change your vocation to something having to do with the cryptographic business, you would have to be prepared to start at a more modest salary than was indicated in this application as a minimum, namely \$5,060. I don't think we could start you off at anything like that without either much more actual experience in the business or with an advanced degree at some good university. I know you will be glad that I am being frank about this as I don't believe in beating around the bush. If this interests you at all, I could find out what the maximum entrance salary would be in your case.

Thanking you again for your congratulations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN