

VF 109-4

1114 New York Ave.  
Brooklyn 3, N.Y.  
March 7, 1954

told you that I have an...  
was is incomparably...  
Mr. Howard N. Smith  
41 Roosevelt Circle  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter with enclosed copies of contract you propose. Let me say at once that so far as the contract is concerned I do not see any reason why we should not be able to consummate the deal on substantially the terms you suggest.

And I want to emphasize that in asking whether you or Mr. Lewis, or both of you, would be able to come east in the near future, I was not motivated by a desire to "make possible a further evaluation" of you and your abilities. In regard to these points I can say unequivocally that I am completely satisfied.

Your letters alone are a hallmark of your ability. They are written excellently; and I compliment you on this. My reason for wanting to get in personal touch with you is because I feel it to be necessary if we are to get about the promotion of my Chaocipher most expeditiously. And, in this connection, let me say that although my son Jack may have opined, as you report, that he is thoroughly convinced he is in a position to give you a complete demonstration of the Chaocipher system and its product, he is not in such a position. Indeed, I have reminded him in a recent letter that, first, he has no model; and, second, that even if I myself were out there with my model, I would be absolutely unable to decipher one word of the Chaocipher script as printed in my book, unless I were able to refer to my own notes.

In your latest letter you say, "It must be remembered that we will not be in a position to discuss the Chaocipher in detail with a prospective purchaser until a good deal of work has been done over perhaps the best part of a year." In saying this, I believe you are far less optimistic than you would be if you were intimate with the facts. And let me add here, too, that while some of the possible contacts you have mentioned - such as the Remington Rand - might easily be receptive (perhaps the more so because General MacArthur is now, at least nominally, Chairman of their Board), I think that the first and quickest market would be in the toy field (Just think of what has happened in the sales development of the game of Scrabble) and, afterwards, some one or other of the business production manufacturers would be glad to get on the bandwagon of Chaocipher for business and other fields.

You can see more clearly now why I feel we should get together. And I aim to do this if possible - and as soon as possible. There are, however, two problems involved in my purpose to do this: One is my financing of my trip out west, and another is the present state of my physical condition. I do not know whether Jack has

told you that I have an aneurism of the descending aorta; and, what is incomparably more troublesome from the point of view of continuous pain, that I suffer from a spastic intestinal condition. My doctor advises me not to travel at this time, but I shall not heed his advice should the first problem be resolved. In fact, in this contingency, I intend to make the trip within the next couple of weeks - but not alone, of course.

In a recent letter to Jack I suggested to him to ask you to read carefully the chapter on Chaocipher in my book and to ask me any questions that might strike you on this chapter. Perhaps he may have overlooked doing this, but I am doing so now; and I want you to read especially the last paragraph on page 270 which continues on page 271; also that part of the third paragraph on page 276 beginning with the words "and I entertained the erroneous belief," and also the second paragraph on page 282.

As to your question about my present contacts, I have none, nor have I tried to get any. I did write to General MacArthur about two years ago, and I received a reply about a month later from his then secretary, Colonel Bunker. General MacArthur was not yet at that time officially connected with Remington Rand; and Bunker admitted to me - whether truly or not - that my letter to MacArthur had never got to him personally.

One further remark I make now about my Chaocipher: It is my categorical claim that, insofar as any script written in my Chaocipher system is concerned, the science of cryptanalysis is forever dead.

And, by the way, though it is a trivial matter, I would want the word you spell as "Chaocypher" changed to "Chaocipher". That is the way it is written in my book; and on that, with all the rest of the book, I have a copyright.

I should be very glad to have a reply just as soon as you can.

And please show this whole letter to Mr. Lewis; and explain to him that it is really addressed to him as well as to you.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jack.

Very cordially yours,

J.F. Byrne