

310 Second Street, S.E.
Washington 3, D. C.

27 October 1954

Mr. John V. Dodge
Managing Editor
Encyclopaedia Britannica
425 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Dodge:

Enclosed herewith is a proposed revision of my article CODES AND CIPHERS, prepared at the request of Mr. Yust, in his letter to me dated 29 June 1954. The original requirement for a revision comprising 4,000 words was modified by subsequent correspondence (specifically by Mr. Stewart's letters of 25 August and 10 September 1954) to permit expanding the revision to 6,000 words. This was done so as to include certain data now covered in the article CRYPTOGRAPHY, which was then to be eliminated in a forthcoming printing of the volume in which that article now appears.

That my revision goes well beyond the 6,000-word limit set by you is rather obvious. I could, of course, compress the revision to keep it within the indicated limit; indeed, I would have done so without writing you except for one fact: the original article CODES AND CIPHERS, which according to your count comprises 4,000 words, actually contains very close to 6,800 words. I hope you will bear with me in order to go into some details.

In the paste-up sent me of the present article CODES AND CIPHERS, there is at the bottom of the first sheet a notation which was made by somebody in your organization. The notation says "625 lines," and I presume that is the Britannica's own count. A total of 625 lines corresponds to an article of a length of approximately 6,250 words. I have myself counted the number of lines and find that the article actually comprises 678 lines, which corresponds to a length of about 6,780 words. The revision of the original article CODES AND CIPHERS (less bibliography) occupies 13½ pages of the enclosed write-up typed upon copy-fitting paper; since this is equivalent to about 6,750 words, you will see that my revision of the CODES AND CIPHERS article is just about the same length as the original. The present article CRYPTOGRAPHY comes to a total of about 1,300 words; my revision of that article comes to a total of about 2,500 words, an increase of 1,200. The bibliography in CODES AND CIPHERS as it now appears comes to about 310 words; the revised bibliography comes to about 160 words, a reduction of 150 words. All in all, therefore, the revised article as it now stands, if accepted, would occupy the amount of space occupied by the present two separate articles, CODES AND CIPHERS and CRYPTOGRAPHY plus about 1050 words, or 105 lines.

I presume you usually have difficulties with most of your contributors in regard to their natural tendency to exceed the length limits imposed, so please do not hesitate to return the enclosed write-up in case you feel that you must insist on its not exceeding an actual length of 6,000 words. I can of course cut it, but I do not want to perform such a severe operation unless it is absolutely essential. I can cut it only to the extent of the 1,050 or 1,100 words in excess of the combined length of the present articles CODES AND CIPHERS and CRYPTOGRAPHY, if you feel it must be cut to that extent; this I would do largely in the section on history, even though this would be most regretful, because, as you will note, there does not exist in a modern book in English any authentic history whatever of the subject. There is one book which does contain some history, but it has numerous errors and I would dislike very much to have to refer the reader to it.

I wish to add to the foregoing the statement that the entire revised article has been approved by the appropriate authorities having jurisdiction over security clearance in matters of the kind dealt with in the article. Any changes therein would presumably require a second go at the business of clearance, although I would not anticipate any difficulty therein, since the changes would all be in the nature of eliminating matter from the write-up, not adding thereto.

Finally, in connection with the matter of clearance, I have had also to clear with the authorities the biographical data to be given in the front of the volume. The cleared biographical data are contained in the sheet attached to this letter.

You will note that I have kept most of the original figures; in certain cases the figure number will have to be changed. I enclose also two new photographs from which cuts can no doubt be made by your artists for figures 9 and 12.

I am returning, as requested, the paste-up sent me.

In case you would like to have a verbatim copy of the write-up in a triple-space typescript rather than in the single-spaced copy-fitting form enclosed, I can furnish the former.

Hoping to hear from you promptly, I am,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incls:

1. Revision on copy-fitting paper
2. Paste-up of original article
3. Two photographs
4. Biographical data

Biographical note re author of
article CODES AND CIPHERS (CRYPTOLOGY)

William F. Friedman, B. S. 310 Second Street, S. E.,
Washington 3, D. C. Occupied officially with the
cryptologic work of the U. S. Government since 1916;
chief cryptologist of the U. S. War Department from
1921 to 1947; consulting cryptologist to Department
of Defense, 1947 --.