

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE	<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	<i>FBI</i>	DATE	COORDINATION
2	<i>OOT</i>		FILE
			INFORMATION
3	<i>Supervisor</i>		NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS			
<p><i>Can you supply any information on this character? She seems somewhat off the beam.</i></p> <p><i>Jewelry</i> <i>4 Apr 51</i></p> <p><i>FBI reports she is a radical correspondent. Frequently writes to FBI about imagined secret messages. Claimed as insurance.</i></p> <p><i>JW</i></p>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE	<i>OOB</i>	DATE	<i>18 Feb</i>
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	<i>AFSA</i>	TELEPHONE	

Approved for Release by NSA on 03-25-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

Burton, Ohio  
Feb. 22, 1951

William F. Friedman  
Civilian Personnel Division  
-Armed Forces Security Agency  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Within the past two weeks, I have had an exchange of correspondence with Miss Frieda L. Niemzyk, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during the course of which she asked me to send you her name and background in the hopes that she may be of some service to the AFSA in the future. Instead of trying to interpret her summary, I'll quote from her original communications:

"Cryptography has been my favorite hobby for more than 25 years. I have studied every text (in three languages) I could obtain, including more than your Association handles. My interests lie chiefly in the invention of new ciphers and cipher devices -- position ciphers and workable digraphic and trigraphic systems.

"Since before Pearl Harbor, I have filed the results of my research in cryptography with the FBI. My latest piece of work was sent to the Bureau on January 16, 1951. Naturally, I am not permitted to discuss the details of any cryptographic systems or devices filed with the FBI. Suffice it to say that in 1942 I was offered a position in the Technical Laboratory of the Bureau by Director John Edgar Hoover, although prior to that time I understand women were barred from scientific positions in the Laboratory. Unfortunately, I could not accept his offer because of heavy family responsibilities, and therefore cannot leave this city. However, I have continued to contribute work on a volunteer basis.

"I have seriously studied foreign languages from a cryptanalytic viewpoint, in quiet preparation for possible future service -- to the extent that after 9 years of study, I now read 14 European languages (besides English) sufficiently well to do cryptanalysis in them. Of these, I can get along in 6 without a dictionary constantly at my elbow. (In addition, I estimate I have a smattering of at least 300 words in each of 5 Asiatic languages, enough to give me an idea of what language I am dealing with in a cryptogram involving any of them.

"For several years I have been a member of the translating staff of the International Institute of Milwaukee County and have been told that I am their only translator of the various Dutch dialects, including Afrikaans.

"I have taught elementary cryptography to a very few, carefully screened persons. As I mentioned above, family conditions still prevent my leaving Milwaukee, but I could commute to nearby cities such as Chicago or Madison if necessary. I do not work on Saturdays or Sundays, and could take on a class or two very nicely -- if some way can be found to utilize my services."

(end of initial contact.

"In the last war, the University of Wisconsin at Madison held a communications school for Waves and other naval personnel. There is an extension division of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Marquette University, which has a strong ROTC program, is also located in this city.

"In Chicago, there are Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. The Great Lakes Naval Training Station and Fort Sheridan lie between Milwaukee and Chicago. And the cities of Milwaukee and Racine are being considered as possible homes for the proposed Air Force Academy.

"I would be interested in a full-time teaching position in the Air Force Academy, if either the Milwaukee or Racine location is decided upon!

"These are the foreign languages with which I am familiar; they are grouped in order of reading proficiency:

I. German  
Dutch  
Afrikaans

II. French  
Portuguese  
Danish  
Spanish

III. Swedish  
Norwegian  
Icelandic  
Italian

IV. Luxembourg  
Russian  
Roumanian

V. Turkish  
Malay  
Hindustani  
Arabic  
Chinese  
Japanese

(N.B. Of the languages in group V, I have only an estimated 300 to 500 words in each.)

"I was lucky enough to crack a Russian cipher communication in 1949 that announced the explosion of the first Russian A-bomb to agents in this country. And I'm not flattering myself that it was anything except pure luck. I was working on several innocent-appearing classified advertisements in newspapers that employed jargon code expressions. A certain jargon code expression (one of those which figured heavily in the letters introduced as evidence in the Canadian spy trials) caught my eye. But it was not until subsequent events made plain that the date and time referred to "en claire" in the ad corresponded to the time of explosion of the Russian bomb, that the rest of the message fell into place.

"Besides the jargon code, a cleverly worked out system of transposition by phonetic syllables (evidently according to a numerical key) was concealed in the ad. Placed in proper order and pronounced aloud, the syllables made very good sense in Russian, for they announced "An explosion - not dynamite!" Allowing for the difference in time between Siberia and America, date and time checked with the President's announcement of the Russian A-bomb explosion and seismographic evidence of an earth tremor.

"(Please do not mention the above unless to someone in the Armed Forces Security Agency).

.....

"Getting back to my offer to teach cryptography, I can make a reliable cipher clerk out of suitable students in 10 weeks, with only

2 hours of instruction per week. I am prepared to use any text, and would of course supplement the formal course with information gleaned the hard way by me over many years.

"I also have definite ideas about preparing students for work under battle conditions, which I think would interest Washington.

"A course in the basic principles of cryptanalysis would take an estimated minimum of 16 weeks longer. A student graduating from both courses would be a junior cryptanalyst, well-equipped to handle the routine procedures involved in a Black Chamber as the assistant of an expert analyst, but also capable of working on his own, if need be. He would lack only the 'sixth sense' and 'feel' for cryptanalysis that comes as a result of years of experience."

The above information is sent for what it is worth to you and your department, as it is seldom that we of the association run across someone with such a complete background as she says she possesses.

Sincerely, Yours,

  
William G. Bryan

# MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR REPLYALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1	NAME OR TITLE <b>OOB</b>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE <b>3/28</b>
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE	COORDINATION
2	<b>OOT</b> <i>gm</i>		FILE
	<i>gm</i>		INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

1. I think this NIEMZYK woman is somewhat "cracked" but it might be worthwhile asking Reynolds to give us a bit of info. Will you do so?

2. I propose to write to Bryan to say "Sorry, not interested." Do you agree?

FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>F</i>	DATE <b>26 Feb 51</b>
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <b>OOT</b>	TELEPHONE

424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington, Virginia  
9 June 1949

Mr. William G. Bryan  
Burton  
Ohio

Dear Mr. Bryan:

Thank you very much for your prompt reply of 6 June to my letter of 3 June. I am glad that you passed along the word about Donald Millikin to Parker Hitt. He is a grand old man and I hear from him occasionally.

I note what you say about disposing of extra items in my collection and as soon as I can get around to it I will send you a list. We moved recently and I had to rearrange my books and it is going to be a job to get order out of the chaos in which they are at present. Regarding the Parker Hitt Manual I realize that for the student the New York University Reprint is just as good as the original but I did think that there might be some among your associates who would be interested in an original edition. I guess you know that among collectors that sort of thing makes a big difference.

The chap who has been sending you the goofy letters is only one of hundreds and thousands who roam at will and write all sorts of things. If I were you I would not pay any attention to him and would do my best to drop the correspondence altogether. He is probably a harmless nut. If it bothers you at all, why don't you send the whole file to the FBI? I am unable to make anything out of his ramblings that you quote. The "cipher message" is just an accident and means nothing so far as I can see.

Who said I was on the retired list? Somebody must have given you some misinformation. I ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> away for awhile but am back now. I have been playing a lot of golf recently and find that it is good for me.

With cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. PURMAN

424 North George Mason Drive,  
Arlington 3, Virginia,  
1 March 1951.

Dear Mr. Bryan:

Thank you for your letter of 20 February, forwarding the letter from a Mr. Brighton P. Slutes. If you wish to answer his letter you could tell him that you are unable to throw any light on his inquiry but that he might get some help by writing to me, giving him my address. For your own information I'll say that his memory is playing some tricks on him - there isn't, to my knowledge, a book or article such as he describes in his 2d paragraph. But I'd not mind hearing from him - maybe I can learn something!

Your interest in forwarding the extracts from Miss NIEMZYK's letters to you is much appreciated but at the moment I'm inclined to think it wise not to accept her offer of assistance, for reasons which I think will be obvious to you. If she were able or willing to come to Washington, we might be interested, but I see no way of cooperating at a distance, as she proposes.

Thanking you again and with kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. William G. Bryan,  
Burton,  
Ohio.

Burton, Ohio  
February 20, 1951

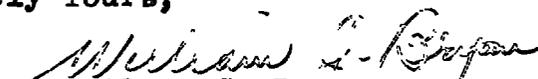
William F. Friedman  
424 North Mason Drive  
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

The enclosed letter which I received this morning, is self-explanatory; but I am sending it to you either for your file on this subject, or in the hopes that perhaps you can throw a bit of light on this chap's dilemma.

There are very few if any members of our association, who have delved into any sort of lore about the Baconian-Shakespeare theory, but the quotation embodied in this communication may be of interest to you, unless you are aware of the source already.

Sincerely Yours,

  
William G. Bryan

COPY

H. H. ROBERTSON CO.  
2036 East 22nd Street  
Cleveland 15, Ohio

February 19, 1951

Mr. William G. Bryan  
Burton, Ohio

Dear Mr. Bryan:

Mr. Calvin Cudney gave me your name in connection with the American Cryptogram Association, and I am writing you in the hope that you may be of some assistance in clearing up a matter that has been puzzling me for some years.

I served in the First World War and a few years after its termination I read a book or a magazine article written by the head of the War Department Office devoted to breaking the codes of the German spies who were operating in this country during the period of hostilities. I do not recall the author. The account covered surveillance of German spies in this country and Mexico. The author further stated that he made a trip to England during the progress of the War and called at the American Embassy. I believe that Walter Hines Page was then our Ambassador to England. The author asked the Ambassador for his copy of the American Code Book and he was shocked when the Ambassador told one of the British employees of the Embassy to go to the safe and bring him the Code Book.

During this visit to England, the author then recounts that he was invited to spend a weekend in the home of a Briton whose library contained a volume of Francis Bacon's coded diary. The host, knowing the writer's interest in codes, showed him the diary. The American leafed through the diary and broke down the code of the following: "Last night I completed another play and I must arrange for its delivery to Master Shakespeare." The American writer prefaced this quotation by stating substantially, "While I have no desire to become involved in the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy, I decoded a portion of the Bacon Diary and it read as follows." Then comes the quotation above.

I thought I had read this thing in a book by Yardley called The American Black Chamber. In carefully rereading this book of Yardley's I failed to find any reference to it. I have explored many sources to try to run down this article or book. I wrote to Francis Bolton and asked her to have one of her staff question the War Department about the matter and to see if there were any individuals still employed in the Code Department of the Government that were in this same department during the First World War, and who might know the individual that produced the article in question. I further asked the Historical Department of the Saturday Evening Post. I have combed through the Cleveland Library. I referred the matter to the Bobbs-Merrill Co. of Indianapolis, who were the publishers of Yardley's books.

My interest in trying to find someone who knows where I read this article stems from about three years ago, at which time I was introduced by correspondence to a Miss Pauling Holmes, who is an American and a member of the Baconian Society. I assumed, of course, that she was familiar with this article and asked her about it. Contrary to my expectations, she had never heard of this reference to Bacon as the author of the Works of Shakespeare, and she was greatly excited when I wrote her of the above incident. Miss Holmes has made some strong efforts to locate this quotation, but without success. It was only by happenstance that I learned of Calvin Cudney's activities during the second war and when I propounded the question to him he stated that you might well be acquainted with the article, or you would possibly know some veteran of the Coding Department of the Government who in turn would recall the name of a colleague who had written that which I read.

If you can be of any assistance, I shall be very grateful, indeed.

Yours very truly,

Brighton P. Slutes

*note: I don't have the faintest idea who this Mr. Calvin Cudney is, so please he gets into the picture.*

By  
M.