

## MEMO ROUTING SLIP

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

1	NAME OR TITLE <b>Colonel Pasolli</b>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <b>G-1, ASA, Arlington Hall Station</b>	DATE	COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

## REMARKS

Dear Col. Pasolli:

Herewith data in re Lieut. Col. Walker. I talked with him very recently, as you will note, but it was on another matter that he came to my home. The subject of active duty came up as a side issue, but he looks like a good candidate to me for some job in ASA or AFSA.

Approved for Release by NSA on 04-02-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526

FROM NAME OR TITLE <b>William F. Friedman</b>	DATE <b>7 Jan 52</b>
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <b>Consultant</b>	TELEPHONE <b>60493</b>

424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington 3, Virginia

7 January 1952

Lieut. Colonel Robert N. Walker  
5711 - 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington 11, D. C.

Dear Colonel Walker:

I am turning over to Colonel Pasolli, G-1, Army Security Agency, the data which you sent me under date of 29 December 1951, with the request that he look into the possibility of your being called to extended active duty. He will communicate directly with you.

If such duty is not feasible now, please advise me and I will then investigate the possibility of finding a suitable civilian vacancy in a grade that would meet with your requirements from a financial viewpoint. I might as well indicate right now, however, that such a vacancy is rather problematical at the present moment, especially in view of your understandable lack of technical experience in our field.

Reciprocating your kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

William F. Friedman

5711 - 16th Street NW  
Washington 11, D. C.  
29 december 1951

Colonel William F. Friedman  
424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington, Virginia

My dear Colonel Friedman,

Many thanks for your courtesy extended to me on  
Thursday evening in your home.

I am enclosing a brief biographical sketch and  
photograph for such use as you may care to make of same.  
I should be most pleased to receive active duty orders  
or to join you in a civilian capacity.

With best personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

/s/Robert N. Walker  
Robert N. Walker

**Name:** WALKER, ROBERT NEWTON

**ASN:** O-289588

**Born:** 2 November 1911, Johnstown, Pa., of pre-Revolutionary war ancestry

**Education:** Johnstown (Pa.) public schools and High School, 1929;

University of Virginia, B.S., 1933;

University of Pittsburgh, M. Ed., 1937;

University of Virginia, Ph.D., 1939;

Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth  
Kansas, 1941, G-2 Course (3 months);

Strategic Intelligence School, Wash., D.C., 1951 (3 months).

Teacher of Government, Johnstown High School, 1933-37;

Research Fellow, University of Virginia, 1937-39;

Asst. Prof., Wilson College, 1939-41;

Staff officer, Capt. to Major, Lt Col, U. S. Army Military  
Intelligence Division, 1941-45; Chief of "reconditioning  
Service, Valley Forge General Hospital, 1945-46;

Professor of Education and Psychology, State Teachers College,  
West Chester, Pa., 1946-51;

Research Analyst, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the  
Army, Washington, Sept., 1951-

Lt Col, Army Security Reserve, USAR, Jan., 1949-Dec. 6, 1951;  
transferred by own request to MSC-USAR on Dec. 6, 1951;

Top secret security clearance in effect now;

Fluent reading knowledge of French, German and Russian; fluent  
speaking knowledge of French;

Visiting lecturer in education and psychology, University of  
Maryland, Sept., 1951 (two classes during the year of  
1951-52).

**Address:** 5711 - 16th Street N.W.  
Washington 11, D. C.

**Office phone:** LIBerty 5-6700  
Ext. 66668

**Permanent address:**  
616 West Chestnut Street  
West Chester, Pa.  
Phone 3261-W

424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington 3, Virginia  
18 May 1951

Lt. Col. Robert N. Walker  
State Teachers College  
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Dear Colonel Walker:

Thank you for the notification that the Baconian printings with the lenses arrived safely.

With reference to your expected tour of duty in Washington, I shall be glad to see you at my home sometime during that period, and to go over with you the material which you wish to bring. My home phone is GL(EEE) 8996, and in order that you may not make the trip to Arlington in vain, it would be well to call and make a definite arrangement for an evening which would be convenient. A mutual interest in the early writings of Bacon and in Baconiana in general may make a chat both of interest and value.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman



REF ID:A69841  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

14 May 1951

Col. William F. Friedman  
424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington 3, Virginia

My dear Colonel Friedman,

Thank you most kindly for your efforts in connection with the analysis of the Baconian printings recently in your hands and now safely returned to us.

I shall be in Washington attending the Strategic Intelligence School from 25 May to 18 August, as Lt Col, AS-USAR. I am reluctant to ask any more time or effort on your part, but at the risk of being importunate I beg a moment more of your time: sitting beside you I am confident that I shall be able to hold the lenses at the exact level and places to bring out the cryptic writings which Mr. Reigle and I alledge are there. May I, therefore, call you by phone and call upon you at some time convenient during the evening for a brief moment? I shall be pleased to make your acquaintance; your fame has long been known to me.

Very sincerely yours,

*Robert V. Walker*

424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington 3, Virginia  
25 April 1951

Lt. Colonel Robert N. Walker  
State Teachers College  
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Dear Colonel Walker:

As promised in my letter of 4 April, I am returning herewith the material which you provided in regard to the microscopic writings in the works of Francis Bacon, with a statement of the results of my investigation and my comments thereon.

The documents submitted were examined by competent technicians using not only the lenses which you sent but also other means including low power microscopes and good lighting facilities. The instructions furnished by Mr. Riegle were followed very carefully, with the following results:

(1) With reference to the bottom line of page 27: The margins of pages 7, 25, and 27 were printed from the same plate and, with the exception of the density of inking, are identical. The division of the margin lines into two or three lines appears to be strictly accidental and due solely to the amount of ink and to fabrication imperfections in the device used to make up the margins.

(2) With reference to the large A in Atlantis, p. 25: The "characters" which appear in the large A in Atlantis at the top of page 25 are seen under the microscope to be due to surface imperfections in the paper and to poor inking which give the letter a blotchy rather than a solid structure. There are any number of other letters in the text, especially the larger capital letters, which are blotchy for the same reason.

(3) With reference to the Francis Bacon engraving: Nothing unusual was noted in the engraving.

(4) With reference to the lines seen in the paper when the "light shines faintly through it": No significance can be attached to the white lines seen in the paper by transmitted light, as these lines were formed by the screen used in the paper making process used in those days.

In general, I believe that the lenses which you have used have served to magnify the material only enough to spur the imagination but not enough to reveal the true nature of the "characters" which you have

located. Perhaps a higher magnification of the documents, using a low power microscope, will be of use to reveal to you the true nature of the "characters". The fact that in several other texts printed from 1629 to 1661 Mr. Riegler is able to see similar "cryptic writings" made "more or less legible" by magnification supports the supposition that the latter are not intentional but merely accidental marks which are the result of the then current, early or faulty printing processes, the nature of the paper, etc. Hence, seeing in these marks characters which are thought to be cryptic in nature can only be attributed to a subjective bias, arising from a subconscious wish to find things which are really not there.

Despite the negative report which the evidence, insofar as I can judge, forces me to render, may I say that enquiries of this nature are always of interest to me, and I appreciate your extending to me the opportunity to examine these pages. Please extend to Mr. Riegler my regret that I did not find evidence to support his theory, and accept for yourself my cordial greetings.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

AFSA-203/AHF/hjb  
10 April 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Friedman - AFSA-OOT

FROM: AFSA-203

SUBJECT: Document Examination

1. The documents submitted were examined by means of the accompanying lenses and, more closely, with a low power microscope. The instructions furnished by Mr. Riegler and Dr. Walker were followed very carefully with the following results:

a. The margins of pages 7, 25, and 27 were printed from the same plate and with the exception of the density of inking are identical. The division of the margin lines into two or three lines appears to be strictly accidental and due solely to the amount of ink and to fabrication imperfections in the device used to make up the margins.

b. The "characters" which appear in the large A in Atlantis at the top of page 25 are seen under the microscope to be due to surface imperfections in the paper and to poor inking which give the letter a blotchy rather than a solid texture. There are any number of other letters in the text, especially the larger capital letters, which are blotchy for the same reasons.

c. Nothing unusual was noted in the engraving of Bacon, which according to Mr. Riegler, is made up entirely of "characters."

d. No significance can be attached to the white lines seen in the paper by transmitted light, as these lines were formed by the screen used in the paper making process.

2. It is believed that the lenses used by Mr. Riegler and Dr. Walker serve to magnify the material only enough to spur the imagination but not enough to reveal the true nature of the "characters" that they have located.

3. It is recommended that Mr. Riegler and Dr. Walker try a higher magnification of the documents, perhaps using a low power microscope, to see if their "characters" still appear as before.

*A. H. Feeney*  
A. H. Feeney  
Head, AFSA-203

424 North George Mason Drive  
Arlington 3, Virginia  
4 April 1951

My dear Colonel Walker:

I am writing to assure you of the receipt in good condition of the box containing the clipped pages from Francis Bacon's works, the detailed directions, and the various lenses.

Again speaking frankly, I will say that a preliminary inspection of the material you have sent has not afforded me confirmation of the existence of microscopic writings which you and your colleague think are present in those works. I should be better satisfied if, within the description, you had included a brief statement of the form or pattern of the cryptic characters you see. However, in order to make a good test of your theory, I have asked the assistance of our laboratory, the facilities of which should be adequate for this purpose.

I shall forward to you within the near future the results of my investigation, and comments thereon which may be helpful. At that time I shall also return the material which you have provided.

Sincerely yours,

William F. Friedman

Lt. Col. Robert N. Walker  
State Teachers College  
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Note: Directions are filed with  
slides 37-38 of the  
Shakespearean group

State Teachers College  
West Chester, Penna.  
27 March 1951

My dear Colonel Friedman:

Your kind letter of 22 March 1951 on the subject of Mr. Riegle's discovery of microscopic writing and numbers in certain of Francis Bacon's works, has been received with appreciation. We are pleased that you have not "closed the door" on our "allegations".

Pursuant to your suggestion, we are enclosing herewith clipped pages and detailed directions for your perusal of these pages with the lenses provided.

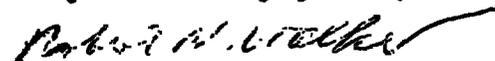
Mr. Riegle has written the directions. I have followed them this evening and see many microscopic writings. Especially in the blank areas above and below the bottom margin of page 30 do I see the writings, as I hold the lens about an inch from the page for my vision.

Mr. Riegle has seven texts of Bacon printed from 1629 to 1661, all of which reveal similar cryptic writing made more or less legible by magnification.

We do hope sincerely that you are able to see this writing. A very careful holding of the lens is required.

We shall await your findings with great interest. In the meantime, receive, Sir, our highest appreciation for your courtesy and interest in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Robert N. Walker, Ph.D  
Lt. Col., AS, USAR  
O-289588

Colonel William F. Friedman  
424 North George Mason Drive,  
Arlington 3, Virginia

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

My dear Colonel Walker:

Receipt of your letter of 19 March 1951 is acknowledged, and I will be frank in replying thereto.

Mr. Riegler's hypothesis that there is "cryptic writing in ultra-small characters" which he sees, and apparently you, too, see in "both printed and unprinted impressions" in the *Sylva Sylvarum*, meets with a rather lukewarm reception on my part, for I think there is little if any validity in the hypothesis. I do not mean to deny the existence of minute marks in the paper, but I do mean to question the validity of the hypothesis that those marks represent "cryptic writing".

However, I am reluctant to appear to have passed judgment on data I have not had opportunity to examine in detail, and since such a judgment would clearly be prejudicial and perhaps unwarranted, I will be glad to look into the matter, and to render assistance if I should find substance to the hypothesis.

Before making a trip to Washington, however, would it not be possible for you to send me some data, accompanied perhaps by photographs of pages of the books in question, or even one of the books, with instructions as to what to look for, the alleged significance thereof, etc.? I hesitate to advise you to spend the time and money to come to Washington, since it is possible that I should find from a preliminary examination that such a trip is unnecessary or undesirable.

Please rest assured that I will honor your request that this matter be kept confidential, and since it is of an extra-curricular nature, so far as concerns me, I will ask that you address your correspondence to my home, as indicated in this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Lt. Col. Robert N. Walker,  
State Teachers College,  
West Chester, Pennsylvania.

State Teachers College  
West Chester, Penna.  
March 19, 1951.

Colonel William F. Friedman  
Arlington Hall Station  
4000 Lee Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia.

My dear Colonel Friedman:

I am writing to request your interest and technical assistance on a matter of considerable literary importance requiring cryptographic analysis. This is not a "quack" letter, of the kind which I know you receive in abundance.

My good friend, Mr. Robert R. Riegler, of the English faculty of the West Chester, Pa., High School, has been attempting for a number of years to unlock the cryptic writing in ultra-small characters which he has discovered to exist in a number of original editions of Francis Bacon's works: specifically, the SYLVA SYLVARUM, 1635 edition. These characters exist in both printed and unprinted impressions which become visible with the aid of certain optical lenses.

Mr. Riegler has not been successful in devising a lens of the required refraction in order to read more than isolated words and numbers, of which both he and I are able to see many with his present imperfect lenses.

In the hope that through assistance of your laboratory facilities, or the facilities of the FBI, which would use the "know-how" of cryptic writing analysis at your disposal, I am writing on behalf of Mr. Riegler. I believe that by photographic enlargement and ultra-sensitive take-off, perhaps with use of color-filters,

Colonel W.F. Friedman

#2

March 19, 1951.

much of this presently hidden writing would become visible.

Mr. Riegle is convinced that the key to Bacon's philosophy will be revealed if this writing can be read. He also believes that a combination of lenses, or a peculiar grinding of one lens, is required to bring out the characters in full.

The value to the United States Armed Services from a discovery of Bacon's system of cryptic writing, should be some inducement to you too for assisting us in this matter. Bacon's system is not the biliteral cypher of Mrs. Gallup nor Donnelly's GREAT CRYPTOGRAM.

I am not in a position to know your present stress of official duties. Perhaps you are not interested in collaboration with us. However, should you care to see us, we should be happy to come to Washington at your convenience, and of course, with no obligation whatever on your part.

Because Mr. Riegle has invested considerable time and money in this investigation, I would appreciate greatly your keeping his research confidential until he has been able to safeguard his discovery by copyright. He now has a manuscript of a book in draft form on this subject.

with highest respect,

Very sincerely yours,

*Robert N. Walker*  
Robert N. Walker, Ph.D.  
Lt.Col.,AS,USAR  
O-289588

Walker  
R.N.