

September 5, 1935

Dr. Charles J. Mendelsohn,
University of Pennsylvania Club,
22 East 38th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mendelsohn:

I have been so busy that there has been no time to answer your last letter dated August 21, 1935.

I am heartily in accord with your idea of having real cryptographers listed in "American Men of Science". Let me know what you can do along that line. I am afraid that there will not be much point in trying to get a Cryptography Section established under the A.A.A.S. The fundamental principle in having sections of this kind is to afford the opportunity for personal meetings for the exchange of ideas and results. I am afraid that that would hardly do as regards official cryptographers.

With regard to your comments on the general solution for the ADFGVX Cipher, I am including a sheet of notes taking up the point you raised.

With regard to the misprints in Child's paper, I think there are several extenuating circumstances. As a matter of fact when we came to prepare the paper for publication, we found so many places where the sense was not clear, where poor expressions were used, and where the reasoning was somewhat faulty that we gave it up as a hopeless job and sent it through exactly as it was written. There was no time to make a complete revision which was really necessary. There is no question but that it was a very slipshod piece of work.

I do not care for the term "decrypt" any more than you do and never use it myself. It is taken from the French who are very fond of it.

I would like to read "Deep, Dark River", but have no time. I have been putting in many hours on the Maya stuff and am not getting anywhere fast. There is so much preliminary work to do before I can really start in to try to read it. Everybody