

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

11 December 1954

Mr. F. Ronald Mansbridge  
Manager  
Cambridge University Press  
32 East 57th Street  
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Mansbridge:

Reference is made to our exchange of letters in regard to a manuscript written in collaboration with Mrs. Friedman and dealing with certain cryptographic evidence often cited in connection with the question of authorship of the Shakespeare Plays. In your letter of 13 May 1953 you asked whether on completing the manuscript we would care to submit it to the Cambridge University Press. In my letter of 19 May 1953 I said that nothing would please us more than to do what you asked, and here it is.

I do not think the Editorial Board of the Cambridge University Press will have any difficulty in finding persons in Cambridge or in London who are quite competent to make a technical appraisal of the cryptologic aspects of our manuscript. For example, Denys Page, Regius Professor of Greek at Trinity College, who is a Syndic of the Cambridge University Press, had excellent wartime practical experience in cryptologic work; so also had Professor E.R. Vincent, of Corpus Christi College. They should be able to name several others who are also technically competent in the field and who might make themselves available.

Several items of information may be of interest.

First, I will mention an item perhaps already known to you, namely, that we have been asked and have agreed to enter our manuscript in the Folger Shakespeare Library competition for the \$1,000 prize being offered for the best book-length manuscript in a field of interest to the Library. The deadline for the contest was originally set as 1 October 1954 but it was recently retarded to 1 February 1955. In order to avoid all possibility of misunderstanding, our letter submitting the manuscript to the Folger will stipulate that our acceptance of any award or prize offered will be contingent upon our retention of full copyrights in the material submitted.

Second, you may like to know that since the manuscript deals with cryptology and since I am officially engaged in that field by the Department of Defense, I deemed it advisable to submit the manuscript to the appropriate authorities for security clearance and that the desired clearance was granted. Also, and because some work

was done for us by one of the skilled document examiners of the FBI Laboratory, the portion of the manuscript pertaining to this work was reviewed by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who approved of what we said about the FBI and its assistance to us.

Third, I wish to indicate that we realize that the manuscript is not as neat, clean, and editorially consistent as it might be, but we hope these shortcomings can readily be corrected. You probably know that most of the writing was done in our leisure hours at home, nights, week-ends and holidays, under the handicap of being engrossed in other affairs. Rather than further delay getting the manuscript to you and to avoid the trouble and expense of producing a completely fresh, retyped copy, we've used what we had, patching here and there, and making such corrections, additions, and deletions as were deemed necessary after a hasty perusal of the typescript. Some editorial work will obviously be needed if the work is acceptable otherwise.

Finally, there are probably portions of the text which are prolix and could be condensed, or possibly omitted. For instance, the analysis of Mrs. Gallup's work on Henry VII could be condensed or perhaps entirely omitted, with only some general conclusions retained. Also, we have a good many photographs and illustrations--perhaps too many--and some of these can be eliminated, if deemed advisable. Matters of the foregoing nature can, I imagine, be disposed of most readily by conference and therefore if you think it would be advisable for either or both of us to come to New York, this could certainly be done at your convenience.

I would be grateful for a prompt acknowledgment of receipt of this package, and, of course, it would be nice to hear from you soon as to your first impressions of our work.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incl:  
MSB