

2 April 1955

Major General Frank E. Stoner, USA, Rtd.
Varian Associates
611 Hansen Way
Palo Alto, California

Dear Frank:

I was highly pleased to have a telephone call from Colonel Brown and to have news about you and Mrs. Stoner, for I had been wondering about how you are and what you are now doing.

This letter will be but a brief acknowledgment of receipt of your letter and its inclosure dealing with a cryptographic system proposed by Mr. Howard N. Smith of your organization.

You flatter me by your characterization of my judgment in matters of this nature but I will be glad, of course, to give my own attention to Mr. Smith's proposal after a thorough study and an appraisal of it has been made by our very competent technical staff and certain other of my associates.

Just as soon as possible I will write you of the results of our study and I hope both Mr. Smith and you will not be too impatient. From your own experience of former days you certainly are well aware of the fact that proposals of this sort come to us in a steady stream from patriotic citizens and inventors who find this field fascinating. Unfortunately, because they do not have access to the extensive but usually classified literature that exists in this field, the chances of their inventing something really new and useful are rather small. Nevertheless, because there is always some chance of this, we try to look at each proposal in as objective a manner as possible, and this does take time.

Your letter finds both Mrs. Friedman and myself in good health. I have just returned from over a month's absence in Europe on official business, to find that a manuscript we wrote on Shakespeare-Bacon cryptography was awarded the \$1,000 Folger Shakespeare Library literary prize. We hope to see it published very soon.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN