Chaocipher-Related Material

From J. F. Byrne's

"Silent Years: An Autobiography with Memoirs of James Joyce and Our Ireland"

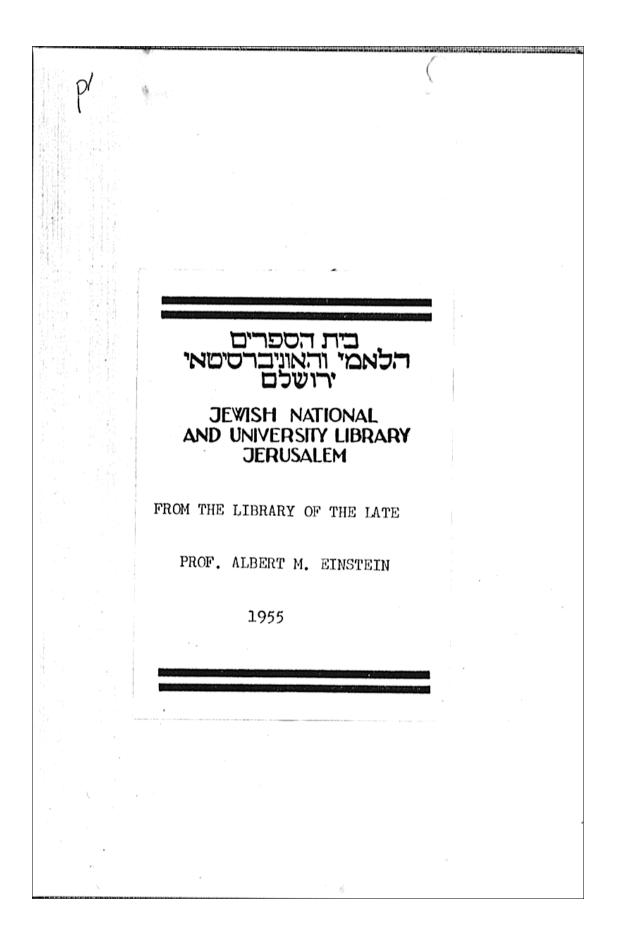
February 2009

This document contains Chaocipher-related material found in J. F. Byrne's autobiography "Silent Years: An Autobiography with Memoirs of James Joyce and Our Ireland", published in 1953.

Chapter 21 recapitulates the story of his cryptographic invention he called "Chaocipher". The chapter tells the history of his invention, his attempts to interest numerous organizations in the cipher, and concludes with 23 pages of corresponding plaintext and ciphertext enciphered using the Chaocipher system.

The chapter concludes by betting \$5,000 or the total royalties of the first three months after publication of the book that no one would be able to solve the enciphered passages at the end of the chapter.

This document was produced from Albert Einstein's personal copy of "Silent Years", (currently in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel) sent to him by the author himself. Notice the red markings Einstein penciled in regarding paragraphs that interested him (e.g., pages 264, 266, 267).



NEW SOLDEN W W146 . + 253. 16 line and a 1114 New York Ave. Brooklyn 3, N.Y. June 30, 1954 Dear Professor Einstein: Although I do not presume to hope that you will read this book, yet there are a few subjects in it, especially the chapter on Chaocipher, which might be of scientific interest to the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. Cordially, 7. Byme. J.F. Byrne

In melancholy mood I wandered forth Alone.

For I had left the fetich of life behind, And in the darkness stumbled wearily on, Going I knew not whither. Things I did That to myself seemed strange and meaningless, But still pursued my erring, lonely way. Much did I yearn to know-nor got reply. So, worse than sad, I felt that I had dreamed, Was dreaming, and would dream till the end of all— If end there be. Just then I sat me down awhile to rest; And with my heavy eyes I vainly sought A refuge from the gloom, but all was dark. Despairingly I turned and looked behind, The way that I had come, and there beheld A bower illumined with soft, rosy light. Instinctively I knew it was the home Of living love; and thither I resolved To wend my way. Whilst thinking thus I heard the heart-born sigh Of one approaching slowly through the night, Seeking, like me, the distant bower of love. Weary she was; so having come quite near, She sat beside me, and in sympathy I took her hand, but spoke not any word, For ours was sorrow kindred. She but came Nearer to me, until with joy I felt Her loosened tresses fluttering at my cheek-Then did I boldly take YOU in my arms, And kiss your yielding lips; whereat behold, WE stood illumined in soft rosy light!

Wonderingly we saw, till that we gazed Each in the other's eyes; then we both knew That HERE was LOVE.

J. F. Byrne

Written August 1898 after visiting Lugnaquilla and Vinegar Hill

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CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Chaocipher

I A PRECEDING chapter I have referred to Rutherford's achievement in 1919 of splitting an atom for the first time. In the preceding year, 1918, I had discovered a method of doing something to the written word, in any language, which affected that written word so as to result in its chaotic disruption. In two respects my method for achieving the complete annihilation of order and design in written language is more noteworthy than the method for the disruption of the atom. First, because my method for splitting the word is so simple that it could be performed by any normal ten-year-old school child, and second, because, unlike any other process of explosion or disruption, my method of disrupting the written words is identical and simultaneous with the complete restoration of order and design in the same written words.

Down through the ages, it has been the aim and desire of human beings to be able, on occasion, to write their thoughts in such a way as to be wholly unintelligible to anyone except the person or persons to whom these thoughts were intended to be exclusively addressed. Of course, I could remark here with more truth than flippancy that a great many writers have found no difficulty in presenting their "thoughts" in gobbledegook language which nobody at all can understand, but with that kind of thing I am not concerned.

While it has always been the aim and the hope of many to be able at times to express themselves in indecipherable script, the inherent difficulty of doing just that had never yet been overcome; and, indeed, the impossibility of doing it has been universally declared by all students of the subject.

Edgar Allan Poe was a most ardent and, to take him at his own word, a very capable cryptanalyst, and in two of his works he gives utterance to his conviction that all cipher is decipherable. In his well-known story "The Gold Bug" he states, "it may well be doubted whether human ingenuity can construct an enigma of the kind which human ingenuity may not, by proper application, resolve" and in his less known essay on "Cryptography" he declares, "It may be roundly asserted that human ingenuity cannot concoct a cipher which human ingenuity cannot resolve"; and in this same essay he goes on to say that "The reader should bear in mind that the basis of the whole art of solution, as far as regards these matters, is found in the general principles of the formation of language itself, and thus is altogether independent of the particular laws which govern any cipher, or the construc-1. 10 402 tion of its key."

My reason for quoting Poe here in this way is because of all the writers on the subject, he has expressed himself the most succinctly. So far as the accuracy of his observations is concerned I will only remark that Poe was far less cautious than he should have been when he uttered that dictum beginning with, "It may be roundly asserted . . ."

When I discovered my method for the utter disruption of the written word, or, to express this differently, my method for writing a cipher which would, in fact, be absolutely indecipherable, I discovered something which was just as accessible to Poe as it was to me. The ancient Egyptians and Babylonians could have been completely familiar with the principle, a fact which is readily deducible from a treatise on mathematics written by Hero of Alexandria in the second century B.C. The point I am making is that during the past two thousand years and more anyone could have had access to my method for the chaotification of language. The first device, or machine, which I constructed, solely for the purpose of demonstrating a principle, was a little model, constructed in an empty cigar box which, when full, had contained fifty small Havana cigars. I made this model myself, and to say that it was a crude affair would be only to describe it こうし ロコート とうない ほんのみ 毛織物 accurately.

Let me state simply what I claim to have accomplished in this connection: First, I formulated a principle for the development of a cipher which would be materially and mathematically in-

decipherable, and, second, I built the little model, of which I have spoken, for the purpose of demonstrating this principle, With these two things, my device and my principle, any person, anywhere, writing any language, could by applying my principle and using my device transcribe his written words into a script which would be absolutely indecipherable by anyone except the persons for whom the message is intended; and be it remembered that while possession of my device together with knowledge of my principle, would enable any person to write a script which would be absolutely indecipherable by anyone except the person or persons for and to whom the script was written and addressed, yet possession of my device together with knowledge of the general principle involved, would not enable any person to decipher any messages whatever written by anyone else and not intended for him.

In all my efforts to locate backing for my idea and device, I have found it practically impossible to make people understand exactly the import of what I have just written in the preceding paragraph. For this reason, I repeat, that if every person on earth were in possession of my device and applied my principle, he or she could encipher a message, in any language, and this message would be absolutely indecipherable by anyone except the person for whom it was intended. Moreover, if every person on earth were to encipher the same message, say for instance, this paragraph of which this sentence is a part, no two of the resultant encipherments would be alike.

In June, 1919, I went to Washington to consult with the then famous attorney, Marcellus Bailey, with whom I had arranged an appointment. When I arrived at his office I was informed that he was at home ill, but that he would see me there. At his almost palatial residence I was ushered into the aged attorney's bedroom, and there, sitting on the side of his bed, I demonstrated my principle on my little cigar box device. Marcellus appeared intensely interested during my full three-hour demonstration and at the end of that time he said, "Well, Mr. Byrne, you certainly have succeeded in scrambling your eggs; but my advice to you now is not to enter the patent office with that little device, for, after all, it is scarcely more than a toy. When you go into the patent office, go into it with your better foot foremost. You say you intend to collaborate with an expert draftsman in producing

the blueprints of a readily operable machine, and my professional opinion is that you ought to wait until you have your blueprints ready."

It was only comparatively recently that I realized how I missed my cue at that interview with Marcellus Bailey. He had told me that my little device was "scarcely more than a toy"—and what I should have done was to enter it in the patent office as just that; for in this way the device would have come into general use, and its ability in enabling anyone to write an indecipherable cipher would have soon become a universally recognized fact.

But what I did then was to spend six months working with a first-rate draftsman, and at the end of this time I wrote to Marcellus Bailey who replied to me in part as follows:

Marcellus Bailey, Attorney at Law & Solicitor of Patents, Washington, D.C.

501 F Street, N.W.

January 24, 1920

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My dear Mr. Byrne:—

I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th instant and I congratulate you on having at last the finished drawings of the Cipher Machine developed from the device which you exhibited to me on June 10 last. It must have been some job . . ."

Marcellus had more to say in his letter, but the point he evidently desired most to emphasize at that time was in going on record as to the exact date upon which I exhibited my device to him.

I then approached several machine makers asking for an estimate of the cost of making my machine, and from not one of them could I get anything approaching a firm bid, everyone of them was vague, and the best I could get by way of an estimate was that it would not be less than \$5,000 and might run to \$20,000 or more; so my blueprints are still gradually returning into the dust which is the ultimate destination of all things, including ourselves.

It would be impracticable and fruitless here to give a detailed account of my experiences in connection with my efforts trying to

"put across" my cipher idea, efforts which entailed my expenditure of thousands of dollars and countless unrewarded days of time. So I shall do no more than tell briefly, and with occasionally necessary reserve, a few of the outstanding facts and incidents.

But before proceeding further with my story, let me make it clear that my discovery was not fortuitous. During many years previous to it, I had often questioned casually the accuracy of the universal consensus regarding the impossibility of constructing an indecipherable cipher; but it was not until the autumn of 1918 that I gave serious thought to the subject. Reading at that time a detective story in a well-known magazine, I came to a reference to a cipher message which the detective hero had little difficulty in deciphering because, as he was made to comment laconically, "all such communications yield to methodic and scientific analysis"—instantly I felt, as it were, my mind bristling, and I asked myself the question: Is it really a fact that all ciphers must yield to methodic and scientific analysis? The expert cryptanalyst's answer to this question is a categorical "Yes"; and he bases his "Yes" as Poe did, on "the general principles of the formation of language itself."

In his essay on "Cryptography" Poe states that some months previously he had "ventured to assert" that he would be able to resolve any cipher "of the character specified." This challenge, Poe asserts, resulted in letters being "poured in" on him "from all parts of the country"; and he continues: "Out of, perhaps, one hundred ciphers altogether received, there was only one which we did not immediately succeed in resolving. This one we *demonstrated* [italics are Poe's] to be an imposition—that is to say, we fully proved it a jargon of random characters, having no meaning whatever."

The foregoing statement by Poe is one of the most surprising and self-revealing declarations ever uttered by anyone; and it also furnishes a most beautiful example of a "non sequitur." Poe says he "fully proved" the submitted "cipher" to be "a jargon of random characters." This, of course, I admit Poe could prove to his heart's content, but why, I ask, why in the name of common sense did he go on to assume from the fact that it was "a jargon of random characters," that it had "no meaning whatever"?

I grant freely that Poe was almost certainly correct in saying

that the "cipher" he was referring to had "no meaning whatever." The important point here, however, is that Poe did not perceive the non sequitur of his deduction—that he did not perceive that if "human ingenuity" were to aim at concocting a cipher which "human ingenuity" would not be able to resolve, that cipher would have to be "a jargon of random characters."

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Almost twenty years ago a pretentious book written by one Herbert Yardley, and bearing the title of The American Black Chamber, achieved considerable popularity and notoriety. In this book there is a chapter devoted to "A Word with the State Department" and in this chapter the author refers to the actual, or potential, existence of an indecipherable cipher which is such because the cipher has no repetitions to conceal. And then the author proceeds to ramble incoherently about the pride he would feel if he were able to give to the United States an impenetrable and permanent cipher which would preserve its secrecy forever. Just what Mr. Yardley was trying to say in this chapter remains obscure, but it is a fact that years before it was written I had given a demonstration to the War Department in Washington of my first crude cipher machine. The persons to whom I demonstrated my "machine" were Major Frank Moorman, of the General Staff, referred to in Chapter XI of Yardley's book, and Mr. W. F. Friedman, cryptanalyst; and this demonstration was given by me in July 1922, some nine years before Yardley's American Black Chamber was published. and alight

It is interesting to note that in his book Yardley displays the same ignorance that Poe did—and that everyone else does—regarding the essential character of an indecipherable cipher; for, in reference to a demand made on him by Colonel Van Deman for the decipherment of a certain message, Yardley told the Colonel that he had worked on the message all night, and, basing his opinion on "Scientific Analysis," declared the document was not a cipher but a fraud and a fake, put together by someone who had picked out a jumble of letters on a typewriter.

Let us consider here what kind of cipher script could properly be described as a jargon of random characters. Suppose you were to get a revolving drum and put into it twenty-six marbles, similar in size and weight, but each one designating a different letter of the alphabet; and then suppose you were to dictate, letter by letter, a piece containing, say, one thousand words to someone who would take at random a marble out of the drum each time you called out a letter, and then replace that marble in the revolving drum before the next draw; and all the while write down every letter in the sequence as they were fortuitously drawn from the drum—what would the resultant script written by this haphazard method be like? Would it not best be described as a "jargon of random characters"? Yes, it would. But does it necessarily follow that this "jargon of random characters" has "no meaning whatever"? No, it does not.

If it be agreed that this script, resulting from the casual drawing of a marble from a rotating drum for each letter in a piece of plain text containing one thousand words, could best be described as a "jargon of random characters," may we not ask how the script, resulting from the casual drawing of marbles from a rotating drum for every letter in a piece of plain text containing one million words, or one quintillion words—or, indeed words ad infinitum—could best be described? Is it not obvious that this resultant script would continue to be—ad infinitum—a "jargon of random characters"?

It should be obvious to anyone, as it should have been clear to Major Yardley, that the only cipher which would be materially and mathematically indecipherable is one which would present no feature other than that of having been drawn inconsequentially from a rotating drum, or pecked haphazardly on a typewriter—a cipher which would be devoid of discernible order, or design, a cipher which would, in actual fact, possess no order or design, a cipher which could only be adequately described as "a jargon of random characters."

When I first set out to discover a system for concocting an indecipherable cipher, I had it clearly in mind that such a system would and should be universally available. I had no thought of devising a system which would be available, say, for the War Department, or for the Navy, or for the State Department. What I had in mind, I repeat, was a system available for everybody; and I fully believed—and am convinced—that the really big market for my system would be in the commercial, general correspondence, and literary fields. I aimed at supplying for one and all a method and a means for conveying his or her thoughts in such

a way that he or she could be absolutely assured that only the intended recipient would be able to read them. I envisioned, for instance, the utilization of my method and machine by business men for business communications, and by brotherhoods and social and religious institutions. I believe that my method and machine would be an invaluable asset to big religious institutions as for example the Catholic Church with its world-wide ramifications. I had, and still have in mind the universal use of my machine and method by husband, wife, or lover. My machine would be on hire, as typewriting machines now are, in hotels, steamships, and, maybe even on trains and airliners, available for anyone anywhere and at any time. And I believe, too, that the time will come-and come soon-when my system will be used in the publication of pamphlets and books written in cipher which will be unreadable except by those who are specially initiated.

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I have an acquaintance whose grandfather was a close friend and an admirer of Alexander Graham Bell. Towards the end of 1876, Bell demonstrated his crude telephone to the grandfather I am speaking about, and, having done so, asked him whether he would care to invest \$3,000 in its commercialization. "Oh, no, Alec," the grandfather replied laughingly to Bell, "don't ask me to invest in a thing like that—why, man, it's just a toyl But let me tell you, Alec, that if you need the \$3,000 for yourself, either as a loan or a gift, you can have the money with pleasure."

"It's just a toy!" That's what the grandfather said to Alec Bell; and that's what Marcellus Bailey said to me about my crude device. And the "toy" that was Alec Bell's brainchild grew up, and up, and up, till it is even now the fundamental base of the largest corporate organization on earth—The American Tel. and Tel.

In 1920 a friend of mine, a New York lawyer, who was also a friend and former law associate of Bainbridge Colby, suggested to me that I sound out the State Department in Washington on the availability to it of my cipher system. Colby was then Secretary of State; and I approached him by letter, enclosing a personal introduction to him written by our mutual friend. About three weeks later I received a surprising letter, written on the stationery of The Secretary of State, and here reproduced in part.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON October 28, 1920.

My dear Sir:

The Secretary desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the twenty-sixth regarding a cipher machine concerning which you wrote to him on September thirtieth. . . .

The Department has examined with interest the plan which you submitted, but it does not feel that it can undertake to pass upon the value of an invention of this sort.

I am returning to you herewith the papers which you sent to the Department.

Yours very truly, G. Howland Shaw Executive Assistant.

In the following year, 1921, there was a new President in Washington, and also a new Secretary of State, the great Charles Evans Hughes. Years before that time I had been introduced to Mr. Hughes, and I held him, as I still hold his memory, in high esteem. So once again I decided to approach the State Department in regard to the availability of my cipher. But before doing this I thought it would be advisable to seek an opinion regarding my cipher system from a person qualified to give an opinion about it, so shortly after Harding's inauguration, I got in touch with Colonel Parker Hitt, who had authored a little booklet which had been published officially in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, bearing the title, Manual for the Solution of Military Ciphers. During the succeeding months, I heard several times from Colonel Hitt anent my cipher system, and I knew from him that he was vastly interested in it. But it was not until August 3, 1921 that he wrote me a definitive and formal letter about my system. It would not now be wise for me to give this letter in full, but in it he wrote in part as follows:

HEADQUARTERS 2ND CORPS AREA Governors Island, New York City. August 3, 1921

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My dear Mr. Byrne:

I am returning to you herewith the machine and the accompanying papers which you let me have in connection with it. It has been impossible for me to do any connected work with it for many weeks, on account of the pressure of official business and the various things which I have to take care of. I am now about to leave for Washington for permanent station and we might as well call it a day.

As to the principle of the machine, it is undoubtedly a most ingenious and effective device. . . .

... but I have attempted to formulate a plan for breaking down this system of yours and so far have not been able to do it successfully.

I feel that you could safely go ahead with the commercial exploitation of the machine with confidence in the practical indecipherability of the product.

I regret that I have not been able to handle this matter with the care and deliberation which I like to give these things, but I assure you of my interest in it and I want to thank you for having let me see it and for your courtesy in putting the cards on the table for me.

Yours sincerely,

Parker Hitt

When I read Colonel Hitt's letter, it was clear to me that he had not at all fully apprehended the principle of my "machine," as he called it. But I was glad, however, to know that he was aware of the fact that "commercial exploitation" of my system and machine was the object I had in view.

Having received this letter from Colonel Hitt, I immediately communicated with the State Department, being ignorantly hopeful that Secretary Hughes would give me some encouragement. But in a few days I got one more shock of disappointment in the form of the letter, here reproduced:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON September 2, 1921

In reply refer to IB 119.25/360 Mr. J. F. Byrne, 70 Wilson Street, Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 29th ultimo with regard to a cipher machine invented by you and which you desire to demonstrate to the Department.

In reply I beg to inform you that while the Department appreciates your courtesy in bringing this matter to its attention, the codes and ciphers now used are adequate to its needs.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant, For the Secretary of State: Harry P. Fletcher Under Secretary

Be it remembered that the foregoing letter, a paragon of smugness, was written to me twenty-nine years ago by the State Department of these United States; and then compare this fact with the fact that Robert E. Sherwood was reported only a little more than a year ago in all our newspapers as declaring that high Government officials, including the late Harry Hopkins, believed that the State Department code was "very vulnerable" as far back as 1941. And on December 8, 1948, Under Secretary Robert A. Lovett, talking about the Chambers-Hiss affair at a Washington news conference, assured the news gatherers that the State Department's diplomatic "codes" had been made as secure against espionage as it was "humanly possible" to make them-and this "new security," Mr. Lovett explained, had been achieved during the last ten years by steadily improved peace and wartime procedures and devices. But at the same time Mr. Lovett was reported as "conceding" that "great aid" to spies in cracking the old codes could be found in documents involved in the Chambers-Hiss case.

Before the end of this chapter I will consider further the general subject of Mr. Lovett's remarks, but right now I want to get on with my story.

During many months after receipt of the foregoing letter I succeeded in achieving nothing, and then in the following year, 1922, I got in touch again with Colonel Hitt at the War College in Washington, and he wrote me in part:

THE WAR COLLEGE WASHINGTON

7 March, 1922

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My Dear Mr. Byrne,

But, if you come to Washington or want to correspond with the right man here about your machine, I will be glad to put you in touch with Major Frank Moorman, General Staff, Room 2648, Munitions Building, who handles these matters (in connection with the Signal Corps) and who is a personal friend and cipher pupil of mine.

As for the last paragraph of your letter, I deeply appreciate your offer but turn it down in the interest of my own liberty of action. I am a free lance at this game and expect to remain one. For that reason, I am returning your letter in order that we may consider it as never written.

Yours truly,

Parker Hitt

In the week after receipt of this letter, I arrived once more with my first model in Washington, where I was met on March 17, 1922, by Colonel Hitt, who immediately escorted me in person to give me a glowing introduction to both Major Moorman, and Mr. W. F. Friedman, Cryptanalyst.

Nearly five months later I wrote to Major Moorman and received the following reply:

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF WASHINGTON

August 26, 1922

Mr. J. F. Byrne, 70 Wilson Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have for acknowledgement your letter of August 21st and wish to assure you that I have not forgotten the profitable hour we spent together. I am sending a letter to Mr. Friedman with request that he communicate with you with reference to your cipher device.

> Very sincerely yours, Frank Moorman Major, General Staff

And a few days afterwards I received by parcel post from Washington a package containing my cipher model smashed into smithereens.

When I was devising my cipher system, I worked neither with model nor with diagram. I solved my problem in a short period of delicious mental concentration and exhilaration. In fact, I worked out the problem blindfold, as I would have worked out a chess problem; and I entertained the erroneous belief that merely to narrate and describe my system to a serious and disinterested student of Cryptography, or to any person of unbiased intelligence, would be sufficient to evoke his assent to the validity of my claims in its regard. This is where I made a big mistake; and this is what I had in mind in a preceding chapter of this book when I referred to the harmful consequences which might ensue from indulging in blindfold chess play.

A result of this mistake was that when I constructed my cigarbox model in 1918, I had in mind only the construction of a model on which I could demonstrate a principle. My cousin Mary Fleming was charmed with the resultant "toy"—it looked so simple and colorful; and when I told her the purpose for which it was intended and explained its operation, she was entranced with the idea which she grasped quickly and clearly. And very earnestly she said to me, "That will surely bring you a Nobel

Prize." At that time all I replied was, "Well it certainly is a strange thing that, being so simple as it is, no one ever thought of it before." And since that time I have seen many a Nobel Prize awarded for lesser achievements.

After my experience with the War and State Departments, I felt that it was, and would remain, quite useless to attempt to get anywhere with any department of the United States Government. In this opinion I abided for a full fifteen years; and then, in a weak moment, I fell for an item which appeared in the newspapers in 1937. This item was to the effect that Rear Admiral Harold G. Bowen had requested a congressional appropriation "for the development of a system of Cryptography by which warships can transmit signals to another vessel in the fleet which cannot be deciphered (sic) by an enemy vessel."

On reading this news item, I decided to construct a working model on which I could do extended encipherments and decipherments, and on which I could with some freedom put my principle into operation. Working through the summer and fall of 1937, I made my model and prepared on and by it, a document which I intended for submission to the Navy Department—this document being composed as a concrete example of the *kind* of work which one could accomplish on my model. After some hard labor in producing the cipher, I found even harder labor ahead of me in trying to find a printer who would be able to turn out the kind of job I wanted. Finally I did locate a printer who was willing to tackle the work, and who did turn out an excellent job. He printed for me five hundred copies. And they cost me plenty both in time and money.

On November 18, 1937, I wrote my first letter to the Navy Department, addressing it to Admiral Bowen, who has since retired, and has become Executive Director for the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation of which Charles F. Kettering is President. In my letter to Admiral Bowen I told him of my device and system, stressing their universal availability. I enclosed also some copies of my document, *Chaocipher-The Ultimate Elusion*.

I never had any reply from Admiral Bowen himself; but a couple of weeks later, on December 7, 1937, I had the following letter from a Captain J. M. Irish, who was Assistant to the Chief of the Bureau of Engineering.

Address Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department And Refer To No. S67/68 (11-18-W9)

NAVY DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF ENGINEERING WASHINGTON, D.C.

7, Dec. 1937

Sir:

Receipt of your letter of 18 November 1937 is acknowledged herewith.

This Bureau regrets very much that its limited personnel does not permit deciphering the material enclosed with your letter. However, the Bureau would be very pleased to examine fully a detailed description of your general system and of the mechanical means used for obtaining the cipher.

Your courtesy in according the Bureau an opportunity of examining your system is very much appreciated.

Very respectfully,

J. M. Irish Assistant to Bureau

On the following January 15, I wrote a further explanatory letter, this one to Captain Irish, with another marked copy of my ten-page cipher booklet, entitled *Chaocipher—The Ultimate Elusion*. In this letter I said in part:

"I am also sending you another copy of my booklet, "Chaocipher—The Ultimate Elusion." You will observe that on this copy I have written in, over the corresponding cipher, the plain text of the first hundred lines. But since each of the first hundred lines, (covering pages 1, 2, 3, and 4), is identical in meaning with the other ninety-nine, I have written the plain text only over the top line on the first four pages."

The plain text of each of the 100 lines on pages 1, 2, 3, and 4 reads thus:

ALLGO OD,QU ICKBR OWNFO XESJU MPOVE RLAZY DOGTO SAVET HEIRP ARTY.

"On page 5 I have written in the plain text of the first eight lines of the Declaration of Independence; and on page 10 I have written in the plain text of the last line of the Declaration of In-

dependence, together with the plain text of the first line of the Gettysburg Speech and the last line of the same.

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"I am sending you also the full text of the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Speech written exactly as enciphered. The text which I used, of both these historic documents, is as printed, paragraphed, and punctuated in the World Almanac. For punctuation marks I have used letter equivalents. These, of course, are purely arbitrary, and would be largely unnecessary -except where a very high degree of literary precision is desired.

"The punctuation marks I have employed, with their letter equivalents, are as follows:

Paragraph Period Colon Comma Semi-colon	W
Hyphen Apostrophe Dash	J x

My correspondence with the Navy Department continued for several months; and, by appointment, I went to Washington for a preliminary conference on April 4, 1938, and a few weeks later, on May 3, I returned again to Washington to give a demonstration of my device and principle—a demonstration which was not even begun before it ended abruptly.

At the proposed demonstration there were three Commanders —one a senior officer to preside; and two younger Commanders, whose names were Wagner and Tucker, as assayers. Wagner being a cipher "expert" while Tucker was an expert in radio and electronics. I can only say about this "conference" that it ended before it began with Commander Tucker sagely suggesting to me that I should take my device and system either to the War Department or to the State Department.

For the record, let me say that since 1920 I have consistently offered my cipher system to the various departments of the United States Government for a "nominal" remuneration (some-

thing like \$1 a year), provided that I were allowed to develop the commercial exploitation of my system. In one of my first letters to the Navy Department in 1938, I made this point clear; and in a letter to me written on March 12, 1938, Captain Irish wrote:

"Referring to the questions raised in your letter, the Bureau is unable to state at this time whether or not, in event of adoption of your system, it would elect to purchase your invention or merely the right to use same for Governmental purposes leaving all other rights to you. It is probable, however, that the former course of action would be taken for reasons of secrecy."

In using these four words "for reasons of secrecy," Captain Irish made it clear that he did not grasp my claim regarding the universal availability and indecipherability of my system.

Let me return now to the subject of that Washington news conference on December 8, 1949. At that conference it was revealed that Whittaker Chambers had produced stolen documents, the theft of which, according to Assistant Secretary of State John E. Peurifoy, meant that "our codes were being read by foreign nations" during a long period. And at this conference Under Secretary Robert A. Lovett stated that he "knew the State Department's code work now is completely secure—both against code-solving and theft of its documents." And then a few seconds later at this same conference Mr. Lovett added that "the State Department has been told by cryptographic experts *its code work is as secure as any material of that nature can be.*"

When such statements or elucidations as the one made by Mr. Lovett are to be imparted to the public, why should such an onerous job be loaded on the back of a high official like Mr. Lovett? Where were the "cryptographic experts" who reportedly "told" the State Department about the security of its "codes," and why were not these "experts," or at least one of them called upon to give at first hand to the public the assurances on which Mr. Lovett based his claim about the "security" of the "codes"?

Finally, may I ask Mr. Lovett, or anyone now in the State Department—or in any other Government Department—who or what is a "cryptographic expert"? I have a clear notion of the connotation of the title "cryptanalytic expert"; but I never heard any such expert—save one—express the opinion, or even concede the possibility, that any indecipherable script could ever be con-

cocted. And in this connection I express here my belief that the persons who were dubbed by Mr. Lovett "cryptographic experts" were, in fact, "cryptanalytic experts," who would themselves unhesitatingly express their conviction that there never was—and that there never will be—a "cryptographic expert." These "cryptanalytic experts" are precisely the kind of persons who would give the most positive assurance to the head officials in any Department that "its code work is as secure AS ANY MATERIAL OF THAT NATURE CAN BE."

The most fitting comment on the last preceding sentence is, "A word to the wise is sufficient."

But much more recently, and more dramatically, the spotlight of publicity was brilliantly directed to the subject of what Mr. Lovett called the security of this nation's "code work." In the days when, after his recall from Korea, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was testifying before the Senate Committee in Washington, the gist of some messages that had been sent to him in cipher was submitted to the committee, but always with the explanation that this gist was a carefully paraphrased version of the original plain text of the cipher messages. And the explanation offered for submitting such paraphrased versions was that this was done to protect this government's cipher system from being "broken" or "cracked."

In this connection, referring to a document that had been sent on January 13, 1951, Secretary Marshall testified: "It's been declassified with the approval of the President, and in a manner that we do not think discloses any cryptographic information and things of that sort."

At the time that General Marshall uttered that insipid, cautious, and hedging pronouncement, he was the top man of the Armed Forces of these United States; and the plain inference from his pronouncement is that the highest ranking government officials of this country not only admit, but assert, that their cipher systems are defective and vulnerable and decipherable. Indeed, this inference would have been justified even if General Marshall had not uttered that wobbly, "We do not think. . . ." For from this mere fact alone that it was found necessary to issue "precise instructions for paraphrasing" the plain texts, the deduction is inescapable that the highest officials in this country are fully aware of the insecurity of its "code work."

In this connection, I assert and claim that the publication of the plain text of a trillion documents enciphered by my cipher system would not be of the least use or assistance to anyone attempting to cryptanalyze the cipher product of my system.

Let me repeat here that any person on earth using a device similar to my own home-made contraption, could produce a cipher message which would be indecipherable by any other person except the one to whom the message is directed. And let me add that devices far more operable than my crude model could be mass-produced to sell at ten dollars each.

I reproduce, herewith, four cipher exhibits, together with their plain text equivalents—which are given verbatim et literatim. The first and longest of these exhibits is the one entitled *Chaocipher—The Ultimate Elusion*, which was prepared by me for presentation to the Navy Department. As a matter of fact, several more copies of this document are, or were, in the various departments of the United States Government. Although I have already given the general schema of this ten-page document, let me repeat that the first four pages are devoted to the encipherment of an identical line which reads:

ALLGO OD,QU ICKBR OWNFO XESJU MPOVE RLAZY DOGTO SAVET HEIRP ARTY.

There was really no need for the two punctuation marks, the comma and the period, represented respectively by a free Q and a free W. They are just an illustrative embellishment. On page 5 of this document, lines 101 to part of 105 are devoted to a few introductory words to the two great historic documents that follow: These being the "Declaration of Independence," which begins at the third letter in the ninth group on line 105, and ends at the fifth letter in the fourth group on line 227; and the "Gettysburg Speech," which begins at the first letter in the fifth group on line 227, and ends at the third letter in the third group on line 248. In both the cipher and plain texts of the Gettysburg speech, there was an error of omission at the fourth character in the eighth group of five letters in line 239. At this point 35 characters were left out, these being a comma followed by the words "but it can never forget what they did here."

The second exhibit reproduced is an encipherment of four short passages from the first three chapters of Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*, with the exact plain text in Latin; and the reader will

note the frequency of the recurrence in the cipher script of both the letters W and K, notwithstanding that the letter W does not occur at all in Latin, and the letter K is extremely rare in that language.

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The third exhibit reproduced here is one which speaks for itself, and will, I fancy, be of some interest to a certain person in Washington.

I call the fourth exhibit reproduced "A Glimpse of Chaos." This is the encipherment, with exact plain text, of a portion of the memorable speech made by General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, before the joint session of Congress after his recall from Korea. This encipherment is distinguished from the other three in that it bears within itself full and complete instructions to an initiate for its decipherment.

In regard to the first of these four exhibits, I have already said that several copies of this document were submitted to Washington, together with an abortive demonstration. Moreover, a formal demonstration of my chaocipher system, together with a decipherment of this exhibit, were given by me to the American Tel. & Tel. Company through some top officials of the Bell Laboratories, these including Mr. Ralzemond D. Parker, a former Telegraph Development Director for that organization. I cannot, therefore, issue a categorical challenge to everyone to decipher this document.

But in regard to the other three exhibits, I do challenge any person or group of persons—including the Bell Laboratories and the American Tel. & Tel.—to decipher these documents.

Now seeing that in the case of documents two and three I give the *exact* plain text equivalents, verbatim et literatim, of their cipher text, I can envision the possibility that some wags or wiseacres may claim decipherment of these two documents by simply copying the plain texts as given. For this reason I issue a further and more specific challenge in regard to exhibit four, this challenge being as follows: In the last two lines of the cipher text of the number four exhibit, namely lines 34 and 35, a little over a dozen words, with punctuation marks, of the plain text as I have given it have been re-enciphered. Now, to the first person, or group of persons, who within three months after date of publication of this book succeeds in deciphering this number four exhibit, I shall give (\$5,000) five thousand dollars—this sum to be

paid by me out of the royalties accruing to me from *Silent Years* during the said three months. And if the royalties accruing to me during these three months do not amount to \$5,000, I shall give all the royalties that shall accrue to me during that period.

To the first person, or persons who may send me identification of the re-enciphered words in lines 34 and 35 I shall give credit for having submitted prima facie evidence of being able to decipher the whole of the number four exhibit; and such person or persons can then at any time, within the given three month period, give proof of being able to decipher this whole number four exhibit. Let me make it explicit here that anyone who really can identify and decipher the dozen or so specified words, must, *ipso* facto, be able to decipher the whole of this exhibit, because it is all of a piece.

And to all "cryptanalytic and cryptographic experts," including the Major Yardleys, I give cordial invitation to accept the challenge I make here. This invitation is extended also to the members—both individually and as a group—of the American Cryptogram Association, and its local affiliate, The New York Cipher Society. And finally, I issue to the believers in the wonderful capabilities of electronic calculating machines, a warm invitation to take up my challenge. Perhaps the genial-looking Professor Norbert Wiener of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology would like to embark on these waters of chaos in the hope that his cybernetical pilot might, by the exercise of superhuman navigatory prowess, be able to steer him to some port.

One final plea I make to all my readers in regard to these dozen or so re-enciphered words in exhibit four: Please do not send me guesses—they will do you no good.

Chaociphering is not guesswork. There *never was*—and there *never will be*—anything requiring a higher degree of exactitude and truth. Often when I look at the crude model on which I have done my work I feel as our beloved Keats felt when he apostro-phized "The Grecian Urn":

"Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe

Than ours, a friend to man to whom thou say'st

'Beauty is truth, truth beauty,'-that is all

Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."

CHAOCIPHER-THE ULTIMATE ELUSION

YYFNH BSHYA VKBSY FZVKR KDPTC JFHRA JGVUC ZTBPI JAGCX HUXFP CIMIFP LVCUJ YMEQR LUIAE QTIQW LKGOE TDLFJ RNZOP MAFZS YEDSZ GVGEW OUVRE ISHDO DPNC ARTY OAHBA' MSXAK EKLBA OHXHN LPOIO ACGJX YVJXO CVIEF **KPRAO** ECJOK IOXZX LRVPR BYUKI HHNSS SEYHM OWNRV RNONJ. MOGWI SRTOQ NNGFT LPVPP CFLCZ FATQS HEIRP OAFQP YHRY KWXCE VGYBN ASQRZ GHJQQ RHUTY YVYNE CIWBI FCCIM JBPAF GLCGY XFBIU MELPJ IMDWR XWAMY NPIAX FFXIA KLZOV DAEIN GVEYN SAVET DAXLA PIEWX VXNSK KJNHT KQJMS CEOBF XCTLH RERHL DVPAY YILTW UMTLJ XNROB VXBNE NGVDP TNGHQ VBEBY BLYQY I UGSKT CPXCW GYIF EOTEJ YIRCA CYJGC DOGTO INRCV SUVYI VOTTM DMAUE WSTHE TZIMS IUGTI CYKCA LUYRE WQRDE BZWYK IELPW IFIPW PHMTA DUYOG EPRWP BSLXX QZIBR IETFA MVFGG FASRO ZBVRU IFIKS WQKRX IFFDZ RLAZY MVEZY NKNCR BENZL BRRNO CHWLQ BEHDSN RHRCV CBERO YXSAV HNHBE FQRLI YMBEK UAWDH ZISXO ADDQC PFQRI ZWGUR PBWYQ CHWLQ KJXRP IUWPF XRJXL LYWIQ RHRI PPZBR LCWRT MPOVE UVKGI AGKIU MAZBM DIQQJ KITNL KITNL LFDHH NZDZT NYEGS ZUIIR RYAUO UFPXC . UQVTK BUDWK TUGSM I NIVJK BAMAP SGNWF ULFFU ZKHZW ENCSV UTHXN KECRM SNEPU XESJU RWTJO YYHZU SZKLC ACRWW VRAIY TQSOQ IWTQA FHFFI FHFFI GRXND VANAB HPPYO WRXCJ OZCNB YPEAQ NKZKO MKBOL WSWIE VOXGZ RFKQG NLRJM HBICF I DJOWH BOOTY OWNFO RNZTO MOHTG TWXOF AVMRR VRLZU EXMJB TOTWM XDEWK LPMAC HXETY RQBSV AMFQL LVYYF WHRYM HLBND DOKYD JXCSQ OAUMO METES PKXRQ DDQGF SDBNV IYYYI ICKBR BSYMU PKRFD VJZTQ WBMGS REZMC XRALO DCITE QQMBS QHIMNF Q DVTSD KASGV XKGSP TBIZZ EQIAE BVEOU OIWEV AQNHS FKJCF YHKXO GDBCU MVGLT JTOGY COTSS op,qu PNZKL LTVEI TBZXT HKYGQ RIFFZ JEOZI WEFRF BUZLA RUTKF UKQAS CSWUH EBVUJ JDCJN SDJWW SDJWW SDJWW SDJWW SDJWW SDJWW SDJWW SDJWW CSPLA BIHGG DYVLO DYVLO EYGFQ HGLQP NHYXA ALLGO CLYTZ 23 24 22 100400500

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88 8	XGWBG	YUDFY	TLEEK	DJUUJ			FXLNQ	QYLPN	NWARU		BOMOE
83	OAIQL	SNYXI	AVDAC	EIBKU			TQAWH	ΑΥΤΧΟ	OPBFY		BGSJD
84	FCNLQ	NWAOG	VIOIN	JZRVS			OZBNP	KEGHF	JFASY		NXNXF
85	JPSAM	RVBQG	XNIZB	MVGVU			BZLTP	IFIWB	LBXPB		FRHBF
86	QPDCM	OXOSU	MMERK	QUMYF			SPLGV	PBLNG	NKTAK		MIPOW
87	RIDCL	TCIBZ	HFLDV	RXBKF			RAAVH	XAYDH	NUNNN		RAEXP
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16	DMFER	TTWFO	XVGVE	UIBDG			EZNHB	COGDE	BBOPZ		YRSDX
26	CUTFL	VYZHY	ITOTH	JOPJP			FPULW	LWQOI	AMJRS		THMOW
93	LHUGS	XSNKF	LAUOT	TYXNU			ESKKM	OGJHL	BBDOD		RRGVA
94	VOGEN	KOOZX	MGWQS	TUGJS			IZYSE	MUWL	PXMFB		PHVAC
95	KESYK	WKPJI	FOJEQ	LZZOK			GAPCT	ZJGHG	GRCLY		LBIKH
96	NSOZO	MTAOE	YJCBY	ZΛCXΙ			GGPTE	REYHK	QLDCR		RSXOT
46	CVXTB	WQXZK	QOSIM	ELPDR			NSRUF	PGQVS	YBQDK		NXBUC
98	GZMMW	IKOWW	ZEOZF	DWSLY			ESIHP	KUCXM	MFQQM		LOFBF
66	PWSDP	SMDZL	ZOWOB	IVZFK			XOKGP	VQCHE	QUHGV		DNSTP
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CHAOCIPHER Exhibit 4

EXACT PLAIN TEXT OF ENCIPHERED EXCERPT FROM CONGRESSIONAL SPEECH BY GENERAL OF THE ARMY DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

Beyond pointing out these general truisms, I shall confine my discussion to the general areas of Asia. Before one may objectively assess the situation now existing there, he must comprehend something of Asia's past and the evolutionary changes which have marked her course up to the present.

Long exploited by the so-called colonial powers, with little opportunity to achieve any degree of social justice, individual dignity, or a higher standard of life such as guided our own noble administration in the Philippines, the peoples of Asia found their opportunity in the war just past to throw off the shackles of colonialism, and now see the dawn of new opportunity, a heretofore unfelt dignity, and the self-respect of political freedom.

Mustering half of the earth's population and sixty per cent of its natural resources, these peoples are rapidly consolidating a new force, both moral and material, with which to raise the living standard and erect adaptations of the design of modern progress to their own distinct cultural environments.

Whether one adheres to the concept of colonization or not, this is the direction of Asian progress and it may not be stopped. It is a corollary to the shift of world economic frontiers, as the whole epicenter of world affairs rotates back toward the era whence it started.

In the situation it becomes vital that our own country orient its policy in consonance with this basic evolutionary condition rather than pursue a course blind to the reality that the colonial era is now passed and the Asian peoples have the right to shape their own destiny. What they seek now is friendly guidance and support not imperious direction.

The dignity of equality and not the shame of subjugation. Their prewar standard of life, pitifully low, is infinitely lower now in the devastation left in war's wake.

World ideologies play little part in Asian thinking and are little understood. What the people strive for is the opportunity for a little more food in their stomachs, a little better clothing on their backs, a little firmer roof over their heads, and the realization of the normal nationalist urge for political freedom. •••

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