

4 June 1948

Mr. William G. Bryan  
Box 267, Geauga Co.  
Burton, Ohio

Dear Mr. Bryan:

Receipt of your letter of 24 May 1948 is acknowledged. First let me thank you for your prompt return of the card containing data for our files pertaining to former employees. We hope to keep these files up-to-date so that in case of emergency we can readily contact our former co-workers.

In connection with the problem which is given in Cioppi's book and which it is alleged has not been deciphered hitherto, you may send the solution to me, if you wish to do so, for examination and recommendation as to whether its publication in your journal would be detrimental to security. At the moment I find it hard to think that the publication of valid solution to such an old cryptogram would present any security problem.

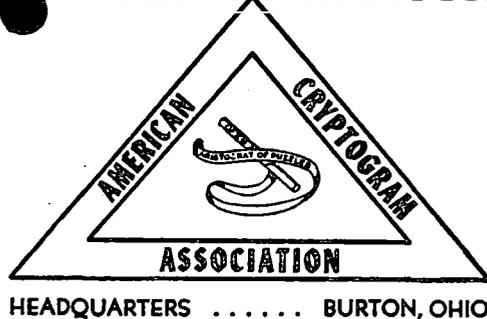
As to your correspondence with Dr. Langer, I can see no good reason why you should hesitate to send him your publications and receive in return documents which might be of interest. However, in this case I would like to see what Dr. Langer furnishes before you make any use of this material, for it may well be that from a viewpoint of the national interest some of his material should not be published in your journal, which has a wide distribution.

In closing, permit me to thank you very much for your thoughtfulness and your interest in national security in consulting me in regard to the questions you raise in your letter. I appreciate the opportunity to be consulted in such matters before possible damage has been done. The cooperative spirit and interest of your membership in maintaining security is most commendable.

Reciprocating your kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD G. HAYES  
Colonel, Signal Corps  
Chief, Army Security Agency



May 24, 1948

Please Reply to:  
Burton, Ohio

Harold G. Hayes  
Colonel, Signal Corps  
Chief, Army Security Agency  
The Pentagon,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Col. Hayes:

It is gratifying to return the enclosed card for your files, and to realize that the agency still is interested enough in my current address.

And I am also happy in learning of your own address, so that when matters of a "doubtful" nature arise within our organization, I can feel that you are the one person with whom such matters may be discussed.

At present there are two such matters, and I would appreciate your comment, at your convenience.

The first deals with a member of our Association, who "claims" to have solved the hitherto undecipherable problem which appears in Luigi Gioppi's *La Crittografia*, Hoepli, Milano, 1897, as given in Chapter V, *Modern Indecipherable Methods*. So far, I have withheld all publicity on this matter, preferring to check with your agency as to whether or not it might be permitted.

The second deals with correspondence of a questionable nature with Dr. Phil. Albert Langer, Velden am Worthersee, Villa Weiss, Carinthia, Austria, Europe, who, having learned of us through the Library of Congress, is eager to have our publications; and in return, since it is difficult to send money out of Austria, is willing to send us some of his writings dealing with "What should the censoring-official know about secret information"; "Machine coding"; "Construction of Counter Machines", etc. He claims to have worked 30 years in this sphere of action, and considers himself an expert in the mathematical treatment of the matter. He says his methods go far beyond Givierge and Baudoin.

Up to now, negotiations with him have been checkmated; pending a clearance through your office. Much of his material is way over our heads, since we are merely an amateur organization; but if we are able to obtain any of his information, we question its value in other fields.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

*William G. Bryan*  
William G. Bryan