

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

20 May 1954

Colonel Maulsby Forrest
President, Riverbank Laboratories
Geneva, Illinois

Dear Colonel Forrest:

Your promptness in acceding to my request is very much appreciated. Please be assured that a copy of any reproductions or duplicated material of the old Riverbank publications series will be sent you, if and when accomplished. Also, I thank you for the news regarding the status of Riverbank with the tax authorities, et al.

I have one additional favor to ask. Recently I had occasion to try to locate some of Mrs. Gallup's material and other data relative to her decipherments by the biliteral cipher of Sir Francis Bacon. My detective work wound up by leading me to believe that, shortly before his death, Colonel Fabyan sent to Mr. George B. Curtis, editor of Lehigh University Publications, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, all of Mrs. Gallup's material of the nature of that referred above. Mr. Curtis died a couple of years ago and the material is now in the possession of his widow. When I recently requested Mrs. Curtis to make available a certain document in her possession I received from her, after a long interval of silence and only as a result of a lengthy long-distance telephone call to her, a negative response. This refusal to make available to a serious student any of that material, which in my opinion belongs with the Fabyan Collection in the Library of Congress, irks me a bit and this question has arisen in my mind: under what circumstance or conditions did Colonel Fabyan send the material to Mr. Curtis? Was it a gift? Was it a loan? Was it a sale? In other words does Mrs. Curtis have title to this material?

I am wondering whether you know anything about this transaction or whether the files at Riverbank would shed any light on the situation.

I would not like to think that Mrs. Curtis has ulterior motives in her behavior but I would not be astonished if it is related to a decision on the part of her son to do some writing on the subject of his father's study of the papers, and thus capitalize on Mrs. Gallup's work on the biliteral cipher himself.

I would appreciate hearing from you soon on this subject and thank you again for your kindness in sending me so promptly the authorization I sought in re the Riverbank Publications.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Sincerely,

P.S. -- I have just received your letter of 18 May with its enclosure of inquiry for some Riverbank Publications. Since I have quite a supply of some of these papers, sent me after Colonel Fabyan's and Mrs. Fabyan's death, I occasionally see my way clear to making copies available in worthy cases. So, in the future, if agreeable to you, please have Miss Lund send such requests to me for such consideration or attention as I find suitable in the premises. Please let me know if you would like any other arrangement.