

JF 109-

1114 New York Ave.
Brooklyn 3, N.Y.
February 11, 1954

Mr. Howard N. Smith
41 Roosevelt Circle
Palo Alto, California

Dear Mr. Smith:

In a letter to me on January 12th last (a copy of which he sent to you and Mr. Lewis), my son Jack mentioned five items of a "tentative outline" the fifth of which was as follows:
"They must be in a position to explain with conviction the claims made for the principle and machine. While they do not necessarily desire to know "the secret" they do want to be convinced of its validity."

After much thought I have come to the apparently inescapable conclusion that if we are to achieve anything in the matter of promoting my Chaocipher, it would be necessary for us to get together personally. First, there would be the matter of reaching a definite working agreement; and although my son Jack could represent me in this matter, it would, after that, be most advisable that I should have my working model by me so that I could not only demonstrate the principle involved, but give you a proper understanding of the rationale of the whole idea. Jack comprehends the working of my machine, but he and I have never fully discussed this matter of its rationale - a full exposition of which would be more than merely desirable for me to give you, it would be essential.

We now arrive at the question: How are we to get together? Have you, or both of you, any suggestion to make in this regard? Would you, or both of you, have any notion of coming East in the very near future? It is now nearing February 18th, that day being the end of the third month stipulated in the challenge in my book; and it would be advisable for us to get into action as soon thereafter as feasible.

I am addressing this letter to you, not because of any discrimination between you and your friend Mr. Lewis, but because I want to avoid the physical task of duplication. And I want also to thank you and Mr. Lewis for your respective letters to me on January 24 and January 25 last. I enclose a copy of this letter for you to give to Mr. Lewis. And I am sending a copy to my son Jack to keep him fully au fait.

Cordially yours,

J.F. Byrne