

1114 New York Ave.  
Brooklyn 3, N.Y.  
February 17, 1957

Mr. William F. Friedman  
310 Second St., SE  
Washington 3, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Yes, the report in Time Magazine was certainly not correct; and, anyway, if I am alive I shall be glad to get a copy of your book which you say "is now in the process of publication by the Cambridge University Press."

I hope that Time's report of your having had three heart attacks may also have been incorrect or at least, exaggerated. And, at any rate, I was glad to read in the Time report that satisfactory provision for you and yours had been granted you in a special bill passed by the U.S. Senate giving you \$100,000 "for services rendered."

In regard to the third paragraph in your letter in which you say in part "I never did figure out why you put in that book the completely extraneous matter of ciphers when you had so much of interest to tell about Joyce." If you had written to me "I never did figure out why you wrote about James Joyce when you had something to write about ciphers," I would not have been surprised. Surely, you are not nearly so interested in Joyce as I know you are in ciphers.

I had three main reasons for writing "Silent Years", (by the way, have you a copy of the book?); two of the lesser reasons were my story in the book, titled "The Throne of Chaos" and my chapters on "A Parable in Gold". But my main reason for writing the book was to be on record in the matter of my "Chaocipher".

No book written about Joyce will ever make money. I have a friend, Richard Ellmann, Professor of English, in the Northwestern University, who is writing another biography of Joyce. To help him do this he was granted a Ford Foundation Scholarship, enabling him to spend a year in Ireland, France, Italy and Austria. He writes asking me various questions to some of which I have replied. He says his book will not be ready for publication before another year or more.

Now, to get to the point: it is my conviction that my "Chaocipher" system is universally available and is forever indecipherable. Have you any comment to make on this conviction of mine? Do you think I am right, or do you think I am wrong? If you have my book "Silent Years" can you prove me wrong right away by sending me a decipherment of example no.4, being an excerpt from a speech made by Douglas MacArthur, and that example bearing, as I wrote in my book, within itself, the complete instruction to an "initiate" for its decipherment?

Sincerely yours  
J. F. Byrne