

18 May 1955

Mr. David Kahn
Windsor Gate
Great Neck, New York

Dear Mr. Kahn:

Receipt of your letter of 12 May is acknowledged.

The information which you obtained from Dr. Wright of the Folger Shakespeare Library is correct with respect to our authorship to The Cryptologist Looks at Shakespeare. There was a brief item about our manuscript in the "New York Times," on 3 April or possibly 4 April 1955. Had you seen it you perhaps would have learned also that we won the \$1000 award of the Folger Library for the best book-length manuscript on a subject connected with Elizabethan literature. Dr. Wright is also correct in saying that the manuscript has not yet been published but I can add that it is in the hands of a first-class publisher, and we hope to have favorable news soon. I do not wish at the moment to say anything about who is considering its publication and you will no doubt see the reason for my withholding this information until the firm has made up its collective mind.

I was interested in what you have stated about your detailed analysis of Melchior's theory. Our manuscript had not been completed before his fantastic "solution" was published in Life and so we were able to say a bit about it; but what we say is quite brief, not only because our manuscript was already too long but also because Melchior's work, in our opinion, deserves no serious attention. Our low opinion of it was corroborated in a peculiar way by the appearance of John Sack's delightful satire in The New Yorker which followed shortly after Melchior's article was published, and which, I am sure, came to your attention.

You will understand therefore of my hesitancy in taking up your suggestion that the points you make in your detailed analysis of Melchior's theory could easily be broadened to fit within our larger framework; nevertheless, I thank you for the suggestion. When your article appears in The Cryptogram, I would, of course, be very glad if you could spare a reprint or a copy of the issue as I do not subscribe to that journal.

Thank you very much for your congratulations to Mrs. Friedman and me and especially for the manner in which you have couched your remarks in connection therewith.

At the moment I am home convalescing from a coronary occlusion
but I hope to go back to duty soon.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN