

424 No. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia
6 July 1950

Dr. Joseph P. Blickensderfer
1427 Webster Street, N.W.
Washington 11, D. C.

Dear Dr. Blickensderfer:

I hope you will forgive me for my dilatoriness in replying to your letter of 23 June, which I was very glad to get. The weekend holiday and pressure of business have kept me from answering numerous letters and I am just getting around to that duty this morning.

There is nothing wrong with your having given my name as a further reference in connection with Miss Ewerhardt and will be glad to give any information I can.

Presumably you could be quite useful to our organization and therefore I suggest that you send me, if you like, a duly completed Form 57, in duplicate, and let me handle the matter of seeing whether a vacancy exists for a man with your qualifications and experience. I realize that the completion of this complex and lengthy form involves a rather onerous task and for this reason I want to say that I am not asking you to do this without some warrant.

Please keep "THE GREAT CRYPTOGRAM" for me, as I shall be very grateful for the gift. Perhaps we can get together soon and I will pick it up.

With cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

19 May 1949

Dr. Joseph P. Blickensderfer
Editor, Reference Department
The Library of Congress
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Blickensderfer:


It was most thoughtful of you to send me a copy of the current issue of the United States Quarterly Book List. On Monday when I came to the office one of the things that I did was to ask our Librarian to get a copy if we did not already have it, and the next day I received the December 1948 issue which had been borrowed from the Army Library in The Pentagon. I, therefore, have the last two issues to look at and I hope to get a chance to do that very soon.

Your most courteous invitation to come over to the Library and to pick up the copy of "The Great Cryptogram" and at the same time look over the book list set-up is accepted and I will get in touch with you a little bit later. I might combine this with a call on my old friend Luther Evans.

I hope that we will get together with the Blickensderfers very soon again as we both enjoyed meeting you both.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

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REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The United States Quarterly Book List

May 17, 1949

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Since you expressed interest in The United States Quarterly Book List I am sending to you, under separate cover, a copy of the March 1949 number. I should be glad to have any comments you care to make on it and any suggestions for its improvement.

After I came home Saturday night, I looked in a bookcase where I had a notion I might have placed Ignatius Donnelly's "The Great Cryptogram." I found that, unfortunately, it is not as much of an association item as I had thought. Instead of an inscription to Medill from Donnelly, it bears the statement on the paper cover, in my mother's handwriting, "Confidential copy, given by Ignatius Donnelly to Joseph Medill, editor of Chicago Tribune," and on the fly-leaf I find my mother signed her maiden name and address. I make no pretension to such expertness in sleuthing as you possess but I believe the book was given to my mother by Joseph Medill during the winter she lived at his house. If you are at all interested in adding the book to your collection, I offer it as bait for you to come to the Library of Congress, at your convenience, look over the Book List set-up, have lunch with me, and pick up the book. I know very well that I shall never look at it again.

It was very pleasant meeting you and Mrs. Friedman and hearing your most interesting stories about the "Great Cryptogram" and others.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph P. Blickensderfer
 Editor

Mr. William F. Friedman
 424 North George Mason Drive
 Arlington, Virginia