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Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2009-11-25 16:09:06
 Tags: parker hitt, nyc, tdy, david kahn, riverbank
 Mood: amused

(U) A great TDY

(U) Between being out sick and being way behind in my work, I've neglected to blog about last week's TDY to New York. Sorry about that! It was one of the more unusual TDYs I've taken.

(b) (6)

(U) Dave Hatch, [REDACTED] and I took the train to NYC late on Monday afternoon, 14 November. Highlight of Monday was the hot pastrami sandwiches at the 2nd Avenue Deli.

(U) On Tuesday morning we headed to the NY Public Library's Manuscripts and Archives Reading room. We had made arrangements to review 9 boxes of material from Riverbank Laboratories that were in the midst of a larger collection of Baconian Cipher material. The collection was donated to the NYPL in 1960 by the widow of a scholar named George Curtis, and has not yet been curated. Apparently Curtis had received these boxes from George Fabyan's widow upon his death in 1936.

(U) I found out about the Riverbank material from a letter I found in the Parker Hitt material in Front Royal, VA which mentioned that there were letters from Hitt in these boxes. Yes, there were a couple of Hitt letters, and quite a few mentions of Hitt in the papers, but they were nothing too remarkable. The material was very duplicative and mixed - some of it was page proofs for Riverbank publications and some was student folders and exercises on graph paper. Not too many gems, but a few things we'll be using in History Today in the next year. We did get through all the boxes.

(U) That evening we met David Kahn at his club, the Century Association (a private club for writers and artists) where we had a lovely dinner and good conversation. Kahn actually tasked [REDACTED] to write an article for Cryptologia based on some of the research [REDACTED] has been doing on the battle of Tannenberg (WWI). Should be interesting!

(b) (6)

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3539 [REDACTED] @ 2009-11-25 16:16:42

Good to hear that [REDACTED] is still flexing his synapses in retirement!

3541 re 3539 [REDACTED] @ 2009-11-25 16:26:21

(U) Yeah, he's been reading and translating some stuff from Russian histories and German official histories -- gotta keep the brain moving! :)

3543 [REDACTED] @ 2009-11-25 17:55:46

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(U) I was the proofreader for Cryptologia in the mid-80s, when it was still published at Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech. One of the founding editors, Brian Winkel, was my faculty advisor there, and that was one of my work-study jobs, along with proofreading the other magazine he edited, Collegiate Microcomputer.

(U) I never asked him, but I assume he asked me to proofread because my verbal SATs were very high, particularly for an engineering school.

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