

Mr. Thomas J. Watson
Chairman of the Board
International Business Machines Corp.
590 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Watson:

In London about a year ago I was one of many people who visited London University just to see the Alphabet Exhibition sponsored and arranged by the Staples Press. I found the exhibition so interesting that I spent about two hours examining the material and then purchased a copy of the brochure which I enclose.

I am not the fortunate owner of any IBM stock, nor do I have any monetary interest in the Staples Press, the British company which sponsored and arranged the exhibition--I do not even know that organization or anyone in it. But I do have a deep interest in the history of the invention and development of the alphabet, which is perhaps man's greatest invention, and which most of us just take for granted without a thought as to its origin. It occurs to me that you and IBM might find the exhibition of sufficient interest and value to undertake bringing it to the United States if it is still available, since one of IBM's important products, the Electromatic Typewriter, in any final analysis, stems from the invention and development of the alphabet.

I think that millions of our people would find the story of the alphabet interesting; and as for youngsters, they should find it fascinating. I would like more people to know at least something about that story--that's my sole interest in bringing the exhibition to your attention.

When you have finished looking over the enclosure I will be grateful for its return.

Sincerely,

Incl:

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN