

The Last Haunting of Edgar Allan Poe

Hiding In Plain Sight: Observations Concerning the Text of *The Beale Papers*

by

Robert Ward, Ellicott City, Maryland, August 2011

“...the Declaration of Independence is given herewith, and will be of interest to those designing to follow up my investigations”.

The Beale Papers

The anonymous author of *The Beale Papers*, a cryptographic, treasure mystery published in 1885 in Lynchburg, Virginia, embedded into the text of the story hundreds of words from the Declaration of Independence. These DOI words were seamlessly written into the text with such skill and artistry that they have remained hidden for more than one hundred and twenty-five years. The placement of such a high volume of DOI words throughout the story suggests a purpose and design that may conceal a code or some other type of secret writing. The identification of these DOI words throughout the letters, statement, decryption and narrative included in the story, all purportedly written by different individuals, also presents persuasive evidence that *The Beale Papers* was authored by one man.

An Astonishing Performance

The anonymous author of *The Beale Papers* (“the Beale author”) has written a masterpiece that may one day take its place alongside the great cryptographic and literary classics of the past. To successfully conceal hundreds of words from the Declaration of Independence (“DOI words”) within the text of a story which highlights the Declaration as the key to a cryptographic mystery is quite a feat. But to conceal such words for over a century and a quarter from an audience comprised of thousands of cryptographers, literary researchers and treasure hunters, groups whom the author has invited to closely examine the Declaration as a possible key to fame and fortune, is an incredible demonstration of “hiding in plain sight!”

Exclusive of articles (a, an, the), conjunctions (and, but), pronouns (he, she it, we, that, they), prepositions (to, by, in, of) and other smaller words, the Beale text contains over six hundred words which *exactly* match a word from the Declaration. The Beale text contains over eight hundred words which match the root or stem of a word in the Declaration.

Many DOI words, such as “will” and “these,” though commonplace, may still be a part of some code. There is also no guaranty that the “smaller” words, which are numerous indeed, are not included in a secret writing. But many other DOI words found in the Beale text are not commonly seen in English language writings and some are rare indeed! Take a look at these words:

neighboring
assembled
authority
bands
country
depository
elected
erected
hands
history
Indian
Judge
manly
marked
nature
obtained
opinions
parts
prevent
pursuit
present
pressing
remaining
rest
standing
state

All of these DOI words appear at least once in the text of *The Beale Papers* and most multiple times. What is the likelihood that these rather infrequently used words would just happen to appear in the text of *The Beale Papers*? Certainly, some of these words might appear in a given piece and, no doubt, ten or twelve of these words could be found in some short stories. But when dozens of DOI words appear repeatedly in a story about the Declaration of Independence, then suspicion of a deliberate process seems justified.

Now observe this short paragraph from the January 4, 1822 letter from Beale to Morriss:

On my return I found the work still progressing favorably, and, by making large accessions to our force of laborers, I was ready to return last Fall with an increased supply of metal, which came through safely and was deposited with the other. It was at this time I handed you the box, not disclosing the nature of its contents, but asking you to keep it safely till called for. I intend writing you, however, from St. Louis, and impress upon you its importance still more forcibly.

Note the DOI words (in parenthesis) embedded into this one paragraph from the Beale text:

Return (**returned**), found (**foundation**), work (**works**), making (**made**), large (**large**), return (**returned**), Fall (**fall**), safely (**safety**), deposited (**depository**), other (**other**), time

(time), handed **(hands)**, nature **(nature)**, keep **(kept)**, safely **(safety)**, till **(till)**, called **(called)**, intend **(intentions)**, importance **(importance)**

What are the odds, even in this one paragraph, that all of these words from the Declaration would have occurred by chance? This was no accident. The Beale text is saturated with DOI words! Every paragraph from the text is embedded with words from the Declaration.

Yet, apparently, no one has noticed for over a century. What skill, what ingenuity must it have taken to hide these words from the tens of thousands of cryptographers and treasure hunters who have *studied* the Beale story all these years? Is the tale so interesting that the reader simply does not stop to look at the words? Or, did the Beale author possess such skill as a writer that his surreptitious placement of each DOI word within the story was done with such artistry that the hundreds of DOI words were able to “hide in plain sight” for over a century? Likely, the Beale author possessed writing skills in abundance and such talent hints of genius.

Hiding in Plain Sight

In his 1841 series on Secret Writing published in Graham’s Magazine, Edgar Allan Poe, citing Francis Bacon, observed four elements necessary to conceal and recover secret writing:

- That the cipher be such as to elude suspicion of being of a cipher;
- That its alphabet be so simple of formation as to demand but little time in the construction of an epistle;
- That it should be absolutely insoluble without the key; and
- With the key, it be promptly and *certainly* decipherable.

Poe’s first point regarding concealment of a cipher, that the secret writing be so well hidden as to elude suspicion even of its existence, may be instructive when considering why the Beale author surreptitiously embedded hundreds of DOI words into the text of *The Beale Papers*.

Observe the introduction of *The Beale Papers*, purportedly written between 1882 and 1885 by an unnamed friend of Robert Morriss, the honorable Lynchburg innkeeper entrusted with the secret to the Beale treasure:

“THE following details of an incident that happened many years ago, but which has lost none of its interest on that account, are now given to the public for the first time. Until now, for reasons which will be apparent to every one, all knowledge of this affair was confined to a very limited circle--to the writer's immediate family, and to one old and

valued friend, upon whose discretion he could always rely; nor was it ever intended that it should travel beyond that circle; but circumstances over which he has no control, pecuniary embarrassments of a pressing character, and duty to a dependent family requiring his undivided attention, force him to abandon a task to which he has devoted the best years of his life, but which seems as far from accomplishment as at the start. He is, therefore, compelled, however unwillingly, to relinquish to others the elucidation of the Beale papers, not doubting that of the many who will give the subject attention, some one, through fortune or accident, will speedily solve their mystery and secure the prize which has eluded him.”

Some researchers have read this introduction hundreds of times. No doubt, many over the past century have read this paragraph more than a thousand times! A few have studied this tale meticulously over a lifetime. Almost all who have explored this mystery closely studied the full version of the Declaration (“the Dunlap version”) that the Beale author inserted into the story, “to enable my readers to better understand the explanation of this paper.” Yet, despite having an entire copy of the Declaration included within the story and receiving a detailed explanation of how the Declaration is used as the key to solving one of the ciphers, no one, apparently, in over a century and a quarter, has noticed the high volume of DOI words secreted within the text of *The Beale Papers*.

Observe the first paragraph again, with some of the words from The Declaration of Independence highlighted:

“THE following details of an incident that happened **many** years ago, but which has lost **none** of its interest on that account, are now **given** to the **public** for the first **time**. Until **now**, for reasons which will be apparent to **every one**, all **knowledge** of this affair was confined to a very limited circle--to the writer's **immediate** family, and to **one** old and **valued friend, upon whose** discretion he **could** always **rely**; nor was it ever **intended** that it **should** travel **beyond** that circle; but **circumstances over** which he has no control, pecuniary embarrassments of a **pressing character**, and **duty** to a **dependent** family **requiring** his undivided **attention**, force him to abandon a task to which he has devoted the best years of his **life**, but which **seems** as far from accomplishment as at the start. He is, **therefore**, compelled, however unwillingly, to **relinquish** to **others** the elucidation of the Beale papers, not doubting that of the **many** who will **give** the **subject attention**, some one, through **fortune** or accident, will speedily solve their mystery and **secure** the prize which has eluded him.”

Note how the words in these sentences from the Declaration compare to the same or similar words contained in the first paragraph presented above:

*He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of **immediate** and **pressing** importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them.*

*He has combined with **others** to **subject** us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and*

unacknowledged by our laws, *giving* his assent to their acts of pretended legislation.

The DOI words contained in the first paragraph and throughout the Beale text suggest a deliberate, almost cunning concealment, perhaps related to an effort to “elude suspicion” of the presence of a cipher or secret writing. Beginning with the 1885 introduction to the tale, through the 1862 Morriss’ statement, the 1822 Beale letters, the decryption of the Beale “2” cipher and the conclusion, hundreds of DOI words have been surreptitiously inserted into the text. This incredible feat suggests an author with exceptional command of the English language and considerable, almost unique, talent as a writer and story teller.

For the casual reader and dedicated Beale researcher alike, many exciting questions come to mind. Is there a pattern to these words? Is their location within each sentence or paragraph significant? What about the function of each word? Do we, for example, include nouns but disregard verbs? Is the tense of a word important? If a word in the text is not a precise match in all aspects to the corresponding DOI word, should it be considered as a candidate for a perspective code or secret writing? The word, *rely*, above, for example, does not appear in the Declaration but the word *reliance* does? Because it is not an exact match to the Declaration, should one consider the word *rely* as part of a code or not?

This aspect of the mystery may be most critical to any analysis of the hundreds of DOI words embedded into the Beale text. An exploration of the characteristics of the DOI words used and a study of how the Beale author embedded them into the text may offer some insight into the manner in which this cache of secret DOI words were “hidden in plain sight.”

Let us now take a look at Robert Morriss’ statement, made shortly before his death in 1862, with a sample of DOI words highlighted:

*"In person, he was about six feet in height, with jet black eyes and hair of the **same** color, worn **longer** than was the style at that time. His **form** was symmetrical, and gave evidence of **unusual** strength and activity; but his **distinguishing** feature was a dark and swarthy complexion, as if much exposure to the sun and weather had thoroughly tanned and discolored him; this, however, did not detract from his appearance, and I thought him the handsomest man I had ever seen. Altogether, he was a model of **manly** beauty, favored by the ladies and envied by **men**. To the first he was reverentially tender and polite; to the latter, affable and courteous, when they **kept within** bounds, but, if they were supercilious or presuming, the lion was aroused, and woe to the man who offended him. Instances of this **character** occurred more than **once** while he was my guest, and always resulted in his demanding and receiving an apology. His **character** soon became universally known, and he was no **longer** troubled by impertinence.*

*"**Such** a man was Thomas J. Beale, as he appeared in 1820, and in his subsequent visit to*

my house. He registered simply from Virginia, but I am of the impression he was from some western portion of the **State**. Curiously enough, he never adverted to his family or to his antecedents, nor did I question him concerning them, as I would have done had I dreamed of the interest that in the future would attach to his **name**.

He **remained** with me until about the latter end of the following March, when he left, with the **same** friends who first accompanied him to my house, and who had **returned** some days before.

"After this I heard nothing from him until January, 1822, when he **once** more made his appearance, the same genial and popular gentleman as before, but, if possible, darker and swarthier than ever. His welcome was a genuine **one**, as all were delighted to see him.

"In the spring, at about the **same** time, he again left, but before doing so, **handed** me this box, which, as he said, contained papers of **value** and **importance**; and which he desired to leave in my charge until **called** for hereafter. Of **course**, I did not decline to receive them, but little imagined their **importance** until his letter from St. Louis was received. This letter I carefully preserved, and it will be **given** with these papers. The box was of iron, carefully locked, and of such weight as to **render** it a safe **depository** for articles of **value**. I **placed** it in a safe and **secure place**, where it could not be disturbed until such time as it should be demanded by its owner. The letter alluded to above was the last communication I ever received from Beale, and I never saw him again. I can only suppose that he was killed by **Indians**, afar from his home, though nothing was heard of his **death**. His companions, too, **must** all have shared his fate, as no one has ever demanded the box or claimed his **effects**. The box was left in my **hands** in the Spring of 1822, and by **authority** of his letter, I should have examined its contents in 1832, ten years thereafter, having heard nothing from Beale in the **meantime**; but it was not until 1845, some twenty-three years after it came into my possession, that I decided upon opening it. During that year I had the lock broken, and with the exception of the two letters addressed to myself, and some old receipts, found only some unintelligible papers, covered with figures, and **totally** incomprehensible to me.

"According to his letter, these papers convey all the information **necessary** to find the treasure he has concealed, and upon you devolves the responsibility of recovering it. Should you succeed you will be amply compensated for your **work**, and **others** near and dear to me will likewise be benefitted. The **end** is worth all your exertions, and I have every hope that success will reward your efforts."

Recall some of the most famous words in American revolutionary history and compare these words to those highlighted in the Morriss' statement above:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all **men** are created equal: that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights: that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to **secure** their rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that when any **form** of government becomes destructive of these **ends**, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on **such** principles and organizing its powers in **such form**, as to them shall seem most likely to **effect** their safety

and happiness.

He has **called** together legislative bodies at **places unusual**, uncomfortable and distant from the **depository** of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the **name**, and by **authority** of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the **State** of Great Britain is, and ought to be, **totally** dissolved, and that, as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do.

The pattern of insertion of DOI words into the text continues with the Morriss statement. Since this pattern can be observed in the introduction to the Beale tale, presumably written between 1882 and 1885, as well as the 1862 Morriss' statement, suspicion that the story was written by one person seems well founded.

Morriss tells us that he received three letters, purportedly written by Beale in 1822, and that he preserved these letters for forty years until turning them over to his unnamed friend shortly before his death in 1862.

Let us observe one of the "Beale" letters and compare it to some phrases from the Declaration:

St. Louis, Mo., May 9th, 1822.

Robt. Morris, Esq.:

*My Esteemed Friend:--Ever since leaving my comfortable quarters at your house I have been journeying to this **place**, and only succeeded in reaching it yesterday. I have had altogether a pleasant time, the weather being fine and the atmosphere bracing. I shall **remain here** a week or ten days **longer**, then "ho" for the plains, to hunt the buffalo and encounter the savage grizzlies. How **long** I may be absent I cannot now determine, certainly not less than two years, perhaps **longer**.*

*With regard to the box left in your charge, I have a few words to say, and, if you will permit me, give you some instructions concerning it. It contains papers vitally affecting the **fortunes** of myself and many **others** engaged in business with me, and in the event of my **death**, its loss might be irreparable. You will, **therefore**, see the **necessity** of guarding it with vigilance and care to **prevent** so **great** a catastrophe. It also contains some letters addressed to yourself, and which will be **necessary** to enlighten you concerning the business in which we are engaged. Should none of us ever **return** you will please preserve carefully the box for the period of ten years from the date of this letter, and if I, or no one with **authority** from me, during that time demands its restoration, you will open it, which can be done by removing the lock. You will find, in addition to the papers addressed to you, other papers which will be unintelligible without the aid of a key to assist you. **Such** a key I have left in the **hands** of a **friend** in this **place**, sealed, addressed to yourself, and endorsed not to be delivered until June, 1832. By means of this you will understand fully all you will be **required** to do.*

*I know you will cheerfully comply with my request, thus adding to the **many** obligations under which you have **already placed** me. In the **meantime**, should **death** or sickness happen to you, to which all are liable,*

*please select from among your **friends** some one **worthy**, and to him **hand** this letter, and to him delegate your **authority**. I have been thus particular in my instructions, in consequence of the somewhat perilous enterprise in which we are, engaged, but trust we shall meet **long** ere the time expires, and so save you this trouble. Be the result what it **may**, however, the game is **worth** the candle, and we will play it to the **end**.*

*With kindest wishes for your **most** excellent wife, compliments to the ladies, a **good** word to enquiring **friends**, if there be any, and assurances of my **highest** esteem for yourself, I **remain** as ever,*

*Your sincere **friend**, T. J. B.*

The DOI word pattern can be seen in this letter. Note these words from the Declaration:

*He has refused, for a **long** time after such dissolutions, (480) to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, (490) incapable of annihilation, have **returned** to the people at large(500) for their exercise, the State **remaining**, in the **meantime**, (510) exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and (520) convulsions **within**.*

*He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of **death**, desolation and tyranny, **already** begun, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally **unworthy** the head of a civilized nation.*

The evidence supporting a “single author” theory begins to look overwhelming. Supporters of the legitimacy of the Beale tale may be hard pressed to explain how three different men, the unnamed friend, Morriss and Beale, on three different occasions over a sixty year period, all include such a high volume of DOI words within their writings.

Finally, let us observe the decryption of the “Beale 2” cipher, accomplished after much effort by Morriss’ unknown friend sometime between 1862 and 1882:

*I have **deposited**, in the county of Bedford, about four miles from Buford's, in an excavation or vault, six feet below the surface of the ground, the following articles, belonging jointly to the parties **whose names** are **given** in number "3," herewith:.*

*The first **deposit** consisted of one thousand and fourteen pounds of gold, and three thousand eight hundred and twelve pounds of silver, **deposited** November, 1819. The second was **made** December, 1821, and consisted of nineteen hundred and seven pounds of gold, and twelve hundred and eighty-eight pounds of silver; also jewels, **obtained** in St. Louis in exchange for silver to save **transportation**, and **valued** at \$13,000.*

*The above is **securely** packed in iron pots, with iron covers. The vault is roughly lined with stone, and the vessels **rest** on solid stone, and are covered with **others**. Paper number "1" describes the exact locality of the vault, so that no difficulty will be had in finding it.*

Even here, despite only a few sentences, one can see the tendency toward use of DOI words and envision the possibility that a code or secret writing is contained within the text. Note these sentences from the Declaration:

*He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the **depository** of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.*

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war--in peace, friends.

For **transporting** us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses;

II

The Dunlap Broadside

The historic, signed version of the Declaration of Independence, known as the engrossed or parchment copy, is the one displayed in a titanium casing at the Archives of the United States in Washington, DC, and the version most cited as *the* Declaration of Independence. The parchment copy was created in January 1777 after the delegates had all signed the document.

The first published version of the Declaration, however, known as the Dunlap Broadside, was printed on July 4, 1776, by John Dunlap, a Philadelphia printer. Historians estimate that Dunlap printed approximately 200 broadsides that evening and twenty-nine are known to exist. Although the names of John Hancock, President and Charles Thomson, Secretary, are listed at the bottom of this version of the Declaration, no signatures appear on the document.

There are other differences between the two versions of the Declaration, but for the purposes of any analysis of *The Beale Papers*, a close inspection of the manner in which the charges are presented against King George may be instructive.

Observe the arrangement of the charges against King George in the Dunlap Broadside (Credit to US Archives):

Note that each of the twenty-seven charges against King George begin with a separate line in this document.

Now observe the parchment copy (Credit to US Archives):

Although difficult, one can still see that the parchment version of the Declaration groups the charges together within one paragraph in the document.

When the Beale author decided to insert a version of the Declaration into the story, he chose the Dunlap version. Why? The parchment copy was much more famous, even in 1885, and was, after all, the “official” version of the Declaration. Was there some other reason for choosing the Dunlap version?

Twenty-seven vs. Twenty-six Separate Charges

The Beale version of the Dunlap broadside contains twenty-six, not twenty-seven, separate charges against King George. Compare the two versions of this historic document, with particular attention to the first paragraph (Clause count added):

Beale Version of Dunlap Broadside

He has refused his assent to laws the most (350) wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden (360) his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, (370) unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be (380) obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to (390) attend to them. (1)

He has refused to pass other laws (400) for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those (410) people would relinquish their right of representation in the legislature, (420) a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. (430) (2)

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable (440) and distant from the depository of their public records, for (450) the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his (460) measures. (3)

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly for opposing with (470) manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people. (480) (4)

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, (480) to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, (490) incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large (500) for their exercise, the State remaining, in the meantime, (510) exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and (520) convulsions within. (5)

He has endeavored to prevent the population of (530) these States, for that purpose, obstructing the laws of naturalization (540) of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration (550) hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands. (560) (6)

He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his (570) assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers. (7)

He has made (580) judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of (590) their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. (600) (8)

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent (610) hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat (620) out their substance. (9)

He has kept among us in times (630) of peace standing armies, without the consent of our legislature. (10)

He (640) has offered to render the military independent of and superior (650) to the civil power. (11)

He has combined with others to (660) subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and (670) unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of (680) pretended legislation. (12)

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among (690) us; (13)

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment, (700) for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants (710) of these States; (14)

For cutting off our trade with all (720) parts of the world; (15)

For imposing taxes on us without (730) our consent; (16)

For depriving us, in many cases, of the (740) benefits of trial by jury; (17)

For transporting us beyond seas (750) to be tried for pretended offenses; (18)

For abolishing the free (760) system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein (770) an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to (780) render it, at once, an example and fit instrument for (790) introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies; (19)

For taking (800) away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering (810) fundamentally, (811) the(812) powers (813) of (814) our (815) governments; (816) (20)

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases, whatsoever. (21)

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us. (22)

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. (23)

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation. (24)

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands. (25)

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. (26)

Original Version of Dunlap Broadside (Clause count added)

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. (1)

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. (2)

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. (3)

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the

depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. (4)

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. (5)

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. (6)

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. (7)

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. (8)

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. (9)

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance. (10)

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. (11)

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. (12)

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: (13)

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: (14)

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: (15)

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: (16)

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: (17)

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury: (18)

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: (19)

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies (20)

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: (21)

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. (22)

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. (23)

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. (24)

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. (25)

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. (26)

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. (27)

In the Beale version of the Dunlap Broadside, the Beale author combined the first two charges against King George into one paragraph, thus making the total number of *separate* charges twenty-six instead of the twenty-seven *separate* charges contained in the original version. As we shall see, this slight change may be critical to any analysis of the DOI words embedded into the Beale text.

Comparison of Dunlap Version of “King George Charges” v. Beale Text

Let us observe a selection of DOI words from just two of the “charges” against King George:

For taking (800) away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering (810) fundamentally, (811) the(812) powers (813) of (814) our (815) governments; (816)

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

How many words from these two DOI sentences appear in the Beale text? Seventy! Is there any recognizable pattern which might conceal a secret message? Are the words somehow related? Do certain words routinely appear near or next to one another? Is there any unusual distribution of these DOI words within the Beale text? Is an *exact* match to the Declaration critical to any code? Do the words from the twenty-six charges appear more often or in some pattern that may suggest a code or secret writing? Do all of the words, for example, in the first charge represent a particular letter of the alphabet, the next charge another letter, etc., until the entire alphabet is represented?

DOI words from the two charges found in the text above that appear in the Beale text include: **taking, away, most, valuable, laws, altering, taken, high, bear, against, country, become, executioners, friends, fall, themselves and hands.** Although some words are very common, others, such as “executioners”, are rare indeed, yet they appear in the tale. (As previously stated, note that many “smaller” words, such as - he, their, our, for, etc. - are not included in this comparison.)

Observe the similarities, differences and *source* of the words from the Declaration above and words from the text highlighted below. Note how certain words tie to the Dunlap Broadside version and, specifically, to the “Charges” section of the Declaration and observe how many other DOI words appear in each of the sample sentences from the Beale text below (sentences with smaller type are from the Beale letters and select DOI words are underlined):

DOI Word: *Taking*

What motives could have influenced him and so many others to risk their health and their lives in such an **undertaking**, except the natural love of daring adventure, with its consequent excitement, we can only conjecture.

On account of Indians and other dangers incident to such an **undertaking**, we determined to raise a party of not less than thirty individuals, of good character and standing, who would be pleasant companions, and financially able to encounter the expense.

DOI Word: *Taken*

To systematize a plan for my work I arranged the papers in the order of their length, and numbered them, designing to commence with the first, and devote my whole attention to that until I had either unraveled its meaning or was convinced of its impossibility-- afterwards to **take** up the others and proceed as before.

Before giving the papers to the public, I would say a word to those who may **take** an interest in them, and give them a little advice, acquired by bitter experience.

DOI Word: *Away*

The two years passed **away** during which he said he would be absent, then three, four, and so on to ten; still not a line or message to tell whether he were living or dead.

DOI Word: *Most*

Unmeaning, as this had hitherto been, it was now fully explained, and no difficulty was apprehended in mastering the others; but this accident, affording so much pleasure at the time, was a **most** unfortunate one for him, as it induced him to neglect family, friends, and all legitimate pursuits for what has proved, so far, the veriest illusion.

There the **most** unbounded hospitality reigned, and every facility for enjoyment was furnished.

The *elite* of the town assembled there more frequently than elsewhere, and there are now living some whose **most** pleasant recollections are associated with that period.

With kindest wishes for your **most** excellent wife, compliments to the ladies, a good word to enquiring friends, if there be any, and assurances of my highest esteem for yourself, I remain as ever,

It is to this that I have devoted **most** of my time, but, unfortunately, without success:

DOI Word: *Valuable*

Until now, for reasons which will be apparent to every one, all knowledge of this affair was confined to a very limited circle--to the writer's immediate family, and to one old and **valued** friend, upon whose discretion he could always rely;

"In the spring, at about the same time, he again left, but before doing so, handed me this box, which, as he said, contained papers of **value** and importance; and which he desired to leave in my charge until called for hereafter.

The box was of iron, carefully locked, and of such weight as to render it a safe depository for articles of **value**.

The second was made December, 1821, and consisted of nineteen hundred and seven pounds of gold, and twelve hundred and eighty-eight pounds of silver; also jewels, obtained in St. Louis in exchange for silver to save transportation, and **valued** at \$13,000.

DOI Word: *Laws*

All this being arranged, and a set of **laws** framed, by which the conduct of the members was to be regulated, the election was held, and resulted in choosing me as their leader.

DOI Word: *Altering*

Being assured of a comfortable provision for themselves and their horses, Beale stated his intention of remaining for the winter, should nothing occur to **alter** his plans, but that the gentlemen accompanying him would leave in a few days for Richmond, near which place they resided, and that they were anxious to reach their homes, from which they had long been absent.

DOI Word: *High*

With kindest wishes for your most excellent wife, compliments to the ladies, a good word to enquiring friends, if there be any, and assurances of my **highest** esteem for yourself, I remain as ever,

DOI Word: *Bear*

With this purpose in view, I requested from Mr. Morriss a statement of every particular connected with the affair, or having the slightest **bearing** upon it, together with such views and opinions of his own as might ultimately benefit me in my researches.

Some five years since I, in connection with several friends, who, like myself, were fond of adventure, and if mixed with a little danger all the more acceptable, determined to visit the great Western plains and enjoy ourselves in hunting buffalo, grizzly **bears**, and such other game as the country would afford.

DOI Word: *Against*

Before leaving my companions on the plains it was suggested that, in case of an accident to ourselves, the treasure so concealed would be lost to their relatives, without some provision **against** such a contingency.

DOI Word: *Country*

This house he conducted for many years, enjoying the friendship and countenance of the first men of the **country**.

Some five years since I, in connection with several friends, who, like myself, were fond of adventure, and if mixed with a little danger all the more acceptable, determined to visit the great Western plains and enjoy ourselves in hunting buffalo, grizzly bears, and such other game as the **country** would afford.

Early in March some of the party, to vary the monotony of their lives, determined upon a short excursion, for the purpose of hunting and examining the **country** around us.

DOI Word: *Become*

He had **become** long since satisfied that the parties were no longer living, but his delicacy of feeling prevented his assuming as a fact a matter so pregnant with consequences.

We had **become** exceedingly uneasy, and were preparing to send out scouts to trace them, if possible, when two of the party arrived, and gave an explanation of their absence.

DOI Word: *Executioners*

This, at that time, was our sole object, and we at once proceeded to put it in **execution**.

DOI Word: *Friends*

There are 23 sentences containing the word friend, friends, friendly or friendship in the Beale text.

DOI Word: *Fall*

Having now lost all hope of benefit from this source himself, he is not unwilling that others may receive it, and only hopes that the prize may **fall** to some poor, but honest man, who will use his discovery not solely for the promotion of his own enjoyment, but for the welfare of others.

All was done as intended, and we left St. Louis the 19th May, to be absent two years, our objective point being Santa Fé, which we intended to reach in the ensuing **Fall**, and there establish ourselves in winter quarters.

On my return I found the work still progressing favorably, and, by making large accessions to our force of laborers, I was ready to return last **Fall** with an increased supply of metal, which came through safely and was deposited with the other.

DOI Word: *Themselves*

Being assured of a comfortable provision for **themselves** and their horses, Beale stated his intention of remaining for the winter, should nothing occur to alter his plans, but that the gentlemen accompanying him would leave in a few days for Richmond, near which place they resided, and that they were anxious to reach their homes, from which they had long been absent.

Complete in **themselves**, they are respectfully submitted to the public, with the hope that all that is dark in them may receive light, and that the treasure, amounting to more than

three-quarters of a million, which has rested so long unproductive of good, in the hands of a proper person, may eventually accomplish its mission.

DOI Word: *Hands*

As the failure to do either actually occurred, and the promised explanation has never been received, it may possibly remain in the **hands** of some relative or friend of Beale's, or some other person engaged in the enterprise with him.

"In the spring, at about the same time, he again left, but before doing so, **handed** me this box, which, as he said, contained papers of value and importance; and which he desired to leave in my charge until called for hereafter.

The box was left in my **hands** in the Spring of 1822, and by authority of his letter, I should have examined its contents in 1832, ten years thereafter, having heard nothing from Beale in the meantime; but it was not until 1845, some twenty-three years after it came into my possession, that I decided upon opening it.

Such a key I have left in the **hands** of a friend in this place, sealed, addressed to yourself, and endorsed not to be delivered until June, 1832.

In the meantime, should death or sickness happen to you, to which all are liable, please select from among your friends some one worthy, and to him **hand** this letter, and to him delegate your authority.

Mr. Morriss felt much uneasiness about him, but had had no means of satisfying his doubts; ten years had passed; 1832 was at **hand**, and he was now at liberty to open the box, but he resolved to wait on, vainly hoping that something definite would reach him.

It is now more than twenty years since these papers came into my **hands**, and, with the exception of one of them, they are still as incomprehensible as ever.

Under this arrangement the work progressed favorably for eighteen months or more, and a great deal of gold had accumulated in my **hands**, as well as silver, which had likewise been found.

The idea seemed to prevail, and it was doubtless correct, that when outside parties ascertained, as they would do, that we kept nothing on **hand** to tempt their cupidity, our lives would be more secure than at present.

It was at this time I **handed** you the box, not disclosing the nature of its contents, but asking you to keep it safely till called for.

The papers given above were all that were contained in the box, except two or three of an unimportant character, and having no connection whatever with the subject in **hand**.

Complete in themselves, they are respectfully submitted to the public, with the hope that all that is dark in them may receive light, and that the treasure, amounting to more than three-quarters of a million, which has rested so long unproductive of good, in the **hands** of a proper person, may eventually accomplish its mission.

Comparison of One Sentence from Beale Text with Dunlap Broadside:

When all of the DOI words from the Dunlap version are considered, the prospects

for the existence of a code or secret writing appear tantalizingly close. Observe this sentence from the January 4th, 1822 Beale letter to Morriss:

After leaving St. Louis we were advised by our guide to form a regular military organization, with a captain, to be elected by the members, to whom should be given sole authority to manage our affairs, and, in cases of necessity, ensure united action.

What are the chances that so many words from the Declaration (**form, military, elected, given, sole, authority, cases, necessity, united, action**) would appear in just one sentence of the Beale text? Unless only to prove he could do it, the Beale author must have had some purpose or design in surreptitiously embedding so many DOI words into the text of the story!

DOI Word: Form

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that (80) all men are created equal: that they are endowed by (90) their Creator with certain inalienable rights: that among these are (100) life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure (110) their rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just (120) powers from the consent of the governed; that when any (130) **form** of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is (140) the right of the people to alter or to abolish (150) it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation (160) on such principles and organizing its powers in such **form**, (170) as to them shall seem most likely to effect their (180) safety and happiness.

DOI Word: Military

He (640) has offered to render the **military** independent of and superior (650) to the civil power.

DOI Word: Elected

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, (480) to cause others to be **elected**; whereby the legislative powers, (490) incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large(500) for their exercise, the State remaining, in the meantime, (510) exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and (520) convulsions within.

DOI Word: Given

He has combined with others to (660) subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and (670) unacknowledged by our laws, **giving** his assent to their acts of (680) pretended legislation.

DOI Word: Sole

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable (440) and distant from the depository of their public records, for (450) the **sole** purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his (460) measures.

DOI Word: Authority

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by **authority** of the good people of these Colonies...

DOI Word: Cases

For depriving us, in many **cases**, of the (740) benefits of trial by jury;

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all **cases**, whatsoever.

DOI Word: *Necessity*

Such has been the patient sufferance (280) of these colonies, and such is now the **necessity** which (290) constrains them to alter their former systems of government.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the **necessity**, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war--in peace, friends.

DOI Word: *United*

We, therefore, the representatives of the **United** States of America, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these **United** Colonies are, and of right, ought to be...

How common are such words as: elected, cases, form and military? Could the phrase "...**form a regular military organization, with a captain to be elected by the members to whom should be given sole authority...**" possibly represent a word, for example, "codes" where "*form*" represents the letter "c", "*military*" the letter "o", "*elected*" the letter "d", "*sole*" the letter "e" and "*authority*" the letter "s." Do all words from one "charge" against King George, one "bucket" of words, if you will, represent a single letter of the alphabet? This would allow the Beale author to insert into the text selected DOI words to represent letters which form words yet still have the flexibility to tell the story in plain text.

If this is the case, however, the Beale author would need to possess extraordinary writing skills in order to create a secret message within the text.

The Influence of Edgar Allan Poe

The spirit of Edgar Poe hovers over *The Beale Papers*. Connections to his writing style, life experiences and stories are so numerous that the relationship is readily acknowledged. However, suggestions that Poe himself may be the author of *The Beale Papers* are quickly rejected, primarily because Poe died in 1849 and the Beale tale was not published until 1885. Although Poe is a longshot, the possibility that he wrote the story, or, at least, wrote most of it, should be given some consideration because of Poe's obsession with life after death and his joy in perpetrating a literary hoax. The prospect of writing from the grave and demonstrating his superior literary and cryptographic skills one last time would have been very appealing to Poe. A few of the "Poe Connections" to *The Beale Papers*:

The Gold Bug: Both stories involve cryptographic treasure tales

The Journal of Julius Rodman: The tales have an inverse relationship and identical chronology

Value of Poe's "adopted" father's fortune and Beale treasure - \$750,000

Similarities in writing style seen in Poe works and the Beale tale include: foreign language quotes, use of descriptive conjunctions, indefinite measurements, honorable Virginians, use of unnamed narrator, use of reflexive pronouns. Connections between *The Beale Papers* and Poe's works, writing style and life experiences are explored in great detail at (Gervais Number 4, *The Last Haunting of Edgar Allan Poe - The Beale Monograph*).

If Poe is not the author of *The Beale Papers*, why has the Beale author gone to such efforts to incorporate so many "Poe connections" into the Beale tale? Was the story written to honor Poe? More importantly, does this admiration for Poe extend, possibly, to the creation of a solution to the Beale mystery that is worthy of Poe? In other words, if the Beale author is attempting to honor Poe in some manner by writing into *The Beale Papers* numerous connections to Poe, is it not reasonable to suggest that an examination of Poe's works or life experiences might reveal a solution to the Beale tale? Perhaps, the Beale author chose a solution to his tale that also mimics, either directly or inversely, a Poe tale.

Let us explore some Poe works for ideas of a possible solution to *The Beale Papers*:

The Gold Bug

The most obvious comparison to *The Beale Papers*, perhaps, is Poe's cryptographic, treasure story, *The Gold Bug* because both stories involve cryptography and a search for buried treasure. The story does not appear to offer much help in identifying a solution, though, as *The Gold Bug* suggests that a solution to the ciphers will lead to the treasure. This is the path that Beale researchers have been walking for the past century and a quarter without much success.

The Journal of Julius Rodman

Less well known, but perhaps more persuasive of the influence that Poe casts upon *The Beale Papers*, is the comparison between *The Beale Papers* and *The Journal of Julius Rodman*, Poe's uncompleted serial published in Burton's Gentleman's Magazine from January to June 1840. There can be little doubt that the Beale author had a copy of *The Journal of Julius Rodman* on his knee when he wrote *The Beale Papers*, the stories are intimately related and the *precise* inverse of one another!

In *The Journal of Julius Rodman*, Poe tells the story of fifteen adventurous gentlemen, mostly Virginians, who set out in 1791 on a mercantile venture to the Rocky Mountains to trap and sell peltries for profit. During the journey, the men, and particularly their leader, Julius Rodman, become more and more enthralled with the

beauty of nature. Precisely in the middle of April of the second year of the journey, the group abandons its mercantile efforts completely in favor of the pleasure of exploring the wilderness.

In addition to travelling across the American West in almost exactly the same chronology as Rodman's party, the Beale adventurers experience precisely the *opposite* epiphany in terms of their original objective. In *The Beale Papers*, the objective at the start of the journey is pleasure:

Some five years since I, in connection with several friends, who, like myself, were fond of adventure, and if mixed with a little danger all the more acceptable, determined to visit the great Western plains and enjoy ourselves in hunting buffalo, grizzly bears, and such other game as the country would afford.

Travelling across the great southwest, as opposed to Rodman's journey to the northwest, in a chronology almost identical to Rodman's, albeit twenty-six years later (1791 v. 1817), Beale's band of adventurer's enjoy themselves hunting and exploring until the middle of April of the second year of the journey. At the precise time that Rodman's group abandoned its mercantile quest for profit to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness, Beale's party discovered gold and silver and immediately gave up the pleasures of hunting for the business of gold and silver mining:

One day, while following them, the party encamped in a small ravine, some 250 or 300 miles to the north of Santa Fé, and with their horses tethered, were preparing their evening meal, when one of the men discovered in a cleft of the rocks something that had the appearance of gold. Upon showing it to the others it was pronounced to be gold, and much excitement was the natural consequence. Messengers were at once dispatched to inform me of the facts, and request my presence with the rest of the party, and with supplies for an indefinite time. All the pleasures and temptations which had lured them to the plains were now forgotten, and visions of boundless wealth and future grandeur were the only ideas entertained. Upon reaching the locality I found all as it had been represented, and the excitement intense.

The inverse relationship and chronological precision between the two stories should not be ignored. *The Journal of Julius Rodman* may suggest that the Beale author might create a solution that, while closely related, is the inverse of a Poe tale.

The Purloined Letter

One of the most famous "hiding in plain sight" stories is Poe's *The Purloined Letter*. The connections between *The Purloined Letter* and *The Beale Papers* are subtle but, perhaps, more powerful. Aside from the "hiding in plain sight" theme central to *The Purloined Letter* and proposed here as a result of the identification of hundreds of DOI words concealed within the Beale text, the stories share one other dominant connection: the letters! The Beale letters may serve the same purpose in *The Beale Papers* as the purloined letter served in Poe's classic "hiding in plain sight" tale. This theory would suggest that although the entire Beale text is *apparently* coded with DOI words, only the Beale letters, seamlessly integrated into the Beale tale, contain the text which holds a coded message or secret writing. One should also consider that the word "letters" can have two meanings, as in "letters to my father" or "letters of the alphabet."

The third of Poe's detective tales, *The Purloined Letter* pits private detective extraordinaire Auguste Dupin against his arch enemy, the fiendishly clever Minister D. The story concerns the successful attempts of Minister D to conceal a letter from the Parisian police, and Dupin's efforts to identify and recover the letter. Despite Herculean efforts by the police, Minister D has thwarted every attempt to recover the letter, which had been stolen from an exalted royal and was being used as a blackmail tool in the great game of French politics.

With respect to any investigation of *The Beale Papers*, a review of the methods of concealment by Minister D and of detection by Dupin may be instructive in developing a solution to the enigma. Poe, through Dupin, suggests that the police are stumped because the mystery is a little too simple, plain or self-evident. Poe reasons that the police can't find the letter because they are looking where they always look for such items, in the small cubbyholes, secret drawers and hollowed out bricks where small items are usually hidden. Of course, the police also search the person of Minister D. The police fail to find the letter despite ample opportunity, provided, it seems, by Providence, to search both the person and apartment of Minister D.

Dupin recognizes that Minister D has *directed* the police to search his apartment and his person by creating opportunities for the police to do both. Dupin reasons that Minister D is not concerned because the letter is neither on his person nor in a small, secret location within the apartment, otherwise the police would have found the document. Based on this reasoning, Dupin searches the apartment and identifies the letter immediately because it has been placed "in plain sight" in the letter rack. To be sure, the letter has been drastically altered to disguise its original appearance; this is why the police repeatedly missed it, but Dupin sees through this charade because he is "both mathematician and poet" and can think like Minister D.

Let us take a look at *The Beale Papers* through Dupin's eyes. Where is the first place a cryptographer or treasure hunter would look for a solution to the Beale enigma? In this case, where he usually looks and where he has been *directed* to look, the unsolved ciphers! The Beale author does everything in his power to excite interest in the ciphers. He creates interest in the ciphers with a believable, though unlikely, story of buried treasure. He solves one of the ciphers with a detailed explanation of how to use the Declaration of Independence as a key. He rewards the breaking of one of the ciphers with a fantastic description of thousands of pounds of gold and silver, and jewels, practically waiting to be scooped out of the ground. He teases the treasure hunter and cryptographer with the knowledge that a solution to one of the unsolved ciphers will provide the location of the treasure. The Beale author even attempts to warn away those who might be ensnared by the tale, a practice sure to create interest and curiosity, by issuing a stern admonition:

"Should you disregard my advice, do not hold me responsible that the poverty you have courted is more easily found than accomplishment of your wishes, and I would avoid the sight of another reduced to my condition."

Does this effort not seem similar to Minister D *directing* the police by allowing

himself and his apartment to be repeatedly searched by the authorities? Minister D makes appointments away from the apartment for long periods of time and walks alone on the street where he can easily be waylaid by police, or their hired agents. The Beale author *directs* attention to the ciphers and entices readers to solve the ciphers and collect the treasure! Both stories possess an underlying pattern of manipulation, the police by Minister D in *The Purloined Letter* and the reader by the Beale author in *The Beale Papers*.

The “Gillogly strings” (see Gervais Number Three, *A Dissenting Opinion*) may offer evidence in support of a hypothesis that the ciphers are “bait” created to distract the researcher from a code hidden elsewhere, perhaps within the Beale text. The strings were discovered in 1980 when James Gillogly, using a computer, applied the Declaration of Independence to Beale Cipher Number 1 and found that the resulting decryption produced strings of sequential letters, such as:

ABFDEFGHIIJKLMMNOHPP

Why would the Beale author invest so much energy into making the ciphers the central focus of his story yet, at the same time, make them unsolvable? Unless the Beale author created a hoax with no solution, the most logical explanation is that he wished to distract the reader away from a code or secret writing hidden in some other section of the story!

Where would Poe/Minister D hide the solution to the Beale enigma? He would place it in plain sight, to be sure, but somehow disguised to deceive the searcher. The solution may be elegant and simple, but, recalling the inverse relationship between *The Beale Papers* and *The Journal of Julius Rodman*, perhaps this time, the Beale author would hide his solution in the small cubbyhole or secret drawer disdained by Minister D. Where might one find a small cubbyhole in an 11,000 word story? Perhaps, by placing a coded message or secret writing somewhere within that forest of words, hidden in plain sight but effectively concealed by some as yet undetected pattern. Certainly, as Poe’s first principle suggests, hiding a cipher of DOI words in a forest of words designed in such a way as to elude any suspicion that a cipher even exists is a very effective way of concealment!

A Valentine

To those who doubt that Poe was capable of hiding a secret message “in plain sight” within a piece of literature, observe his famous poem to Frances Sargent Osgood, a renowned poet and friend. Each line of the poem highlights a letter which spells “Frances Sargent Osgood.”

A Valentine

For her this rhyme is penned, whose luminous eyes,
Brightly expressive as the twins of Leda,
Shall find her own sweet name, that nestling lies
Upon the page, enwrapped from every reader.
Search narrowly the lines!- they hold a treasure
Divine- a talisman- an amulet

That must be worn at heart. Search well the measure-
The words- the syllables! Do not forget
The triviallest point, or you may lose your labor
And yet there is in this no Gordian knot
Which one might not undo without a sabre,
If one could merely comprehend the plot.
Enwritten upon the leaf where now are peering
Eyes scintillating soul, there lie perdu
Three eloquent words oft uttered in the hearing
Of poets, by poets- as the name is a poet's, too,
Its letters, although naturally lying
Like the knight Pinto- Mendez Ferdinando-
Still form a synonym for Truth- Cease trying!
You will not read the riddle, though you do the best you can do.

Conclusion

It has not escaped our notice that the publication of these observations may suggest a very quick path to a solution to the Beale enigma. That is the hope! The story is too important, as a classic short story, as a cryptographic “Holy Grail,” as an icon of American history and as a buried treasure legend. Good luck!

RESEARCH NOTE and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: To fully appreciate the significance of this fascinating enigma, some familiarity with *The Beale Papers* would be helpful. The most comprehensive source for research concerning *The Beale Papers*, is the website *Beale Ciphers Analyses* found at: <http://www.angelfire.com/pro/bealeciphers/> Cryptanalyst Ron Gervais has unselfishly built the best clearinghouse of information and documentation, including the original pamphlet, monographs, scholarly articles and research theories, relating to the Beale enigma. Ron's website contains the history of contributions by Beale researchers over the years and is a fascinating study of the cryptography, literature, history and treasure lore related to the Beale legend accumulated during the past century. We acknowledge the contributions of these dedicated researchers.

Likewise with respect to Poe, see: <http://www.eapoe.org/index.htm> managed by the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, for the most comprehensive collection of data relating to Poe's works and life.

Thanks to the US Archives here: <http://www.archives.gov/>

Also, grateful acknowledgement is made to Google Search, Google Books, and those Internet pioneers who envisioned a collaborative research effort such as *The Beale Papers*.

Finally, all who have shared their work over the 125 year existence of this enigma

deserve our gratitude.
