

Cryptologic Exhibit Opens at Smithsonian

The exhibit, "Cipher Machines: World War I - World War II" was formally opened by Admiral B. R. Inman, DIRNSA, and Director Roger Kennedy of the Smithsonian's Museum of American History at a ceremony at the museum on 25 February. The exhibit is scheduled for one year. Also attending the ceremony were Miss Ann Caracristi, D/DIR, and special guest Mr. Frank B. Rowlett, cryptologic pioneer and inventor.

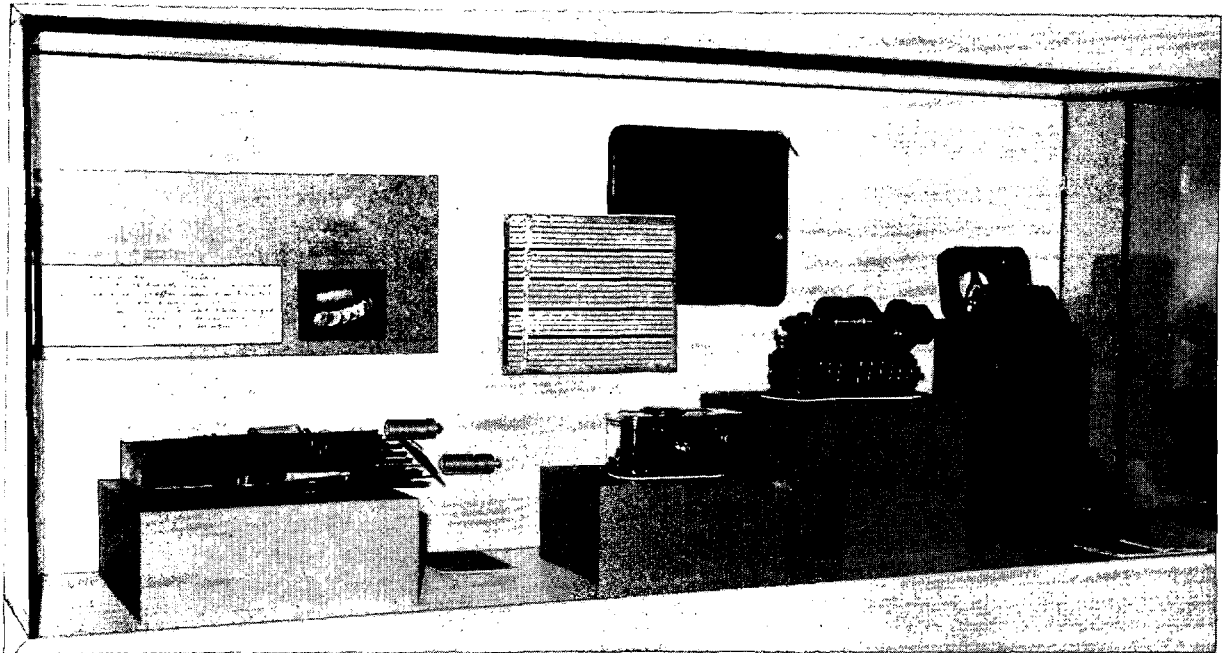
The exhibit features devices ranging from a 1910 cipher disk to the German ENIGMA and the U.S. SIGABA. Commercial machines of the 1920s and 1930s are also displayed.

All Agency employees and their families are encouraged to visit the Smithsonian and see this exhibit.

Employees are reminded of their continuing obligation not to discuss Agency activities.



At the opening ceremony at the Smithsonian: Frank Rowlett; Miss Ann Caracristi, D/DIR; Admiral B. R. Inman, DIRNSA; and Mr. Roger Kennedy, Director of the Museum of American History.



Various cipher devices on display.

From Admiral Inman's remarks:

...When the idea of an exhibit first arose, there was some trepidation about whether one could successfully move to bring about an exhibit that would be of value to the country and that would protect those elements of security which remain—and will for many years remain—critical to us. We had no expertise, and we were indeed fortunate to find in this museum the expertise, the sensitivity, the interest that could take the knowledge we could bring to bear and help work a display that we're both very comfortable will both educate the public and will also provide a lasting tribute to those who have worked so hard in this field, who have waited patiently for many years—not even expecting that there would ever be any public recognition of their accomplishments.

We really began in this country, in the second decade of the century, modern efforts in the field of cryptography. The premier scholar in this field for the United States was Mr. William Friedman. His first recruit was Frank Rowlett, then a young cryptologist, who was one of the coinventors of the first major machine used by this country and used for a great length of time with great security. That's part

of the exhibit that will now go on display today. There's been some quiet recognition of his contributions in the past: the Congress, in respect for the secrecy which had to be maintained for his inventions, did grant him a cash award some years ago. That was probably useful and helpful to the Rowlett family, at least for a brief period of time, but it's a delight that we now finally have found a mechanism that can let the public itself know, not only of his accomplishments but, silently, of so many others who worked then and who work now.

We have been slowly trying to tread our way in these last three years to find some means by which this very sensitive agency could put forward a public face. In the field of public cryptography, our activities have been one step forward and at least one back. With your kind support, we have great confidence that in this case we're taking a very positive strong step forward. There will be no need to take one back, and we hope this is indeed the forerunner of the ability over the years ahead to make available to the public more of the contributions to this whole society which a very brilliant group of people have made....