

marked with a small penciled, circled, page number. On most of the photostats a patch of black is visible, on which a folio number has been written in white ink*, in yet a different handwriting; possibly Voynich's. The first photostat in the bundle is a negative reproduction of Newbold's Plate XXI, with Friedman's handwritten note "Note: This is a page which I have added as a protection to f1 of the original. Taken from the Newbold-Kent book on the Voynich MSS. W.F.F." The next photostat shows the first page of the VMS, has a circled "1" and the white ink label reads "Fol. 1 recto," and so on. The photostats D'Imperio herself used, described on page 40 of her book, defaced by

copious and obtrusive remains of at least one previous computer processing project, including circled words and paragraphs, lines marking off parts of the text, and legends such as "start here," "omit punch," and "punch just this"

were apparently derived from the set in the Friedman collection, which are not as severely defaced, but which do have such legends as "omit punch (entire page)" on photostat page 112 (showing f.57v), a "punch just this" on photostat page 119 (f.67r), etc. She might have been using Tiltman's set [T, p.44].

Towards the end of World War II Friedman's Voynich investigations took a more serious turn, with the formation of what D'Imperio called the "First Voynich Manuscript Study Group," (FSG) an after-hours informal club of Army cryptanalysts. This club was apparently active between 1944 and 1946; the results of its activity are described below. In 1946 Friedman obtained a report (in folder 1614) on the VMS's handwriting from his colleague Albert Howard Carter (later professor of literature at Eckerd College).

In 1951 Friedman was able to interest John Tiltman, a British cryptanalyst he had befriended during the war, in the VMS. It seems that Tiltman became Friedman's closest confidant, at least in Voynichological matters. In the early 1950s Friedman developed his theory that

*Many of the VMS leaves are foldouts, and the existing folio numbers do not all lie on the recto sides of the leaves. Hence it is not always obvious what to call any given page of the VMS; the foliation used in [N] and [Br] is often haphazard. The "white ink" folio numbers shown on item 1600 provide the most systematic and unambiguous method of naming the pages of the VMS that I know of; this is the foliation used by D'Imperio [D1]. The pencil page numbers were used in all computer and punch card projects by Friedman and associates. An appendix shows how the two systems are related.