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4th of June, 1996

Dear Kaplansky,

I enclose a photocopy of the last section of Watson's thesis with the compliments of the Mathematics Department.

I am not sure that a list of 790 forms ever existed, Watson may just have calculated (perhaps not accurately) how many forms corresponded to each of his 68 forms.

One person who might possibly be able to help you is Watson's student

Dr. T.H. Jackson,
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Watson married a widow with a son from her previous marriage. After his wife's death I believe Watson lived

with this son and his (the son's) wife and children. Unfortunately I remember neither the son's surname nor his address. I will attempt to find it and let you know. My impression is that when he retired from U.C.L. Watson retired from Mathematics and may even have destroyed his papers.

I will write again if I can find out more.

Yours sincerely

Ambrose Rogers.

Mathematical Sciences Research Institute
1000 Centennial Drive
Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

August 12, 1996

Dear Prof. Rogers:

On July 23, 1996 the project of finding all regular ternaries concluded. The number to be compared with Watson's 790 turned out to be 794. Close. I think 794 is right but if it turns out to be wrong I won't jump off a cliff.

On the matter of the search for a possible Watson list I have come up with another (possibly slightly crazy) idea. In his paper (Mathematika 22(1975), 1-11) he effusively thanks the referee. Perhaps after 20 years the anonymity of the referee might be waived. If he or she is still on the planet I would be pleased to make contact. Or: perhaps someone would be willing to make contact on my behalf. I realize that old Mathematika files may have been discarded or otherwise hard to get at.

One further thought. The dedication to Watson and the fact that this is such a close followup of a significant part of his life's work suggest publication in Mathematika. (Let me hastily note that I realize that it would have to be refereed.) I would like that and I think my two colleagues would be happy (but I haven't mentioned it to them). The text proper is only 4 pages. But the table of 913 forms; aye, there's the rub. Watson's decision not to publish a full list must certainly not be repeated. The table (and the text too) are available online, as the jargon goes. That means that publication electronically is possible in some journals without the daunting task of setting in type and proofreading. The current cover of Mathematika does not hint at such possibilities. So I am forgetting it (unless you choose to pursue it further).

Let me thank you again for being so extraordinarily helpful.

Sincerely

Irving Kaplansky



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19th of August, 1996.

Dear Kaplansky,

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your paper with Jagy and Schiemann. I hope very much that you will persuade your coauthors to agree to submit it to *Mathematika*, together with the Tables of 'Regular odd forms' and of 'Regular even forms'. As you know it will need to be refereed. Although I cannot speak for the referees, I should be very surprised if it was not accepted with acclamation. There should be no difficulty in printing the tables in full. It would help if you could submit the tables in both hard copy and electronic form, as our printers should be able to print from the electronic form, but could re-set

them if necessary. (Incidentally, I would do the proof reading myself and am undaunted by the prospect).

With best regards

Yours sincerely

C. Ambrose Rogers