



Kind Regards: The Lost Art of Letter-Writing

Liz Williams

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Including ruminations on the importance of letter writing from famous literary and historical luminaries past, this is the fascinating story of how a simple piece of paper revolutionized global communication

"No literary form is more revealing, more spontaneous or more individual than a letter." —P.D. James

Ever since the advent and increasing popularity of electronic communication, it has become clear that the worthy art of letter writing is in sad decline. E-mails and texts have overtaken the humble pen and paper as the most popular methods of communication. Here, the complete history of letter writing and how it has shaped the world today is explored—from the early Greek philosophers to the great letter writers Byron and Walpole, as well as many famous letters that have changed the world. It also covers the invention of the fountain pen and the growth of the mail delivery system, instructions for novice letter writers on how to construct the perfect correspondence, and how—despite the ever-growing influence of technology—handwritten letters might at last be regaining their value, meaning, and popularity in the modern world.

Kind Regards: The Lost Art of Letter-Writing Details

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From Reader Review Kind Regards: The Lost Art of Letter-Writing for online ebook

lucy black says

Too slim, too twee, too old fashioned. This covers a lot of the boring side of letter writing but doesn't touch on the things I am interested in. I wanted more pictures, more modern letters, more ideas about how to send interesting mail. Less old letters by boring old men, less formal instruction, less quotes.

Clayton Chase says

Lost art, but it doesn't have to be. Great review of the basics, with plenty of inspiration to get one writing again.

Sarah says

Kind Regards was an amazingly well written book, and an exceedingly pleasant read. This book was full of a multitude of quirky, amusing and fun information about letters of today and letters from the past. Overall this book was a wonderful read and I am very happy to have it in my collection.

Kathryn says

A well gathered book all about writing letters. Lots of history, replicas of letters written in history and much more.

Kayla Cagan says

This British publication illuminates the art of writing and reading letters, as well as letters' importance in history, war, science, love, friendship, art, inspiration, and communication, both informal and formal. If you are a letter writer (or receiver) you may enjoy some of the quotes about the impact of writing on the parties involved. Lastly, this is small bed-side table book, not a, long in-depth study. It would make a great gift to give to a friend.

Kes says

Quick primer into letter writing and the history of letter writing. I liked the excerpts of the letters she provided:

I believe that the purposes for which I and my fellow soldiers entered upon this war should have been so clearly stated as to have made it impossible to change them and that had this been done the objects which actuated us would now be attainable by negotiation.

It'll probably have more value in 20 years, when everyone has switched to email.

Ammar says

short and informative. a short introduction to the lost art of writing letters.

well researched. spans across types of letters; love letters. political letters. letters written on death beds or before executions.

describes letters usage in fiction and various genres of fiction.

Milva says

Only 3 stars as the first part of this book consists of the history of letter and mail and different types of letters is knowledge easily found on the Internet. The second part with its examples illustrating mentioned earlier letter types is just delightful and so interesting.

Andrew says

Very much a letter of introduction to a wide-ranging literary & historical source of knowledge, well-highlighted here by Liz Williams. As a lapsed 'letterist'...I do feel a growing urge to find my fountain-pen and classy, blue stationery and write to some of my older friends who appreciate a well-turned phrase, a clever conceit or a pithy but pungent assessment of the old-age vicissitudes of human existence!...with proper grammar & no spelling mistakes! Ahem!...I must away to my writing-desk, dear sir or madam!

Shawn says

I felt that this book was a good primer in letter writing history and how to write your own letters. It featured letters from famous people of the past and explored how letters have changed or remained the same. After reading this book, writing letters will take on new meaning.

Reylo Ren says

A light-hearted trivia book. Great for gifts or a holiday read. It's not a serious historical book, but a good

introduction to letters throughout history. Very easy to read.

Jennifer Smith says

Nice, quick read. Lots of info about the history of writing letter and wonderful glimpses into letters from the past.

Marsha says

I think this little book would make a good gift book for a special friend. It gives a brief history of letter writing, stating that the origin of paper was with its invention in China (206 BC – 220 AD). The author also gives a brief history of the delivery of mail. Additionally the author gives lots of examples of letters from historical figures, and puts them into different categories, such as love letters and “Dear John” letters. She mentions how there have been novels written which tell a story through a compilation of letters. She also states there is now a decline in letter writing due to the availability of email and text messages. However in her book, the author shows an appreciation for letters, demonstrating to the reader that it is not a lost art, after all.

Gavin Lightfoot says

A good intro to the history of letter writing, has got me dusting off my fountain tip.

Ana says

Written in small bite-sized pieces, like a sidebar to a longer article that was never written. Provides a mini dictionary of letter writing information but never gets below the surface.
