

International symposium  
*What is a letter? An interdisciplinary approach*  
 Old Dining Hall, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 2 to 4 July 2014

<b>Wednesday, 2 July</b>	
11:30	Registration
12:30	Welcome
<b>Session I: Aspects of epistolarity</b>	
12.45	The evolution of epistolarity: conceptual blending in genre transformation (Michael Sinding)
13.30	Die Poesie des Briefes. Eine literaturanthropologische Skizze (Robert Vellusig)
14.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
14.45	Voltaire's correspondence: When is a letter not a letter? (Nicholas Cronk)
15.30	From 'post to post': epistolary valediction and the 'horror of the last' (Grace Egan)
16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45	Letters, performance and performativity (Oliver Herford)
17:30 – 18:15	Letters 2.0? Linguistic insights into the extent to which social media are a substitute for personal letters (Alan Scott)
19.30	<i>Pub evening (opt-in)</i>
<b>Thursday, 3 July</b>	
<b>Session II: Concepts and contexts</b>	
08:45	Registration
09:00	'Here it ends with my pen, but not my heart': letterness and the many ends of 'the letter' (Liz Stanley)
09:45	Epistolarisches – Die achtfache Relationalität des Briefes (Inka Kording)
10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00	'... die Hälfte eines Dialoges'? Briefe auf Papyri und Ostraka. Überlegung zur quellenkritischen Auswertung (Patrick Reinard)
11:45	Letter writing and knowledge cybernetics in Rabbinic literature of the twentieth century (Zeev Kitzis)

12:30	<i>Lunch (own arrangements)</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Seminar at the Bodleian Library
	<b>Session III: Transmission and postal history</b>
14:45	Godwin's letters: transmissions of value (Pamela Clemit)
15:30	Der Brief als Sammelobjekt bei Karl August Varnhagen von Ense (Katarzyna Jaśtał)
16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45	From cross-written letters to human ones: how postal reforms changed the letter (Emma Harper)
17:30 – 18:15	The Edwardian postcard revolution – a literacy studies perspective (Julia Gillen)
19:30	<i>Conference dinner</i>
<b>Friday, 4 July</b>	
	<b>Session IV: Interpretation and materiality</b>
08:45	Registration
09:00	Historische Semantik des Briefs und die Chancen digitaler Briefeditionen (Jochen Strobel)
09:45	Der Status von Briefbeigaben in der Verlegerkorrespondenz – eine editionsphilologische Perspektive (Caroline Socha)
10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00	Using historic letterlocking to reseal the letters of John Donne: a collaborative approach to letters (Jana Dambrogio/Daniel Starza Smith)
12:00 – 13:15 Workshop	Letter writing, calligraphy, and literati taste in medieval China: a reading of a manuscript letter by Mi Fu (Lik Hang Tsui) Gaben aus dem Kloster – die Briefe der Lüner Benediktinerinnen (1460-1550) (Lena Vosding)
13:15 – 14:45	<i>Lunch (sandwich lunch provided)</i>
14:45 – 15:30	Discussion and conclusion
15:30 – 16:30 workshop	<i>postscriptum</i> : An exercise in letter locking (Jana Dambrogio/Daniel Starza Smith)