



800 Years of Women's Letters, Olga Kenyon, P. D. James, Penguin Books, 1994, 014023389X, 9780140233896, 320 pages. In this engrossing anthology, the first truly comprehensive study of women's letters, Olga Kenyon takes us from the twelfth century to the present day and explores the tradition of female letter-writing that has existed for over eight centuries. Here is Heloise writing to Abelard's 'superior wisdom' of 'how much I have lost in you' from twelfth-century Paris; Margaret Paston, the efficient manager of her husband's estate, vividly describing her troubles in affectionate letters to her husband while he was practising law in London during the Wars of the Roses; Elizabeth I firmly but tactfully refusing Erik of Sweden's offer of marriage as she 'highly commends this single life'; Queen Victoria complaining to Sir Robert Peel about the 'disgrace' in the neglect of Buckingham Palace; Jane Austen writing to her sister Cassandra, and Fanny Burney on Dr Johnson; Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf exchanging intimate thoughts on their lives and writing; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu describing how, abandoned by her lover, she rebuilds her life and her garden in Italy 'enjoying every amusement that solitude can afford'; and many more lesser known women whose writing reveals much of their day to day lives and the sometimes restricted world they inhabited..

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Interview with the muse remarkable women speak on creativity and power, Nina Winter, 1978, Literary Criticism, 204 pages. .

Woman's Record, Or, Sketches of All Distinguished Women From the Creation to A.D. 1854 : Arranged in Four Eras : with Selections from Female Writers of Every Age, Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, 1855, , 912 pages. .

Elizabeth Nihell , Pam Lieske, 2008, , 545 pages. .

Mr Brown's War , Helen D. Millgate, Oct 21, 2011, History, 336 pages. Richard Brown kept a personal diary throughout the whole of the Second World War. He used it to record the course of the conflict as he perceived it, gleaned from the

The Distaff Muse An Anthology of Poetry Written by Women, Clifford Bax, 1949, English poetry, 204 pages. .

Complete poems , Keith Douglas, Desmond Graham, 1987, Poetry, 145 pages. Mainly remembered as a World War II poet who died in Normandy three days after D-day, Keith Douglas demonstrated a rapidly maturing energy and simplicity of diction through his

Writing women contemporary women novelists, Olga Kenyon, 1991, Literary Criticism, 150 pages. .

The Meridian anthology of early women writers British literary women from Aphra Behn to Maria Edgeworth, 1660-1800, Katharine M. Rogers, Jun 1, 1987, , 409 pages. Gathers poems, essays, and selections from letters, novels, and journals of nineteen British women authors, and includes a

brief profile of each writer.

The female worthies or, Memoirs of the most illustrious ladies of all ages and nations... Containing (exclusive of foreigners) the lives of above fourscore British ladies... Collected from history, and the most approved biographers, and brought down to the present time..., , 1766, . . .

Women of achievement thirty-five centuries of history, Susan Raven, Alison Weir, 1981, Social Science, 288 pages. Offers brief biographical sketches of women influential in politics, education, social reform, religion, literature, art, science, medicine, business, exploration, and sports.

Women's worlds the McGraw-Hill anthology of women's writing, Robyn Warhol-Down, Diane Price Herndl, Mary Lou Kete, Lisa Schnell, Rashmi Varma, Dec 17, 2007, , 2021 pages. Women's Worlds, a new anthology of women's writing, makes available a broad range of women's voices from across time, across classes, and across the globe in a slimmer, more

The Romance of Woman's Influence St. Monica, Vittoria Colonna, Madame Guyon, Caroline Herschel, Mary Unwin, Dorothy Wordsworth and Other Mothers, Wives, Sisters, and Friends who Have Helped Great Men, Alice Corkran, , Family & Relationships, 377 pages. .

The Two Thousand Women of Achievement, Volume 4 , , 1972, Biography & Autobiography, . .

Women, Work & Sexual Politics in Eighteenth-century England , Bridget Hill, 1994, History, 275 pages. Although housework is acknowledged by social historians to be one of women's responsibilities, Hill is one of the few historians to focus on the household as the most important

Women all on fire the women of the English Civil War, Alison Plowden, 1998, Biography & Autobiography, 218 pages. The story of the women who played an active part in the war between King and Parliament in the 17th century. Ranging from Queen Henrietta Maria, self-styled Her Majesty

Women of Letters, Manuscript Circulation, and Print Afterlives in the Eighteenth Century Elizabeth Rowe, Catharine Cockburn and Elizabeth Carter, Melanie Bigold, Jan 12, 2013, LITERARY COLLECTIONS, 312 pages. Women of Letters, Manuscript Circulation and Print Afterlives in the Eighteenth Century: Elizabeth Rowe, Catharine Cockburn and Elizabeth Carter tells the stories of these

Uppity Women of Medieval Times , Vicki LeNin, 1997, Humor, 247 pages. Containing in-depth historical research and period artwork, a spirited book highlights the brash and eccentric women of the Renaissance, from Catalina de Erauso who dueled

This inspiring and fascinating book is the first truly comprehensive study of women's letters ever published. Organized by subject matter, and covering a wide range of topics from politics, work and war, to childhood, love and sexual passion, "800 Years of Women's Letters" reveals the depth, breadth and diversity of women's lives through the ages. Here Heloise writes to Abelard of her undying devotion, Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf correspond about life and writing, and Queen Victoria complains to Robert Peel about the neglect of Buckingham Palace. Many more women write letters that reveal the compassion, humour, love and tenacity with which they confront the often difficult circumstances of everyday life. This is an intriguing insight, and a rare opportunity to read the real words of real women, in their own intimate language. 'No literary form is more revealing, more spontaneous or more individual than a letter' - P.D. James.

'800 years of Women's letters' by Olga Kenyon is a truly fascinating and comprehensive study of women's letters reveals the nature of women's lives from the twelfth to the twentieth century. Entertaining and informative the book covers a geographic span from France to America and down to Mary Kingsley travelling in the Congo. There are many letters written here in Britain, from Jane

Austen et al to contemporary writers Fay Weldon and Elaine Feinstein, including also the first female letter known from Roman Britain celebrating women's friendship.

Olga Kenyon's intention is to show that women's letters are a valid form of literature, despite still being relatively neglected, compared to poetry and novels, and she achieves this admirably. Taking account of the feminist approach, studying the older letters for their difference from the present also helps toward our understanding both of the past and of gender formation.

There are for instance letters from Aphra Benn, (the first professional woman writer in England) forced to ask for money to cover her expenses; Mrs Gaskell considers the balance between housekeeping duties and individual development; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu writes of on her first visit to a Turkish Bath in 1717 (she is perhaps the most interesting letter writer in the English language, though no books of hers were in print when this book was published in 1992). Many letters from less well known women are included such as Isabella Bird whose letters home give an informative view of life for new settlers in the American West of 1873.

This is a wonderful book. Arranged according to subject areas (such as Friendship, Marriage and Childbirth, Travellers and Travelling, and Political Skills) it contains a fascinating and insightful guide to the lives of women from the thirteenth century to the present day. It covers a wide variety of lifestyles from the rich and famous to the nun and factory worker, and relationships, with women writing to family members, lovers, husbands, friends and notable figures in society. Many of the letters come from abroad (USA, Spain, France, Nigeria) and so also allow the reader to compare lives geographically. The best thing, however, is that it shows women reflecting and commenting upon their own lives, often in candid and surprising ways. Olga Kenyon provides a lucid and intelligent commentary which serves to highlight the social and political importance of the material, whilst refraining from interfering with the voices contained within it. Highly recommended for the scholar or interested leisure reader alike.

In this engrossing anthology, the first truly comprehensive study of women's letters, Olga Kenyon takes us from the twelfth century to the present day and explores the tradition of female letter-writing that has existed for over eight centuries. Here is Heloise writing to Abelard's 'superior wisdom' of 'how much I have lost in you' from twelfth-century Paris; Margaret Paston, the efficient manager of her husband's estate, vividly describing her troubles in affectionate letters to her husband while he was practising law in London during the Wars of the Roses; Elizabeth I firmly but tactfully refusing Erik of Sweden's offer of marriage as she 'highly commends this single life'; Queen Victoria complaining to Sir Robert Peel about the 'disgrace' in the neglect of Buckingham Palace; Jane Austen writing to her sister Cassandra, and Fanny Burney on Dr Johnson; Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf exchanging intimate thoughts on their lives and writing; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu describing how, abandoned by her lover, she rebuilds her life and her garden in Italy 'enjoying every amusement that solitude can afford'; and many more lesser known women whose writing reveals much of their day to day lives and the sometimes restricted world they inhabited.

Aphra Behn asked beautiful believe Bronte brother Charlotte Bronte child comfort daughter dear dearest death Edith Wharton Elaine Feinstein Elizabeth English epistolary novel Fanny Burney father feel felt female feminist fever France French friendship George Eliot girls give governess happiness heart Hildegard of Bingen honour hope husband India Jane Austen keep Ladies of Llangollen Lady Mary Wortley learning letter-writing live London look Madame de Sevigne Mademoiselle male Maria Marina Tsvetayeva marriage married Mary Wollstonecraft Mary Wortley Montagu Millicent Fawcett mind mother never night nineteenth century novelist Paris passion person Queen seems sent servants sister soul suffering sure talk tell thing thought tion told trans Victorian Vita Sackville-West wife wish woman women women's letters Woolf word writing wrote young

P. D. James is the author of nineteen books, most of which have been filmed and broadcast on television in the United States and other countries. She spent thirty years in various departments of the British Civil Service, including the Police and Criminal Law Departments of Great Britain's Home Office. She has served as a magistrate and as a governor of the BBC. In 2000 she celebrated her eightieth birthday and published her autobiography, "Time to Be in Earnest," The recipient of many

prizes and honors, she was created Baroness James of Holland Park in 1991. She lives in London and Oxford.

Olga Kenyon has unearthed eight centuries of lost voices, easily proving her assertion that women's letters are indeed "a great art form." Though readers will have heard of many of these correspondents--from Heloise (to Abelard, naturally) to Restoration playwright-spy Aphra Behn to Madame de Sévigné--most of us would be hard put to volunteer any solid information. Kenyon organizes these letters by theme, including friendship, childhood and education, war work, and political skills, and the juxtapositions are enlightening. "Housekeeping and Daily Life" features the Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva, who writes of being forced to leave her two-year-old tied to a chair while she searches Moscow for provisions; Queen Elizabeth I, who bemoans the bad shape Buckingham Palace is in; and Hannah Cullwick, a servant who anatomizes England's sharp class divisions, circa 1864. Cullwick writes of toiling in the kitchen while the upper classes lord it upstairs: "But it's always so with ladies and servants and of course there is a difference cause their bringing up is so different--servants may feel it sharply and do sometimes i believe, but it's best not to be delicate, nor mind what work we do so as it's honest."

There is an evident high seriousness to Kenyon's enterprise--you won't find, for example, any of Nancy Mitford's sparkling missives. On the other hand, she does include a teasing letter from the great Victorian traveler Mary Kingsley, which begins: "My cannibal friends never eat human heads unless for religious purposes." -- Amazon.com Books --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This first truly comprehensive anthology of women's letters takes us from the twelfth century to the present. Both entertaining and informative, these letters reveal the inner nature of women's lives through the centuries. Included are Heloise passionately writing to Abelard, Elizabeth I refusing a marriage proposal, Jane Austen writing to her sister Fanny, as well as letters by Colette, George Sand and Anais Nin. In short, an indispensable historical resource that is fascinating to read. With a foreword by P.D. James

Using people's letters to illustrate historical points is an effective way to learn history (and to learn that throughtout time, women have felt the same things and written to each other in the same way) and Kenyon's book is an excellent source in that respect. Of particular interest are the letters on illness and aging as well as friendship. I'm particularly glad she included passionate love between women, but find other aspects of diversity sadly missing. She does include some letters from Islamic women, but other cultures are sadly excluded (my suspicion is that this is from lack of ready resources at Kenyon's disposal rather than a conscious decision on her part). Some of the letters are enthralling, other's somewhat boring, and therefore similar to what you might uncover in your family's attic. This book is definitely worth the read, but I'm uncertain as to whether it's worth a purchase.

This was a most disappointing collection of historical correspondence with the obvious attempt of advancing an agenda of feminism and iconoclasicism. The few shining examples, such as the letters of Jane Austin are lost in a quagmire of misandrony, and obscure correspondents are represented as indicative of the mainstream of feminine sentiment in any era.

I purchased this book with the expectation of being edified by the often unprinted or unheeded, impassioned voices of women, great not necessarily because of their station in life but the depth of their character. What I got instead was a politically polluted, countercultural, largely sour commentary on life by women who crossed the line of great friendship into lesbianism, or the useless ramblings of a priveleged class which touch on nothing of importance to their times.

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Book Description: History Press. 1 Paperback(s), 2009. soft. Book Condition: New. In this wide-ranging study of women's letters, covering topics from politics, work, and war, to childhood, love, and sexual passion, a scholar of women's literature explores the depth, breadth, and diversity of women's lives through the ages. Here are such celebrated correspondences as Heloise writing to Abelard of her undying devotion, Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf corresponding about life and writing, and Queen Victoria complaining to Robert Peel about the neglect of Buckingham Palace. But Olga Kenyon also introduces us to Soviet-era Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva, Victorian servant Hannah Cullwick, and pioneering ethnographer Mary Kingsley 312. Bookseller Inventory # 33483

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