



To the Letter: Contemporary Perspectives on Epistolarity

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“The Postcard: The Fragment”.

Postcards are bought, written on, sent and received and are visual and paper objects that arrive having been sent with intent. They tell small stories of travel and movement, and refer to cities, spectacles, destinations and events. Made both as tourist objects and as advertising the postcards found in racks in bookshops and cafes will be advertisements for the Dalai Lama's visit to Australia, a Vaio laptop, an exhortation to eat more fruit, or to tell the Government about your opposition to whaling. The postcard is an artefact that constitutes a memory archive, when first received it is posted on a notice board, propped against the computer, or stored between the pages of a book. It will end up in a cardboard shoebox with hundreds of other postcards available for occasional contemplation, the initial moment of reception slightly recalled, and dampened by time. The personal communication written or scrawled on the postcard constitutes fragments of a story. The fragment exists within the whole story of the personal and representations of places and people. This paper will be a creative response to the material of the postcard as a memory archive.

