

Jana Dambrogio “Historic Letterlocking: The Art and Security of Letterwriting” .

Workshop on Thursday 21 August, 2014, 1-5 pm.

Queen Elizabeth the First of England did it. Marie Antoinette did it, too. And so did Russian WWII soldiers.

Spend an afternoon with Jana Dambrogio, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Conservator to learn about the 4,000-year-old tradition of writing a letter on papyrus, parchment, or paper and folding it to function as its own envelope.

Attendees will have the opportunity to “lock” and “unlock” letters while Dambrogio presents examples of several formats with varying levels of built-in security devices based on historic examples. Dambrogio will show her process of making models to understand the physical nuances of the historic letters and will discuss how conservators preserve them for access and interpretation.

If you identify yourself as an origami maker, paper engineer, letter-writer, secret keeper, anti-tamper device master, artist, historian, or conservator this is the lecture and workshop for you.

Bio: Jana Dambrogio has studied and conserved library collections and archival holdings for the National Archives and Records Administration, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Vatican Secret Archives. A recipient of the Booth Family Rome Prize in historic preservation and conservation at the American Academy in Rome, she is currently the Thomas F. Peterson (1957) Conservator for special collections in the Curation and Preservation Services Department of the MIT Libraries.

Register with Nadine Akkerman (n.n.w.akkerman@hum.leidenuniv.nl) by the 11th of August at the latest. The venue is at the Scaliger Institute, the Collegezaal Heinsius, in Leiden. It can accommodate 20 participants only. Registration takes place on a first come, first served basis.