

The Letters of Ernest Hemingway Volume 1, 1907–1922

Author: Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961)

Editors: Sandra Spanier and Robert W. Trogdon

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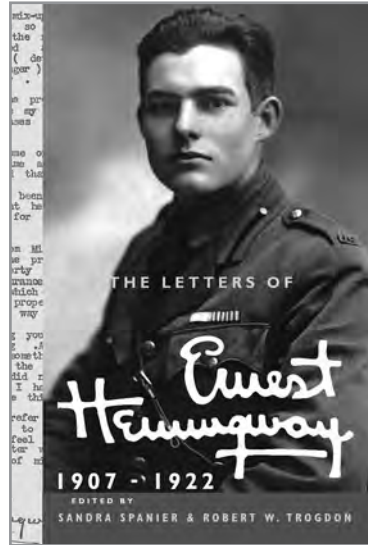
Time: 1907–1922

Locale: United States

The letters in this first volume reveal two forces that shaped the young Hemingway and made their mark on him for life: his middle-class upbringing in Oak Park and his experience in the war.

When writing his novels and short stories, Ernest Hemingway used a journalistic style and simple, unadorned prose to capture the everyday lives of men and women caught up in some of history's most momentous events. Indeed, the title of his first published book, *In Our Time* (1925), a collection of short stories and experimental modernist prose, reflects his desires to chronicle the triumphs and failures of his own modern culture in an intimate and knowing fashion. His unforgettable portraits of a generation of writers and artists grab readers and transport them to that time, giving them the experience of rubbing shoulders with such luminaries as Gertrude Stein, Sherwood Anderson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ezra Pound. In *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), Hemingway shrewdly depicts the boredom and disillusionment with politics that marked the famous Lost Generation. His *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) portrays the ugliness of World War I and the cynicism of Hemingway's circle of literary friends. In *To Have and Have Not* (1937), he probes the despair, hopelessness, and injustices brought on by the Great Depression and in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940), he explores the complex web of cynicism, patriotism, loyalty, individualism, and nationalism that arose out of the awful conflicts of the Spanish Civil War. In one of his most widely read novels, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952), Hemingway eloquently captures the brokenness of human hopes and desires, as a fisherman struggles mightily against forces of nature that are destined to overcome him and his dreams. More than any of the writers who were his contemporaries—Fitzgerald, Stein, William Faulkner—Hemingway vividly captured the lives of individuals as they struggled against society, nature, and each other in an attempt to preserve their hopes and dreams against the backdrop of a culture in turmoil.

As much as Hemingway's novels and stories offer a record of a tumultuous time in twentieth-century history, his own life fascinates biographers and readers of his



fiction. More than a dozen biographies have explored the many facets of Hemingway's adventurous and often raucous life. Many films have also attempted to portray Hemingway as a legendary hardfisted, hard-drinking writer who often tried to hide his insecurities behind a false bravado, embarking on big-game hunting or running with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. Despite the depth of these biographies, however, certain aspects of Hemingway's life have remained unavailable until the publication of his letters, which come closer than any other of his writings to providing his autobiography.

During his life, Hemingway never intended his letters for publication. The great English novelist and critic Ford Maddox Ford once told Hemingway that he should always write his letters thinking about how posterity would read them. In a letter to Fitzgerald, Hemingway writes that he had such an adverse reaction to Ford's advice that he burned all of his own letters, including Ford's letters to him. Hemingway goes on to remark that he writes letters because it is fun to get letters back. It is through his letters that readers come to best know Hemingway, and he presents himself vividly in the ones that editors Sandra Spanier and Robert W. Trogdon have collected for what will be a multivolume edition, the first volume of which covers his childhood, youth, and earliest forays into journalism and fiction.

As Spanier and Trogdon point out, Hemingway's parents cultivated the habit of letter writing in their children when their children were young. At age three, the young Ernest wrote a letter to his mother describing his Christmas gifts from Santa Claus. When he was a teenager heading off to camp, his father provided him with postcards that he used to write to his family while away. The habit of letter writing was so firmly a part of his life that Hemingway always encouraged his friends and family to write with all the news of their own lives. Yet as much as he loved to receive letters, he often put off writing them. As a writer, Hemingway was sometimes afraid that if he spent too much time consumed in writing letters, his best content would end up there rather than in his stories or articles. He often apologized for the dullness of his letters, such as in one sent to his mother in 1915, in which he tells her that he is so exhausted from writing articles as a reporter for the *Toronto Star* that he feels his letters are quite commonplace. Hemingway writes his letters in a range of voices, and as this collection of his earliest letters makes clear, he always has a clear sense of his audience (public or private) when writing. Hemingway's distinct voice booms loudly through his letters, even as he performs for whatever audience to which he is writing. He corresponded with many of the twentieth century's greatest artists and writers, including Fitzgerald, Pound, Stein, Anderson, John Dos Passos, Pablo Picasso, Ingrid Bergman, Marlene Dietrich, and Gary Cooper.

As prolific a letter writer as he was, Hemingway was often afraid that his words might be regarded as libelous and offensive. Although some of his letters, such as those to the editors of newspapers or magazines, were intended for publication, his letters to family and friends were private ones, and he was constantly wary of biographers getting too close to these materials and publishing them. In May 1958, Hemingway directed his literary executors not to publish, or consent to allow others to publish, any of the letters he wrote during his lifetime. In one of the most fascinating stories of this volume, the editors trace the long and winding chronicle surrounding the fate

Ernest Hemingway once thanked a friend for a gift copy of the memoirs of the Baron de Marbot, one of Napoleons generals; "I had never seen that Marbot translation and it is marvellous. It is wonderful what good letters people wrote in those days and miserable how poor our own are." All his life he had sheepishly apologized to friends for the "dullness and stupidity" of his own letters. With rare exceptions, however, the terms were not applicable. We therefore begin with the letter of 1917 when the stalwart eighteen year old, a recent high school graduate, has nearly finished harvesting potatoes and hay in a lakeside field of northern Michigan and pauses to recall with pride the four large trout he has just caught in nearby Horton Bay. Original source letters was a great way to do that, so this Letters of Ernest Hemingway: Volume 1, 1907- 1922 was fascinating. This compilation is a critical volume because it details through Hemingway's own words, his serious injuries during World War I. His letters from the American Red Cross Hospital in Milan on August 18, 1918 are at times joyful. I got this book because I recently read "The Paris Wife," and after reading a biography, I like to delve in and see where reality lies in the biography. The famous brevity of words of Hemingway illustrated succinctly regarding having been injured at the front and then physically carrying a wounded soldier some distance before collapsing himself. This collection of letters of E.H. is the early Hemingway.

Letters of Ernest Hemingway shows the writer wasn't all bullfighting and bravado "as Gertrude Stein knew, he was also a terrific pen pal. Here are some of his more surprising confessions." 1. Ernest Hemingway was insecure about his career "bullfighting gave him the validation he wasn't getting as a writer! John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum / Via commons.wikimedia.org. Letter to Ezra Pound, July 19, 1924: Dear Ezra". Here, at 900 meters above the Nivel del Mare on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees is a good place to observe the ruin of my finances and literary career. Shit. Where Hemingway's published works had all been so deliberate and painstakingly chiseled, his letters were free-form and expansive - unsanded and unvarnished His letters may prove to be the most honest log of Hemingway's fascinating life-voyage, the truest sentences he ever wrote Their value cannot be overstated." Vanity Fair. "without question a spectacular scholarly achievement." The New York Times. "best short stories ever written. The Letters of Ernest Hemingway Volume I 1907-1922 is the first volume in a projected twelve volume set which will present in well edited, extensively footnoted style the letters of a literary genius.

Ernest Hemingway's 1935 letter to Miami newspaper describes capture of giant marlin believed to have partly inspired his Pulitzer prize-winning novel. The Letters of Ernest Hemingway. November 6, 2018. The JFK Library recently announced the opening of additional correspondence in the Ernest Hemingway Personal Papers. 3 lucky readers could each win a copy of The Letters of Ernest Hemingway Volume 4 1929-1931 (and some Hemingway related merchandise) as part of our prize draw! To be in with a chance of winning simply visit <http://www.cambridge.org/letters-ernest-hemingway-volume> and complete our entry form by 7th September 2018. Full Terms and Conditions are available here: <http://www.cambridge.org/letters-ernest-hemingway-volume> See more of The Letters of Ernest Hemingway on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of The Letters of Ernest Hemingway on Facebook. Log In. Forgotten account? In November 2017, Cambridge University Press published Volume Four: 1929-1931 of The Letters of Ernest Hemingway. See more. Community See all. The Cambridge Edition of the Letters of Ernest Hemingway is an ongoing scholarly multi-volume publication of the letters of Ernest Hemingway undertaken by the Cambridge University Press. Out of the projected 16 volumes, the first volume, covering years from 1907 to 1922, was published in 2011. The project, when completed, will collect every extant Hemingway letter, numbering over 6,000, and is being edited by Sandra Spanier, professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. The project may take