

Amogha Lakshmi Halepuram Sridhar

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Project Title: Yours

Written correspondence is an inherently material form, and one that often complements literary pursuits in the lives of writers. Conceived by a writer's hand, a letter passes through many others; written correspondence travels. In my project titled "Yours", I want to consider a question that has preoccupied my interest in literary history: does written correspondence as a genre suggest the presence of addressees beyond the recipient of the letter? The letter, as a form, bears transmissions internal to its writing, such as influences and exchange of thought, alongside its external transmission, which traverses distance and time. I aim to offer a comparison of these transmissions in an exhibition, a medium that amplifies my guiding question concerning the archive and its audience. I hope to work with letters from twentieth century writers in Special Collections: Ezra Pound writing to Else Lübcke Seel, Allen Ginsberg's handwritten postcard to Ted Berrigan, Anaïs Nin's holograph note to Oscar Baradinsky, Aldous Huxley writing to an unidentified correspondent and samples from the Dylan Thomas collection. I want to ask of these artefacts, when does the locus of addressees or readers expand in the life of a letter to include the archive?

I bring to this project a skillset of keen attention to detail and research experience, having worked with Early Modern books as part of the MoEML team and with war diaries and other military historical documents as part of history classes. This project is also informed by my practice as an avid letter writer. The Lowens Fellowship and the learning opportunities it offers would facilitate my exploration of protocols for researching and preserving letters from the past. As a learning experience, this project will allow me to explore archival research, both as a supplement to my studies in literature and as an academic focus at a postgraduate level. I hope to expand my methodology for this project beyond literary analysis and custodial history, and understand epistolary writing as a medium that bridges art and distance. As a deliverable, my public-facing exhibition will curate striking examples of such transmission and emphasise the materiality of correspondence. Alongside presentation of research, each exhibit will be accompanied by a creative "writing prompt" that corresponds to the themes of the letter, which patrons may use to write brief letters of their own.