

Gruß & Kuss - letters digitized.

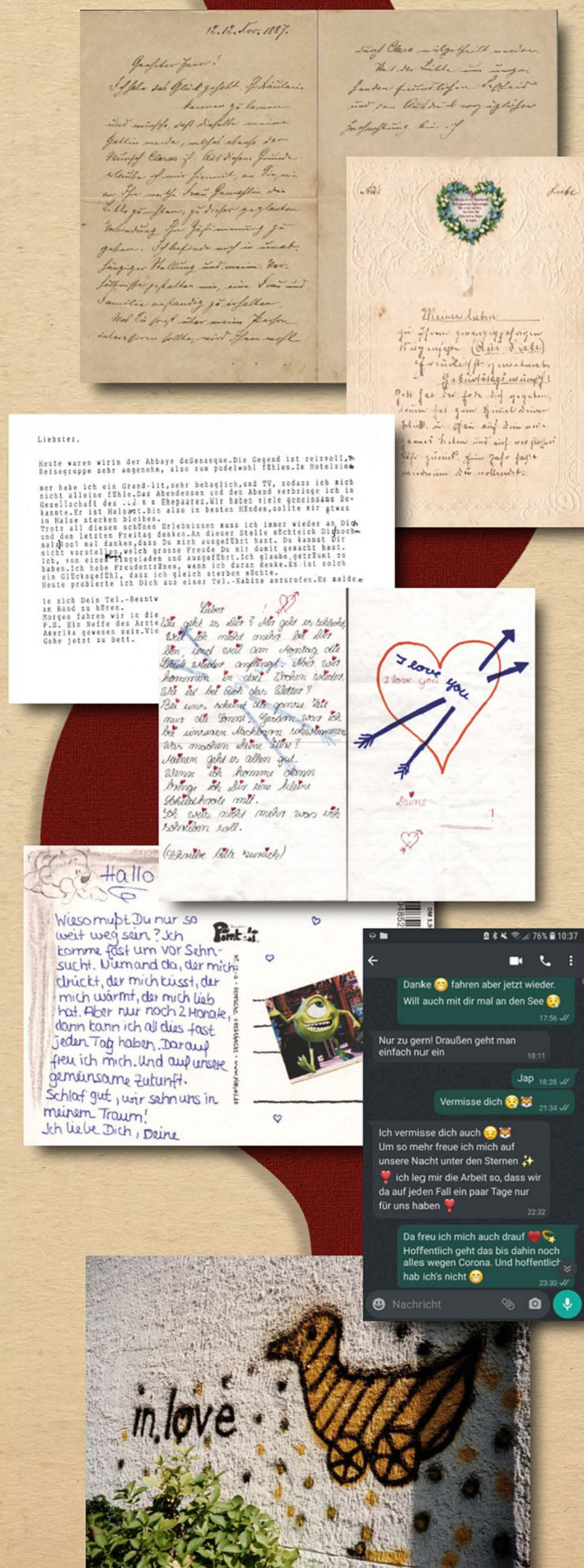
Citizens receive love letters.

How do we talk about love? How do we experience everyday moments shaped by love? And how do we describe love related emotions like happiness, longing, grief, and sorrow? "Gruß & Kuss" is a research project aiming to conduct interdisciplinary research on the phenomenon of love letters through close cooperation between scientists and citizens, who together screen and digitize authentic, private love letters. These love letters are part of a collection of letters donated by citizens which was originally founded in Zurich in 1997 and has been continued in Koblenz since 2013. The Love Letter Archive Koblenz (Liebesbriefarchiv or LBA) currently holds more than 22,000 love letters from 52 countries (as of July 2021) – a unique and largely unexplored resource of testimonies of our daily life and culture. The project is supported and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for a total of three years (April 2021 – March 2024).

Project goals

The project aims to promote four central goals:

1. indexing and analyzing love letters.
2. conducting research about love letters.
3. actively involving citizens in the research process by providing access to an endangered resource of everyday culture currently not collected by official state archives.
4. collecting and preserving love letters in (digital) archives and granting access to the public as well as scientists and those interested in research.



»Gruß & Kuss« is a... ... citizen science project

- researchers and citizens conduct research together #citizenscience #openscience
- citizens are actively involved in shaping the research process
- project results actively influence the process of knowledge acquisition

We provide a framework for collaborative research: citizens can get involved in love letter research in numerous ways (such as events, workshops, public readings, donating letters).

... collaborative project between..

- the Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies at Technical University of Darmstadt (project coordinator: Professor Andrea Rapp)
- the Institute of German Studies at the University of Koblenz-Landau (local project partner: Professor Eva L. Wyss, founder of the Love Letter Archive)
- the Institute for Communication and Media at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences (local project partner: Professor Stefan Schmunk)
- the University and State Library Darmstadt (local project partner: Professor Thomas Stäcker)

Contact

Would you like to participate in the "Gruß & Kuss" project or would you consider donating love letters to research? Send an email to: liebesbriefarchiv@uni-koblenz.de

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liebesbriefarchiv.de