

THE LETTERS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY VOLUMES 1–4

“The delight of these letters and the sheer quantity of useful editorial material . . . should entice even the most ardent Papa-reviler to delve into the spontaneous words of a creative genius.”

Publishers Weekly, starred review

“The existence of some of these documents (predating Hemingway’s fame) is close to a miracle, and the Letters is without question a spectacular scholarly achievement.”

Arthur Phillips, *New York Times*

“A work of monumental authority, shrewd and sympathetic, which will be indispensable for anyone delving into Hemingway’s childhood affections, adolescent bravura, and the hope, enthusiasm and disgust of his early manhood.”

The Spectator

“His letters burst off the page with all his swaggering vigour, brio, brilliance, wit and rage, uncensored and unrestrained.”

Sarah Churchwell, *The Guardian*

“[Hemingway’s] letters were never intended for publication, and they are surprising . . . Behind the hard-living, hard-loving, tough-guy literary persona we find a loyal son pouring his heart out to his family, an infatuated lover, an adoring husband, and a highly committed friend.”

Robert McCrum, *The Guardian*

“Hemingway admirers, scholars, and students will find the book essential. The letters fill in abundant biographical and intellectual details, and readers will revel in the young man’s exuberant wordplay, private language, and slang.”

Booklist

“Magnificently edited . . . [this volume] is a work of true literary scholarship . . . what makes this first volume more than a mere collection of juvenilia is that here is all the evidence of the writer—and the man—that he was to become.”

Literary Review

“The collected Hemingway letters will be enthusiastically welcomed by the scholarly world as well as the legion of Hemingway enthusiasts around the world. He is not only one of the most important twentieth-century writers in the world, but a fascinating and frank letter writer. This collection will be an invaluable addition to the world of letters.”

Noel Riley Fitch

“By any measure it’s a Very Big Deal.”

Roger Cox, *The Scotsman*

“And so begins the ambitious—and highly anticipated—publication of *The Letters of Ernest Hemingway*, a vast collection that proves to be both a revealing autobiography and the passkey to his literary works.”

A. Scott Berg, *Vanity Fair*

“To know what Ernest Hemingway was really like, don’t read biographies of him. Read his letters.”

Chronicle of Higher Education

“These letters—boisterous, exuberant, and insistent on a reply (see me! hear me! feel me! so many of them seem to implore)—only show more deeply how fearlessly—carelessly, even—Hemingway lived in order to be seen.”

Alexandra Fuller, *Daily Beast*

“This Cambridge Edition of all of Hemingway’s known letters is as elegant and proper a solution as one could wish to such a daunting challenge: how to make this treasure available to all interested scholars and readers for generations to come. I think that Papa would be pleased.”

Charles Scribner III

“This essential volume, beautifully presented and annotated with tremendous care and extraordinary attention to detail, offers readers a Hemingway who is both familiar and new.”

Times Literary Supplement

“With more than 6,000 letters accounted for so far, the project to publish Ernest Hemingway’s correspondence may yet reveal the fullest picture of the twentieth-century icon that we’ve ever had. The second volume includes merely 242 letters, a majority published for the first time . . . readers can watch Hemingway invent the foundation of his legacy in bullrings, bars, and his writing solitude.”

Booklist

“Hemingway did not want his letters published, but this carefully researched scholarly edition does them justice ... devotees will find this and future volumes indispensable.”

Library Journal

“It would be hard to find a more crucial three year period in a writer’s life.”

Independent on Sunday

“This second volume of The Letters of Ernest Hemingway documents the years in which he became himself ... His style is at once close to and yet unutterably distant from that of his fiction.”

Michael Gorra, *New York Times*, Editor’s Choice

“The volume itself is beautifully designed and skillfully edited ... As a book, it is perfect.”

Los Angeles Review of Books

“Never is Hemingway more fascinating or in flux than in these letters from his Paris years, that dark and dazzling confluence of literary ascendancy and personal maelstrom. Bravo to Sandra Spanier for giving us this dazzling gem of literary scholarship, and the young Hemingway in his own words—unvarnished, wickedly funny, mercilessly human.”

Paula McLain, author of *The Paris Wife*

“The newly published letters are bracingly energetic and readable, and they add depth and detail to the already vast biographical record of Hemingway’s early years.”

Edward Mendelsohn, *New York Review of Books*

“This expertly edited and annotated volume will be devoured by fans eager to learn how the literary titan came into his own.”

Publishers Weekly

“The volume’s 242 letters, about two-thirds previously unpublished, provide as complete an account of Hemingway’s life during the Paris years as one could ask for.”

John Reimringer, *Star Tribune*

“The editors of this project have much to celebrate. Volume 2 is an exceptional collection, magnificently collated and, in Papa’s words, ‘exciting as hell.’”

James McNamara, *The Australian*

“The publication of Ernest Hemingway’s complete correspondence is shaping up to be an astonishing scholarly achievement ... Meticulously edited, with shrewd introductory summaries and footnotes tracking down every reference, the series brings into sharp focus this contradictory, alternately smart and stupid, blustering, fragile man who was also a giant of modern literature.”

Phillip Lopate, *Times Literary Supplement*

“Reading Hemingway’s letters is to go back in time by stepping into the fascinating world of a revolutionary wordsmith; a voyage through decades to the very moments when literature was taking a sudden bend in the road; a shift that was being steered by the father of modern literature. Indeed, the value of these letters cannot be overstated.”

Nick Mafi, *Esquire*

“This monumental publishing project ... has reached the pivotal chronological moment in the late 1920s when Hemingway emerges as an astounding new voice in American literature ... Scholars will be deeply absorbed; general readers will find enjoyment and enlightenment.”

Steve Paul, *Booklist*

“Volume Three’s letters are an invaluable record of Hemingway as a professional author ... another stellar contribution to a series of grand scope and vision, executed with rigorous professionalism, and resulting in a deeply satisfying volume for the reader and an unsurpassable resource for the scholar.”

James McNamara, *Australian Book Review*

“The newly published third volume of his complete letters gives a more nuanced picture of his life before nostalgia set everything in aspic. Away from the chisel work of his early fiction ... the letters show Hemingway at play in figurative language, humour, meandering sentences and desultory subjects.”

Naomi Wood, *Literary Review*

“meticulously edited”

Nicolaus Mills, *Daily Beast*

“The letters are profane, witty, gossipy, literary, emotional, and insightful ... Hemingway’s boozing, boasting, and bullying have been well-documented elsewhere, but his body of work, and his letters here, illustrate what a truly great writer he was.”

Paul Davis, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“The correspondence reveals Hemingway as a ravenous reader and gossip, gobbling up books, short stories and newspapers—as well as the latest rumors ... His letters are speckled with slang, unorthodox spelling and punctuation, and creative stabs at French, Spanish and German.”

Brenda Cronin, *Wall Street Journal*

“These correspondences, which are being published in up to 17 volumes, already show that Hemingway was a disciplined and painstaking artist who relied on mentors as he struggled to perfect his craft. He was also chatty and gossipy with friends, a man whose epistolary persona differs in many respects from the laconic speaking styles of his fictional protagonists.”

Tony Evans, *Idaho Mountain Express*

“What’s most enjoyable is how lacking in self-consciousness Papa could be; he didn’t yet realise people would be keeping his bits of paper. Or he simply didn’t care, so one sees the brilliance and offensiveness all at once.”

The Tablet

“Like the first two installments, Volume 3 ... is expertly collected and annotated. The quality of the ancillary details on each page is ... unmatched by other letters compilations of famous writers—a testament to the passion, skill, and dedication of the editorial team. The collection is a great achievement and a superb resource for scholars of Hemingway’s work and American literatures more generally.”

Jeffrey Herlihy-Mera, *Hemingway Review*

“The range of correspondents and subject matter is extraordinary ... This volume is painstakingly yet unobtrusively annotated. Endnotes after each letter explain obscurities with a sensitive anticipation of the reader’s questions ... The editors are scrupulous in their attention to detail ... ”

Byron Landry, *Hopkins Review*

“It’s difficult to overestimate the effect of this project ... It’s clear that the publication of these letters is already stimulating scholars to revise prior judgments and incorporate insights from them into new projects.”

Peter Coveney, *Firsts: The Book Collector’s Magazine*

“a supremely useful volume ... The letters are presented attractively—clear and eminently readable—and they are brilliantly annotated.”

Donald A. Daiker, *Resources for American Literary Study*

“stupendously thorough and superbly edited ... These letters bring us closer to the rough, everyday mind of Hemingway than was previously possible, as we tramp alongside him in what almost feels like real time.”

Philip Lopate, *Times Literary Supplement*

“This fourth volume is as magnificently edited as was its three predecessors . . . here, in this and the other volumes of his letters, is Hemingway’s biography, his daily activities, his largely uncensored—though recipient-shaped—thoughts and feelings . . . Hemingway remains a most irresistible character . . . we should be very grateful for this volume that brings us more of him and the period in which he lived.”

Peter L. Hays, *Hemingway Review*

“The sheer fun of this series is that it seats the reader right in Papa’s chair. You travel with him in body (physical ailments) and mind (fulminations of thoughts), armed only with yourself, Hemingway’s madcap voice running in your head, and perhaps a Highball or two to savour along the way. The correspondence is a joy to read . . . irreverent, gossipy and bitchy, funny, sincere, we have all sides of Hemingway, from the playful to the portentous . . . the editors with their studious, detailed and exhaustive annotations have done an exceptional job of placing the letters in their proper clothing, so that we are able to make our own measurements of Hemingway as a man.”

NJ McGarrigle, *Irish Times*

“a windfall for Hemingway fans, but also for those trying to understand the daily working life of a major writer . . . Editors Sandra Spanier and Miriam B. Mandel are comprehensive and meticulous in their approach—the book is peppered with contextual footnotes that moor the letters—and the result is real insight into a stubborn, driven, accomplished writer.”

Nick Ripatrazzone, *The Millions*

“This is a vital book for any Hemingway scholar or casual fan because it displays his true feelings—good and bad—and highlights his ability to pen potent letters, which can be as mysterious as his prose.”

Wayne Catan, *Idaho Statesman*

“Researchers of Hemingway will be sifting through this treasure-trove of evidence for centuries to come.”

Pennsylvania Literary Journal

“I find that as a writer there is no better book to keep on one’s nightstand than a collection of letters or diaries from an author one admires . . . This collection of letters from the period immediately following the release of *A Farewell to Arms* makes a great bedside companion.”

Tyler Malone, *Literary Hub*

THE LETTERS OF
ERNEST HEMINGWAY
VOLUME 5
1932–1934

The Letters of Ernest Hemingway, Volume 5, spanning 1932 through May 1934, traces the completion and publication of *Death in the Afternoon* and *Winner Take Nothing*. During this intensely active period Hemingway hunts in Arkansas and Wyoming, fishes the waters off Key West and Cuba, revisits Madrid and Paris, and undertakes a long-anticipated African safari. He witnesses transitions at home and abroad: the deepening Great Depression, Prohibition-era rum-running, revolution in Cuba, and political unrest in Spain. His readership and celebrity continue to expand as he begins writing for the new men's magazine *Esquire*. As the volume ends, Hemingway has just acquired his beloved boat, *Pilar*. The letters detail these events as well as his relationships with his family, friends, publishers, critics and literary contemporaries including editor Maxwell Perkins, Archibald MacLeish, John Dos Passos, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Together they paint an intimate self-portrait of this multifaceted, self-confident, energetic artist in his prime.

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Volume 5: 1932–1934
Frontmatter
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THE
CAMBRIDGE EDITION OF
THE LETTERS OF
ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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Box 406
 Key west
 Florida
 November 21, 1932

Dear Ford ,

I'm glad you got the book . Hope this reaches you in time - although Ezra does not need any dues or mine . Still I would feel badly not to write something . You know I have no talent ~~xxxx~~ for this sort of thing -- I know it damned well .

~~xxx~~ Here goes

on
 Any poet/who can
 ohhyye this type-writer

here it is

####

Any poet born in this century or in the last ten years or the preceding century who can honestly say that he has not been influenced by or learned greatly from the work of Ezra Pound deserves to be pitied rather than reproved . ~~xxxxxxx~~ . It is as though a prose writer , born in that time , would not have ~~xxxxxxxx~~ learned from ~~xxx~~ ^{or have} been influenced by James Joyce or that a traveller should pass through a great blizzard and not have felt its cold , or a sand storm and not have felt the sand and the wind . The best of Pound's writing , and it is in the Cantos , will last as long as there is any English literature .

#####

Do you mind cutting it out of this letter to use it ?

And Old Ezra will probably hate us all because we do not take him profoundly as 1 a bassoon player 2 an economist 3 a critic of painting 4 un hombre politico .

evviva ezra spumieganti EZRA SPUMANTI

Will you write to let me know if you get this and will you please call on me for anything more I can do ? The address above will always reach me . I hope you are well and that everything goes well with you . I appreciated the preface very much .

Yours always ,

Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway to Ford Madox Ford, 21 November 1932 from Key West, Florida.
 Ford Madox Ford collection, no. 4605. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections,
 Cornell University Library.

THE LETTERS OF
ERNEST HEMINGWAY

VOLUME 5
1932–1934

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