

## Contents

---

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>List of maps</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Note on translations and transcriptions</i>	xi
1 Ordinary writings, extraordinary authors	1
2 Archives for an alternative history	19
3 ‘Excuse my bad writing’	34
4 Literary temptations	53
5 France: transparency and disguise in the letters of the <i>poilus</i> , 1914–1918	71
6 France: national identity from below and the discovery of the ‘lost provinces’, 1914–1919	91
7 Family, village and motherland in the writing of Italian soldiers, 1915–1918	113
8 Italian identities ‘from below’ and ordinary writings from the Trentino	134
9 Love, death and writing on the Italian front, 1915–1918	154
10 Spain: emergency literacy and the nostalgia of exile, 1820s–1920s	170
11 Family strategy and individual identities in the letters of Spanish emigrants	201
12 Order and disorder in the ‘memory books’	222
13 Conclusions	245
<i>Bibliography</i>	257
<i>Index</i>	271

## Illustrations

---

- 3.1 ‘Reply without fail’ – Extract from a letter from Ramón González in Cuba to his family in Asturias, 29.10.1892 (MPA Correspondencia Familia González y García). *page 36*
- 3.2 A scribe sends his greetings – Extract from a letter from Florentina Díaz in Asturias to her son in Havana, 4.2.1892 (MPA Correspondencia Díaz del Río). 49
- 10.1 The trained hand – Extract from a letter from the Caravera sisters to their grandparents, 17.3.1872 (MPA Correspondencia González Mana box 1). 183
- 10.2 The trained hand – Extract from a letter from the Caravera sisters to their grandparents, 15.3.1877 (MPA Correspondencia González Mana box 1). 184
- 10.3 José Carrera’s first letter home from Havana, 8.2.1890 (MPA Correspondencia Sordo). 186
- 10.4 José Carrera’s cultivated signature in a letter to his mother, 18.7.1894 (MPA Correspondencia Sordo). 187
- 10.5 Searching for the straight line – José Rodríguez Miyeres to his son, 6.6.1864 (MPA Correspondencia González Mana box 1). 188
- 10.6 Searching for the straight line – Francisco to his father Cosme Fernández in Asturias, soon after his arrival in Havana, 24.12.1920 (MPA Correspondencia Familia de Cosme Fernández (Naveces)). 189
- 10.7 Oversized writing – Manuel Pérez to his nephew in Havana, circa 1920 (MPA Correspondencia González Mana box 1). 190
- 10.8 ‘Pues padre...’ and repeated marginal afterthoughts of Pedro Antonio Gutierrez in a letter to his father in Asturias, 15.5.1925 (MPA Archivo de la Familia Rodríguez, Inclán, Pravia, correspondencia 1). 191
- 10.9 Cross-writing in a handwritten letter between close friends, from Lola to Pepe in Havana, no date but

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01889-1 - The Writing Culture of Ordinary People in Europe, c. 1860–1920

Martyn Lyons

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

List of illustrations	vii
approximately 1925 (MPA Correspondencia González Mana box 1).	192
10.10 Cross-writing in the margins of a type-written letter from González Rodríguez Menéndez in Camagüey to his mother in Asturias, 10.8.1925 (MPA Archivo de la Familia Rodríguez, Inclán, Pravia, correspondencia 2).	193
10.11 Maximinio Peña Muiñoz, <i>La carta del hijo ausente</i> , 1887 (NIG. 09224), oil on canvas, Museo de Zaragoza (Aragón), photo Garrido Lapeña.	196
10.12 José María Uría y Uría (1861–1937), <i>¿Sera Pin de Rosa?</i> , circa 1906, Museo de Bellas Artes de Asturias, Oviedo.	199
11.1 ‘Cojo el extricar’ – I take the streetcar – Americanism in a letter from Francisco Cosme Fernández in Canton, Ohio, to his sisters in January 1926 (MPA Correspondencia de la familia Cosme Fernández (Naveces)).	211
11.2 ‘Tu brohter Frank’ – another Americanism from Francisco Cosme Fernández in Canton, Ohio, to his sisters in January 1926 (MPA Correspondencia de la Familia Cosme Fernández (Naveces)).	212
12.1 Joan Serinyana’s memory book, title page with table of contents (Private collection).	227
12.2 Benito Sanz – a typical page of his account book (AEC, F.Me.1.1, Benito Sanz, libro de cuentas).	230
12.3 Julien-Gabriel Sugy’s personal incipit, with multiple signatures faintly visible at the bottom (ADE 74 J 28, J.-G. Sugy’s account book).	238
12.4 Page from Francesco dalle Piatte’s <i>agenda agraria</i> , September 1896 (ASP Trento, Dalle Piatte family).	242

Illustrations appear with kind permission of:

- Museo del Pueblo de Asturias, Gijón (for 3.1, 3.2, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 11.1 and 11.2)
- Museo de Zaragoza (for 10.11)
- Museo de Bellas Artes de Asturias, Oviedo (for 10.12)
- Jordi Curbet (for 12.1)
- Archivo de Escrituras Cotidianas, Alcalá de Henares (for 12.2), property of Jaime Pereda Martín
- Archives départementales de l’Essonne (for 12.3)
- Archivio della Scrittura Popolare, Museo Storico di Trento (for 12.4).

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01889-1 - The Writing Culture of Ordinary People in Europe, c. 1860–1920

Martyn Lyons

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## Maps

---

6.1	The front in southern Alsace	<i>page</i> 99
7.1	The Italian theatre, 1915–1918	114
10.1	Asturias	174