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Let Letters Live

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Let *Letters* Live

MARJORIE THOMAS' CORRESPONDENCE IS VITAL, VERSATILE AND COLORFUL

"JUST look at those letters I have to answer," wails the weeping coed, but wait a moment before making any rash declarations about hating to write letters. Whose eagle eye watches the mail box each morning? It's fun to receive letters. Well's it's fun to write letters, too.

Maybe you've been making the wrong approach. If you pull out pen and paper and attack them with clenched teeth and a grim this-has-to-be-done-and-let's-get-it-over-with attitude, you'll not get much enjoyment out of your attempt, and it's doubtful whether the recipient will either.

Be natural, conversational! Write as you would talk, unless, of course, you leave all of your sentences half finished and hanging uncertainly in mid-air, or confine your remarks to exclamation points. There is an extreme, but we are concerned with normal individuals here. Your letter need not be constructed on the laborious plan of an English 102 ten-paragraph exposition, nor should it be thrown together carelessly. It should be written easily and informally. Watch grammar and spelling! They show up frightfully in a letter.

As far as what you put in your letter is concerned, that's up to you, but it is well to be somewhat selective. Things often look strange on paper the day after—or have you noticed? Count "I's" if you want to, but after all, the other person must be interested in what's happening to you, or you wouldn't be corresponding.

When it comes to the new papers and inks, you can't help yourself—you're bound to enjoy writing letters! Newest are the dusty pink and powder blue papers with jewel shades of ink to contrast or harmonize. Textures are especially interesting. And have you seen those new papers with your name and address done in script—colored ink on light papers and white on deep tints?

With this variety of color, beware of choosing anything too riotous and conspicuous—but do select something distinctive and unmistakably your own. Of course white and creamy papers with black or blue ink are always the correct thing for formal correspondence.

Another idea (borrowed from the art classes) is that of cutting your own monogram or design from a linoleum block and printing it on plain stationery. Use printer's ink; it can be obtained in several colors at any print shop. Another treatment is stenciling or painting dainty borders down one side.

Art principles have a way of always creeping into any discussion. Remember all you learned about balance and proportion. It's important here, too. Don't expect large scrawly handwriting to look at home on



small, dainty note paper. A short note on a large sheet is just as out of place. Don't crowd your writing, but leave comfortable margins and spaces between lines. Legibility is a goal for which to strive.

By this time you surely may feel converted, but just to show you how much fun some girls really get out of letters, let us introduce you to Marjorie Scott, who corresponds with people in five foreign countries. Imagine the thrill of receiving envelopes stamped with those strange, romantic-looking markings!

It all started a little over 2 years ago when a friend went to Sweden and came back with the address of a girl she had met there who wanted to correspond with someone in America. Marjorie was only slightly interested, but it proved so much fun that she decided she must be missing something by not writing to more people. So she pulled out her atlas, closed her eyes and pointed. The postmaster in each town where fate placed her finger received a letter which he gave to someone interested.

Soon Marjorie would receive one of these strange envelopes. She says Pierre, from the Netherlands, writes the most interesting letters, though a boy from Paris, with the unpronounceable name, runs a close second. They write about European affairs and are especially interested in American reactions to them. School and sports make up much of the remainder of their letters.

Then there is Patricia Holbrook, who corresponds with girls in Mexico, New Foundland, Cuba, Paris and Rome. They really have something in common, however, for she met them at school and letters are their only method of keeping in touch with one another. Patricia suggests that snapshots are a simple way of adding a lot of interest to a letter.

Wait a moment—here comes the mail man! Hurry and borrow a stamp. Correspondence is *fun!*