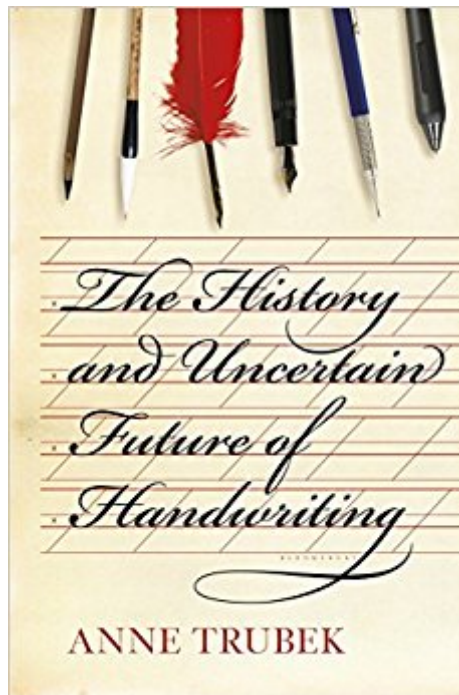




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# The History And Uncertain Future Of Handwriting



## Synopsis

The future of handwriting is anything but certain. Its history, however, shows how much it has affected culture and civilization for millennia. In the digital age of instant communication, handwriting is less necessary than ever before, and indeed fewer and fewer schoolchildren are being taught how to write in cursive. Signatures--far from John Hancock's elegant model--have become scrawls. In her recent and widely discussed and debated essays, Anne Trubek argues that the decline and even elimination of handwriting from daily life does not signal a decline in civilization, but rather the next stage in the evolution of communication. Now, in *The History and Uncertain Future of Handwriting*, Trubek uncovers the long and significant impact handwriting has had on culture and humanity--from the first recorded handwriting on the clay tablets of the Sumerians some four thousand years ago and the invention of the alphabet as we know it, to the rising value of handwritten manuscripts today. Each innovation over the millennia has threatened existing standards and entrenched interests: Indeed, in ancient Athens, Socrates and his followers decried the very use of handwriting, claiming memory would be destroyed; while Gutenberg's printing press ultimately overturned the livelihood of the monks who created books in the pre-printing era. And yet new methods of writing and communication have always appeared. Establishing a novel link between our deep past and emerging future, Anne Trubek offers a colorful lens through which to view our shared social experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As Anne Trubek makes clear in this slim but eloquent volume, handwriting has always been about more than simply words on paper . . . Trubek's book is thoroughly engaging and filled

with odd, even moving facts. - Boston Globe - "A compelling and entertaining history of humanity's relationship to the physical act of writing . . . extremely readable. - Newsday "Ms. Trubek unearths some captivating sidelights in the history of handwriting." - Wall Street Journal - "Anne Trubek covers a great deal of interesting ground in *The History and Uncertain Future of Handwriting* . . . Trubek's history of handwriting is a story of metamorphosis, not of decline. - Inside Higher Ed "Well-researched . . . [Trubek] persuasively argues that our fixation with writing by hand is driven more by emotion than evidence, as it is perceived to be inextricably linked to our history, core values and individual identities." - Los Angeles Times - "A succinct overview of written communication . . . Trubek believes that change offers opportunities 'in accessibility, in democratization . . . that should be celebrated.' Quirky facts enliven a brisk story of the history of handwriting. - Kirkus Reviews - "Thoroughly enjoyable. . . delightful history [ending] with the conclusion that handwriting will not vanish but perhaps, like letterpress printing, become a fine art. - Publishers Weekly - "[Trubek] considers the political and social implications inherent in who learned to write, what they recorded and the scripts they used . . . Trubek never loses sight of the fact that handwriting is a controversial subject today. Throughout her history, she offers amusing and insightful comparisons between past and present, preparing the reader for a final discussion of the future of handwriting. The result is a light-handed and thoughtful account of a complicated subject. - Shelf Awareness - "Ms. Trubek is a bewitching and witty travel partner. - Wall Street Journal on *A SKEPTIC'S GUIDE TO WRITERS' HOUSES* - "A slim, clever bit of literary criticism masquerading as smart travel writing. - Chicago Tribune on *A SKEPTIC'S GUIDE TO WRITERS' HOUSES* - "A blazingly intelligent romp, full of humor and hard-won wisdom . . . [Trubek] crisscrosses the country in search of epiphanies on the doorsteps of some of our more important writers. - Minneapolis Star-Tribune on *A SKEPTIC'S GUIDE TO WRITERS' HOUSES*

Anne Trubek is the editor in chief of Belt magazine and publisher of Belt Publishing. She has published articles in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Wired*, and many other publications. She is the author of *A Skeptic's Guide to Writers' Houses* and lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

This book was very interesting if you are wanting to learn about the history of handwriting in Western cultures. I would have liked to have seen an additional chapter (or two) about Chinese and Japanese calligraphy and their writing materials. I read the Kindle edition and I found it difficult to switch from the text to the illustration plates. For this edition, it would have made more sense to

intersperse the text with the illustrations. However, aside from these quibbles, I really enjoyed this book and I learned a great deal.

I enjoyed how the author spans ancient history to the modern era though he made mistakes in details, Julius Caesar never walked into the colosseum since it wasn't built for another 100 years  
amped no Christians didn't kill off classics because they didn't think they were not worth copying  
after the fall of Rome, civilization collapsed and only a few people were left and those few saved  
what they could before they were killed- see how Boethius died. Enjoyed his thoughts on the  
direction of writing, makes sense and definitely agree that political conservatives have this weird  
thing for cursive, just drop it, we'll be ok.

This product;s plastic-protected shell provided a nice surprise for me when I received it and the  
John Stanley biography book in the weekend mail \_ I'm an incurable history buff who likes to find  
out so much about handwriting among other specific topics available. Thank you so much!!

Was a gift.

Interesting read....particularly regarding the future of handwriting

Very interesting read. Really enjoyed the book and learned a lot about the history of handwriting.

currently reading it. I'm finding it very interesting with info re: ancient cultures form of writing

Nicely written, informative, and a subject I love.

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