# Background Information about the Video

The Unlocking History team is developing a system to make our resources accessible. Please check back for updates.

## Title of this document

Launch_What is Letterlocking_transcription_screen_reader_text

## Video Title

What is Letterlocking? (2019)

## Links to Video

- Free online streaming link at YouTube: https://youtu.be/_KJBA57KLBo.
- Free download from Harvard Dataverse of video, this document, and the audio only captions file at https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ECI9PQ.

## Video Description

- Jana Dambrogio and Daniel Starza Smith, co-directors of the Unlocking History Research Group explain what is letterlocking.

## Video Citation

- Citation information: Author: Jana Dambrogio,Daniel Starza Smith; Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University; and the Unlocking History Research Group, 2019. Title: "What is letterlocking? (2019)," *Letterlocking Instructional Videos*. Unlocking History number 0000/Letterlocking Unique Video number: 0252. Date filmed: April 2019. Duration: 1:34. Date posted: 2 March 2021. Video URL: [insert URL]. Date accessed: [insert date].

## Video Copyright

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# Transcriptions of captions with viewing description

## Language

- English

## Speakers

- Jana Dambrogio and Daniel Starza Smith

## Time span 00:00:00.000 – 00:00:00.000 explains the time span the caption remains in the frame

- [Text in brackets is visual description]. The text in brackets describes what the view sees while the music plays and Dambrogio or Smith speak.
- Text without brackets is transcription of audio caption. Text without brackets is the transcription of the audio caption of Dambrogio's or Smith's voice over.

# Transcriptions

## 00:00:00.000 – 00:00:00.639

- [Ambient sound. No talking yet.]

## 00:00:00.640 – 00:00:05.360

- [Jana speaks as she and Daniel sit side by side at a table with quill, candle stick, ink, and locked letterpackets]
- My name is Jana Dambrogio and I'm the Thomas F Peterson (1957) Conservator for the MIT Libraries.

## 00:00:06.480 – 00:00:11.011

- [Daniels speaks while he and Jana continue to sit side by side]
- I'm Daniel Smith. I'm lecturer in English Literature at King's College London

## 00:00:11.053 – 00:00:18.480

- [closeup overhead view of Jana’s hand arranging 10 letterpackets of varying sizes and formats while she speaks]
- Letterlocking is the study of folding and securing a piece of paper to become its own envelope

## 00:00:19.520 – 00:00:26.080

- [Daniel speaks while he and Jana continue to sit side by side]
- so in history when people wrote letters they didn't then put them into a ready-made envelope

## 00:00:26.080 – 00:00:30.400

- [closeup overhead view of Jana’s hand arranging 6 letterpackets of varying sizes and formats while Daniel continues to speak]
- that they bought from a shop they would have folded that piece of paper or whatever they were

## 00:00:30.400 – 00:00:36.400

- [Jana and Daniel sit side by side while Daniel continues speaking]

- using to write the letter on and secured it so that it became its own envelope today what we're

## 00:00:36.400 – 00:00:40.960

- [Jana and Daniel sit side by side at a table with quill, candle stick, ink, and locked letterpackets]
- used to what we're used to doing when we write a letter is folding it and putting it into an envelope

## 00:00:40.960 – 00:00:48.160

- [Jana removes a letter from a folder while Daniel speaks. They sit side by side at a table]
- but the envelope is actually a very modern modern invention as we understand it's about 1840s 1850s

## 00:00:48.160 – 00:00:53.280

- [Jana places a small oblong letterpacket with an intricate lock on the table while Daniel speaks]
- before then if you wanted to send a letter you'd have had to use letterlocking so letterlocking

## 00:00:53.280 – 00:00:59.360

- [Jana flips over the small oblong letterpacket with the intricate lock while Daniel speaks]
- is actually a fundamental technology in sending in sending correspondence before the 19th century

## 00:00:59.360 – 00:01:06.960

- [Jana and Daniel sit side by side at a table while Jana speaks]
- people use letterlocking because they didn't have a trusted postal network as we do today they

## 00:01:06.960 – 00:01:14.800

- [detail of Jana opening a locked letter with a red seal while she is speaking]
- didn't have email passwords with or passwords on their computers with two-step authentication

## 00:01:14.800 – 00:01:19.040

- [detail of Jana unfolding the locked letter, unweaving the paper lock through slits while she is speaking]
- so they had to figure out really ingenious ways on how to do that with a sheet of paper

## 00:01:19.760 – 00:01:24.800

- [Jana and Daniel sit side by side at a table while Daniel speaks]
- what what you do in letterlocking is you fold and you seal your letter you fold and you secure your

## 00:01:24.800 – 00:01:29.760

- [detail of Jana unfolding the locked letter further, the paper lock protrudes from a slit while Daniel is speaking]
- letter to become its own envelope so the reason why people would have used letters letterlocking

## 00:01:29.760 – 00:01:33.760

- [detail of Jana unfolding the locked letter further, the paper lock protrudes from a slit while Daniel is speaking. The end.]
- to send their letters is because you couldn't really have sent your letter any other way