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

Docuementary_What is Letterlocking_transcription_screen_reader_text_Launch

Video Title

Documentary_What_is_Letterlocking_2015_Launch

Links to Video

Free online streaming link at YouTube: https://youtu.be/bZBCbJgs9Gk
Free download from Harvard Dataverse of video, this document, and the audio only captions file: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/URSPUN

Video Description

This documentary introduces the emerging field of letterlocking while offering a glimpse into a day of shooting instructional videos.

Video Citation

Citation information: Authors: Vincent Thuet, Jana Dambrogio and the Unlocking History research group. "Documentary: What is Letterlocking?" Letterlocking Instructional Videos. Unlocking History number 0000/Letterlocking Unique Video number: 0067. Date filmed: December 2015. Duration: 4:21. Date posted: December 2015. Video URL: [Insert URL]. Date accessed: [Date]. Produced, directed, and edited by Vincent Thuet. Funded by the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries. Special thanks to Vincent Thuet, independent filmmaker for this beautiful gift; Ayako Letizia, Camille Dekeyser, MIT Video Production staff. Background music is an excerpt from: Artist: Hans Zimmer; Album: Inception (Music From The Motion Picture); Writers: Hans Zimmer; Year: 2010; Time: 4:35 minutes; Licensed to YouTube by WMG (on behalf of Reprise); UMPI, UMPG Publishing, ASCAP, CMRRA, UNIAO BRASILEIRA DE

EDITORAS DE MUSICA - UBEM, LatinAutorPerf, LatinAutor - UMPG, and 15 Music Rights Societies: YouTube video link: https://youtu.be/c56t7upa8Bk.

Video Copyright

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Transcriptions of captions with viewing description (WEBVTT)

Language

English

Speaker

Jana Dambrogio

Background music

Background music played throughout the documentary is by Artist and writer Hans Zimmer. The Song “Time” is featured on the Album titled *Inception* (Music From The Motion Picture), year: 2010.

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 bracket describes what the view sees while the music plays and Dambrogio speaks
- Text without brackets is transcription of audio caption. Text without brackets is the transcription of the audio caption of Dambrogio’s voice over

Transcription of documentary

00:00:03.460 – 00:00:08.980

- [tools lay on table surface used to film letterlocking instructional videos]
- One of the fundamental issues facing the world today is communications security.

00:00:09.400 – 00:00:13.880

- [tools lay on table surface used to film letterlocking instructional videos]
- Communications is a fundamental part of society and of education;

00:00:13.880 – 00:00:19.200

- [tools lay on table surface used to film letterlocking instructional videos]
- whether in the sciences or humanities, the mechanics of communication are vital for knowledge transfer.

00:00:19.220 – 00:00:23.260

- [a candle stick in a holder, sealing wax, and a seal stamp]
- So how have human beings engineered communications and kept them safe from interception?

00:00:23.680 – 00:00:28.520

- [Daniel Starza Smith demonstrates how to lock a “John Donne Lock.” Starza Smith holds a sealing wax stick over a flame in his right hand and holds his right hand over the letterpacket on the table]
- This isn’t only a question relating to the NSA tapping our emails –

00:00:29.000 – 00:00:39.220

- [Starza Smith applies the melted blob of red sealing wax onto the letterpacket over the lock and then impresses the seal stamp into the sealing wax]
- Letterlocking explores a 10,000-year document security tradition, and one of our main focuses is on the letter,

00:00:39.220 – 00:00:44.580

- [seal stamp impression made into wax. The design from the tool transfers to the wax. The design is a sheaf of seven snakes]
- arguably history's greatest communications technology after the voice.

00:00:45.920 – 00:00:53.280

- [Dambrogio smiles at the camera and then continues preparing for the day of filming instructional videos with Ayako Letizia, conservation associate]
- My name is Jana Dambrogio and I work as the Thomas F. Peterson (1957) Conservator for MIT Libraries in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

00:00:53.280 – 00:01:02.200

- [Dambrogio sits down at the filming table and prepares the set up. The MVP camera staff members are in the background]
- Letterlocking is the technology of folding and securing any substrate like paper, parchment, or papyrus

00:01:03.000 – 00:01:08.200

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- to become its own envelope and it often has some kind of security built into it.

00:01:09.280 – 00:01:18.300

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- So, it's part of a 10,000-year long information and communication security tradition that has never been studied.

00:01:20.220 – 00:01:26.060

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- When I first encountered letters that we called "locked" were once locked shut

00:01:27.340 – 00:01:31.680

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- They are sort of flat in archives. They are already open.

00:01:31.680 – 00:01:34.560

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- So we see them as almost like two-dimensional objects.

00:01:34.560 – 00:01:41.000

- [details of the table with tools and letters on the surface]
- but they are not, they are almost like these little mountains and valleys.

00:01:42.540 – 00:01:50.740

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- The challenge today is to teach people to see the folds and to teach people to see the past motion.

00:01:50.740 – 00:01:55.220

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- To teach people how these flat, fossilized sheets of paper as my colleague Daniel Starza Smith says

00:01:55.440 – 00:02:00.560

- [Dambrogio folding a locked letter]
- that are laying in archives, teach people how to see their "3-D-ness" again.

00:02:03.200 – 00:02:08.120

- [time-lapse photography of filming Dambrogio letterlocking]
- Letterlocking is really cool because it has so many layers.

00:02:09.420 – 00:02:14.860

- [time-lapse photography of filming Dambrogio letterlocking]
- It's valuable to scholars and how they interpret history.

00:02:14.860 – 00:02:21.240

- [time-lapse photography of filming Dambrogio letterlocking]
- It's important to conservators because it is changing the way we approach our treatment of artifacts.

00:02:23.300 – 00:02:25.760

- [Camille Dekeyser writing a letter, close-up of hands, pen, and paper]
- Letters connect us to each other. Letters are our witness

00:02:25.900 – 00:02:27.920

- [close-up of Dekeyser writing a letter]
- to a specific historic moment

00:02:28.140 – 00:02:31.960

- [close-up of Dekeyser writing a letter]
- and if we alter that physical evidence

00:02:32.220 – 00:02:35.420

- [close-up of Dekeyser locking a letter]
- then our witness loses its voice.

00:02:36.620 – 00:02:43.240

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- And then it's ridiculously fun. It's a lot of fun to do letterlocking.

00:02:43.540 – 00:02:46.820

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- When we make the "locked letter model give-away"

00:02:46.820 – 00:02:50.620

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- and we give those away; we've given away over 4,000 in the last two years.

00:02:50.620 – 00:02:55.120

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- It's a one-on-one interaction. You can't leave a bowl of letters on the table.

00:02:55.120 – 00:02:58.400

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- You have to give them to someone, encourage them to open this beautiful little packet,

00:02:58.720 – 00:03:00.000

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- let them keep it,

00:03:00.120 – 00:03:04.600

- [Dekeyser locking a letter]
- and then they talk to you about it. And it can be a four-year-old or

00:03:04.720 – 00:03:08.400

- [Dekeyser locking a letter with melted sealing wax]
- someone who has seen many moons go by.

00:03:08.400 – 00:03:09.900

- [Dekeyser holds sealing wax over candle flame]
- Many people are hooked.

00:03:09.900 – 00:03:11.340

- [Dekeyser locking a letter with melted sealing wax]
- They want to learn how to to do it

00:03:11.340 – 00:03:14.880

- [Dekeyser locking a letter with melted sealing wax]
- They want to tell you how they locked letters when they were kids or

00:03:14.880 – 00:03:19.020

- [Dekeyser impressing the seal stamp into the sealing wax]
- how they kicked little paper footballs across the room and

00:03:19.020 – 00:03:21.600

- [Dekeyser applying a postage stamp]
- they share and they tell you things.

00:03:22.780 – 00:03:27.600

- [Dekeyser finishes locking and blows out the candle]
- It connects us. It connects us to human behavior in the past, right?

00:03:31.520 – 00:03:36.900

- [Dekeyser walks the locked letter to a blue United States Postal Service mailbox outside of the post office]
- So you can pick up a piece of paper today and you can fold letters and want to write them

00:03:36.900 – 00:03:38.080

- [Dekeyser puts the locked letter in the mailbox].
- and then send them.

00:03:38.380 – 00:03:47.000

- [Dekeyser walks away from the mailbox]
- And you can send them to each other and so it promotes this sort of human connection.

00:03:47.000 – 00:03:52.000

- [Fade to black while the music continues to play and then credits roll, a black background with white letters. There is no audio]

00:03:53.000 – 00:03:56.000

- [Letterlocking]

00:03:57.000 – 00:03:59.000

- [Letterlocking]
- [Directed/Shot/Edited]
- [By Vincent Thuet]

00:04:00.000 – 00:04:00.000

- [Directed/Shot/Edited]
- [By Vincent Thuet]

00:04:01.000 – 00:04:02.000

- [With thanks to The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries staff, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, MITs Academic Media Production Services (now referred to as MVP),Thomas F. Peterson Jr., Ayako Letizia, Camille Dekeyser, Barry Pugatch, and Barbara Seidl]
- [Directed/Shot/Edited]
- [By Vincent Thuet]

00:04:02.000 – 00:04:07.000

- [With thanks to The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries staff, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, MITs Academic Media Production Services, (now referred to as MVP), Thomas F. Peterson Jr., Ayako Letizia, Camille Dekeyser, Barry Pugatch, and Barbara Seidl]

00:04:08.000 – 00:04:08.000

- [With thanks to The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries staff, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, MITs Academic Media Production Services (now referred to as MVP),Thomas F. Peterson Jr., Ayako Letizia, Camille Dekeyser, Barry Pugatch, and Barbara Seidl]
- [Jana Dambrogio]
- [Dr. Daniel Starza Smith]
- [Letterlocking.org]

00:04:09.000 – 00:04:012.000

- [Jana Dambrogio]
- [Dr. Daniel Starza Smith]
- [Letterlocking.org]

00:04:13.000 – 00:04:015.000

- [Fade to black]

00:04:016.000 – 00:04:020.000

- [December 2015/www.vincentthuet.com]

00:04:012.000

- [Fade to black, The end.]