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Sommario/riassunto	Starting from the end of the Middle Ages and throughout the early modern era, there was a vast diffusion of the letter form, developed in the chancelleries of European courts and among elites according to canons that blended the rhetoric and chancery tradition with humanistic knowledge. The epistolary style suits the transmission of information and political decisions as well as a frequent exchange of everyday life news, revealing, at both public and private levels, a web of interpersonal relationships and, along with it, evidence of feelings that create 'emotional communities' to which, in many of the cases examined here, individuals looking for social recognition belong.