

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910809249103321
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Titolo	The familiar letter in early modern English : a pragmatic approach // Susan M. Fitzmaurice
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, PA, : John Benjamins Pub. Co., c2002
ISBN	1-282-16186-5 9786612161865 90-272-9739-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (271 p.)
Collana	Pragmatics & beyond, , 0922-842X ; ; new ser. 95
Disciplina	826/.409
Soggetti	English letters - History and criticism English prose literature - Early modern, 1500-1700 - History and criticism Letter writing - History - 16th century Letter writing - History - 17th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [241]-252) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The Familiar Letter in Early Modern English -- Editorial page -- Title page -- LCC data -- Table of contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Chapter 1: The pragmatics of epistolary conversation -- Chapter 2: Context and the linguistic construction of epistolary worlds -- Chapter 3: Making and reading epistolary meaning -- Chapter 4: Sociable letters, acts of advice and medical counsel -- Chapter 5: Epistolary acts of seeking and dispensing patronage -- Chapter 6: Intersubjectivity and the writing of the epistolary interlocutor -- Chapter 7: Relevance and the consequences of unintended epistolary meanings -- Concluding Note: Making meaning in letters: a lesson in reading -- References -- Index -- Pragmatics and Beyond Series.
Sommario/riassunto	This research monograph examines familiar letters in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English to provide a pragmatic reading of the meanings that writers make and readers infer. The first part of the book presents a method of analyzing historical texts. The second part seeks to validate this method through case studies that illuminate how

modern pragmatic theory may be applied to distant speech communities in both history and culture in order to reveal how speakers understand one another and how they exploit intended and unintended meanings for their own communicative ends. The analysis demonstrates the application of pragmatic theory (including speech act theory, deixis, politeness, implicature, and relevance theory) to the study of historical, literary and fictional letters from extended correspondences, producing an historically informed, richly situated account of the meanings and interpretations of those letters that a close reading affords. This book will be of interest to scholars of the history of the English language, historical pragmatics, discourse analysis, as well as to social and cultural historians, and literary critics.

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