

## Call for Papers: Willa Cather's Letters/Willa Cather and Letters

As the [Complete Letters of Willa Cather](#) is nearing completion, Cather's letters are available and accessible to scholars and researchers in an unprecedented way. To mark this moment in Cather scholarship, *Cather Studies* will devote a volume to essays that engage with Cather's letters in new and deeper ways that may have been previously unavailable to scholars. Melissa J. Homestead, editor of *Cather Studies* and co-editor of the *Complete Letters*, will edit the volume.

A variety of approaches and topics are welcome, and essays may focus exclusively on Cather or Cather in relation to other figures. Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- \*Epistolary forms and conventions
- \*Letters in the context of the history of letter writing
- \*Engagement with the material aspects of letter-writing (pens, pencils, stationery, typewriters, envelopes)
- \*The employment of secretaries to assist with correspondence
- \*Epistolary networks
- \*The negotiation of relationships through letter writing
- \*Gaps in epistolary archives and how to interpret them
- \*Letters in relation to published literary or critical work
- \*Lies in letters
- \*Cather as a literary critic in her letters
- \*Cather's testamentary ban on letter publication
- \*Access to authors' letters as shaping research and teaching
- \*Cather as a reader of published letter collections
- \*Letters and literary estates
- \*Letters as collectible objects/letters in collections
- \*Computational approaches to letters (network analysis, sentiment analysis, etc.)

Essays should be submitted no later than **November 15, 2022**. Essays should be documented in Chicago Style using notes. See this [guide](#) for advice about how to cite letters as published in the *Complete Letters*. Essays will undergo double-blind peer review. Please direct queries and submissions to [mhomestead2@unl.edu](mailto:mhomestead2@unl.edu).

The [Cather Project](#) and the [Willa Cather Archive](#) will also co-sponsor a scholarly symposium on Cather's letters at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall of 2022—dates and details to be announced—but attendance at the symposium is not a prerequisite for submitting an essay to *Cather Studies*.