

# The Handwriting of Henry VIII and His Wives

By Donna Whipple C.G.



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LETTER OF HENRY VIII TO CARDINAL WOLSEY.

Wylme I have good cardmall I recomende  
me unto you as hastily as hart can thynke /  
for it is that by cause wrytting to me is <sup>in what</sup>  
tedius and paynfull therfor this most part  
off this byssnes I have comytted to our  
trusty coseler this bezzar to be declaryd to you  
by mozt <sup>to</sup> wylm we wolde you shulde  
geff credens ~~to~~ nevertheless to this that  
foloweth I thought nott best to make hym  
pysse nor non other but you and I. wher  
is that I wolde you shulde make good  
wache on the duke off suffolke on the duke  
off buryngam on my lord off north. comberla  
on my lord off darby on my lord off wylthore  
and <sup>on</sup> others whiche you thynke suspecte  
to see what they do w<sup>t</sup> this moost no more  
to you at this tyme but payrenti paucis  
wryttinge w<sup>t</sup> the hand off your loving  
maister. Henry. H







for my lord helward hath sent me a lre open to your grace w<sup>th</sup>  
son of myn by the whiche ye shal see at length the grete victorie  
that our lord hath sent your subget in your absence and for  
this cause it is noo neede harm to trouble your grace w<sup>th</sup> long  
writing but to my thinking this barell hath bee to your grace  
and al your deame the gretest honor that coulde bee and more  
than ye shuld w<sup>th</sup>yn at the crowne of france thanke bee god  
of it / and I am sure your grace forgeteth not to doo this whiche  
shal be cause to sende you many moo suche grete victories as  
I trust he shal doo / my husband for hastynesse w<sup>th</sup> Roze cross  
coude not sende your grace the peece of the king of scots cote  
whiche John Glyn nobl bringeth in this your grace shal see  
holl / I can kepe my p<sup>re</sup>mys sending you for your barres alway  
cote / I thought to sende hymself vnto you but our enghishment  
hath wold not suffre it / it shuld have been better for hym to  
have been in poore peax than to have this rebarde, al that god  
sendeth is for the best / my lord of fressay my henry wold fayne  
knowe your pleasur in the burying of the king of scots body  
for he hath written to me so / w<sup>th</sup> the next messenger your  
grace pleasur may bee herin karolled, and w<sup>th</sup> this I make an  
ende praying god to sende you home shortly for without this  
noo roye here can bee accomplished / and for the same I pray  
and nobl goo to our lady at walsingham that I promised so  
long agoo to be at woborne the xvi. day of septemb<sup>r</sup>  
I sende your grace herin abille founde in a scottishmans purse of  
suche thing as the frenche king sent to the said king of scots  
to make warre against you beseking you to sende matthee hede  
affore this messenger cometh to bringe your humble w<sup>th</sup> and  
me syding from your grace

Katherine of Aragon



My lord after my most humble recommendations this shall be to give unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace  
 as I am most bound my humble thank for the great paym<sup>nt</sup> and treasur<sup>e</sup> that yo<sup>r</sup>  
 grace doth take in providing by yo<sup>r</sup> wisdom and great diligence how to bring  
 to pass honourably the greatest felicity that is possible to com<sup>e</sup> to any creature living  
 and in especiall remembryng howe merciful and bountifull I am in requyting  
 to his highnes/and for you I do bidde my self never to be despayred by my deserv<sup>ys</sup> &  
 that you shuld take this great paym<sup>nt</sup> for me yet daily of yo<sup>r</sup> goodness I do praye  
 by all my frendes and though that I have not bewaile to them the daily  
 paym<sup>nt</sup> of yo<sup>r</sup> good doth declare yo<sup>r</sup> most and very good toward me to be  
 true none good my lord yo<sup>r</sup> dyscrecyon may consider as yet howe lyke it  
 is in my power to requyte you but all only in my good wyl the which  
 I assure you that after this matter is brought to pass you shall fynde me  
 as I am bound in the meane tyme to owe you my selfe and then looke  
 what thing in this world I can in myght to do you pleasure in you  
 shall fynde me the gladdest woman in the world to do it and wyl  
 be to the best grace of one thing I make you full p<sup>er</sup>suaded to be assured  
 to have it and that is my hart to be unfeignedly deservyng my life  
 and being fully determyned to goddes grace never to change this  
 purpose I make aound of this my hand and trewe meaning better  
 praym<sup>nt</sup> other lord to send you muche increase of gooder to long lyfe  
 w<sup>ith</sup> the hand of her that becometh yo<sup>r</sup> grace to com<sup>e</sup> this letter  
 as preschynge from one that is most bound to be

From M<sup>rs</sup> Anne Bullen to her Ma<sup>ty</sup> to the King:

FACSIMILE OF THE HANDWRITING OF ANNE BOLEYN

yo<sup>r</sup> humble and  
 obedient servant  
 Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn

## Ann Boleyn from the Tower

I feynde falo I am, nowe as I am, whose name I would faine  
 good, while faine have pointed at unto y<sup>e</sup> grante being not  
 ignorant of my sustenid byrain.

And if y<sup>e</sup> have already determinid of mee and hat not only  
 my deute but an infamous slander must bring y<sup>e</sup> by smearing  
 y<sup>e</sup> deatred happid. Then I desire of god that he will y<sup>e</sup> don  
 y<sup>e</sup> grante faine here in and likewise myne enemyde by  
 y<sup>e</sup> fexmulate therof. And that he will not call y<sup>e</sup> to a strainge  
 example for y<sup>e</sup> unpymishid and exell p<sup>er</sup>age of y<sup>e</sup> all. Eke  
 y<sup>e</sup>ondrate fudgmet shalld weore but y<sup>e</sup> and my self must  
 shortly appere. And in y<sup>e</sup> fexmulate indgmet I doubt not  
 w<sup>at</sup> fover by world may fexmulate of mee my innocencye fete  
 to openly fume and fufficiently cleare.

My last and only request I shall be that my selfe may not beare by  
 furtion of y<sup>e</sup> grante displeafure. And that it may not  
 touch the fimmout funder of thef poore gentlemen fcholar at  
 I pnderstand are likewise in ftraight y<sup>e</sup>mp<sup>er</sup>ifment for my  
 fete. I fover I have funder fhard in y<sup>e</sup> fighit in orde by name  
 of Anne Bullen. hafe boont pleafing in y<sup>e</sup> fard lett mee  
 oblige this last request. And I will fte leave to foblle y<sup>e</sup>re  
 y<sup>e</sup>are any further with my earnest prayer to the Trinitie  
 to have y<sup>e</sup> fexmulate in his good keepinge. And to directe y<sup>e</sup>re in  
 all y<sup>e</sup> fard.

From my deatred prifon  
 in the tower 6<sup>th</sup> May

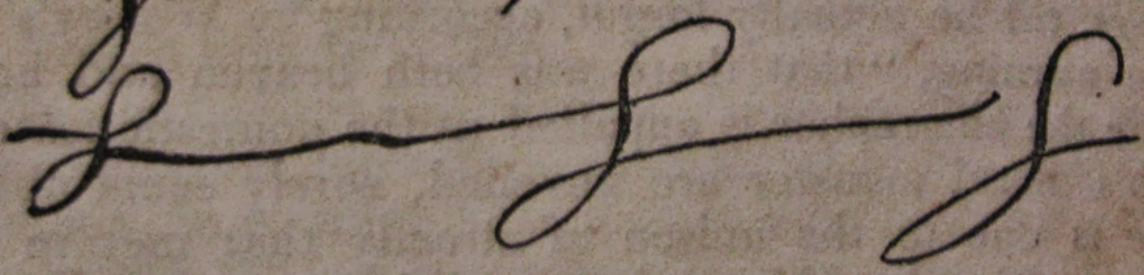
y<sup>e</sup> most loyal and  
 ever fackfule prife  
 Anne Bullen



By the Queen

Truly and most humbly we greet your grace. And forasmuch as by the  
 most honorable goodnes and grace of Almighty god we be assured and  
 brought in good bed of a good man. We received in most lawful  
 and honorable manner our lord the King's Majesty and do  
 doubtless not but that for the love and affection which we bear  
 unto you and to the honor, welfare of his Majesty for  
 knowledge thereof, I will be pained and glad to direct unto  
 you our grace's honest good to receive you of the pain  
 the content we must not only receive your good and comfort  
 think and praye to be so and I have been of you for  
 the last contentment and satisfaction of the same. I am  
 in god but to the good of god for and please of my  
 lord the King and so and for universal peace quiet and  
 tranquillity of his high Majesty's person and his  
 crown at any time in any of my humblest for my day  
 of 1540

Jane the Queen



Jane Seymour

After my humble commendation unto your Ma<sup>ty</sup> I  
 thank you for your approbation of my gentleness and long  
 favor shewed unto me in my laste letter regarding  
 my wishes of your loving commendation, I pray god  
 your goodness to understand that I am enforced  
 of your graciously to commend againe being  
 desirous to do my dutie to your Ma<sup>ty</sup> and  
 pray that it may so stand with your goodness  
 and that I may have some reward and requite  
 shall waite upon your Ma<sup>ty</sup> and God willing to  
 bestow mine joye and felicity with increase of re-  
 to god's glory and to the glorification of your  
 prosperous estate longe to continue with honor  
 all godly contentment from my good will  
 given the 4 of august

No<sup>r</sup> signed to rema<sup>nd</sup>  
 ANNE the daughter of  
 Cleves



## Anne of Cleves

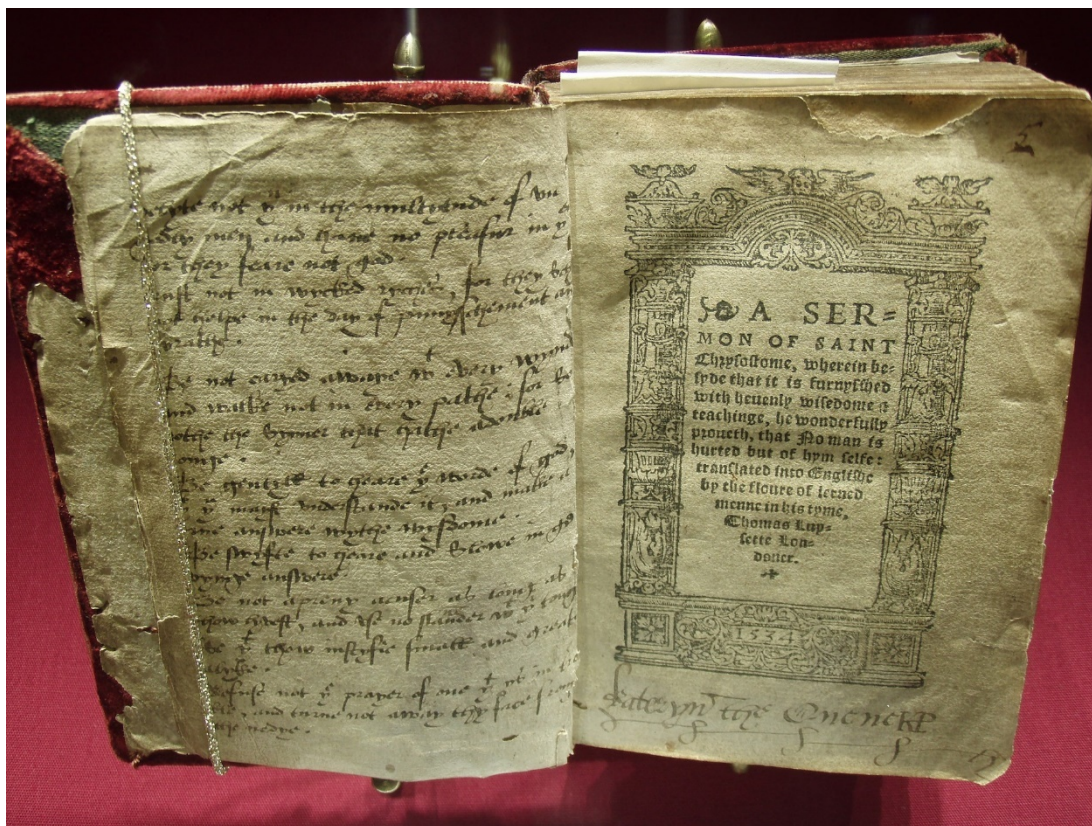
Y beseeche your grace that  
when ye take on this  
remembrance  
not good assured anne  
the daughter off cleves  
  
The Lady Anne of Cleves  
to the Henry VIII

After Coultrepe I beately recomende me unto youe for as much as youe  
 finde me worde how that youe doo it was shewed me that youe  
 like the mythe thinge I oblied me more mythe tell furthe tyme that I  
 here from you praying you to find me worde how that youe do  
 for I never longed so mythe for thinge as I do to see you and  
 to speke wyth you the mythe I trust shal be shor tely now the  
 mythe dothe comforte me more mythe I think of it and  
 now I think a game that you shall departe from me a game  
 yt make my harte to dre to thynke what fortune I have  
 that I cannot be alonge in your companye it my self  
 allwaye in you that you wolbe do you have promysed me  
 and in that hope I truste upon still praying you than that  
 you will com when my lide forthforthe to here for then  
 I shal be bish at haysore to be at your commynge  
 thynking you for that you have promysed me to be so  
 good unto that youe followe my man mythe son of the  
 grete that I do fel to departe from him for then I do  
 knowe now that I have bish to sende to you and these  
 I pray you take him to be wyth you that I maye see him  
 here from you our thinge I pray you to geve me a horse  
 for my man for I have mythe a do to gett one and  
 the first I pray sende me one by him and you so doing I  
 am as I sude a for and thus I take my leave of you  
 trusting to be you forthforthe a game and I wote I was  
 wyth me now that youe make se what game I take  
 in wyth you

one thing I had for gotten and  
 that was to praye you to  
 let my man to take here wyth me still for he  
 has wait for me as you be lyathe wot do it and  
 yours as long as  
 I live and more Katherine

Katherine Howard





I omitt, lest I beyned seme to go aboute to praysc my self, or caude a  
 tchande, whiche tchynge to do I mynde nottynng lese but aplayne sympte  
 releyng of my zeie and lode towarde your maiesse procedyng <sup>from</sup> the a  
 bundance of the gerte, wheryn I must nedes confesse I deserde no  
 so worthy comendation, gadyng hene Iuste occasion to do the same.  
 I make the acompte wythe your maiesse, as I do wythe god for god  
 benefetes and justel. Geps upon me daily knowyng my self att  
 ward agrette dether vnto god in that I do omitt my dute towarde  
 god, noll being able to recompense the lesse of god benefetes, in mych  
 sette I am certeyne and sure to dye, but yett I hope in god's accepta  
 tion of my good wyll. And eche hene confidence I take in your ma  
 iestes gentylne, knowyng my self nedes to have done my dute ab  
 wye requysite and mete to hene anoble and worthy payne, at wyche  
 qundel I have founde and receyved so muche lode and fadyng, <sup>that</sup> wyche  
 wordes I can not expresse it, lest I beyned be to tedynge vnto your maiesse I  
 synge the my scribled letter, comyng you in to the forenace of the lorde  
 so long tyme and passyng felowte geve, & after I of to enioy & lonyng of god  
 electe, from felyowshyp  
 to your maiesse comyng Katherine Parr  
 obedient loving wyfe &  
 servant

Lans 1236

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Katherine Parr



Right trustful and myght welbelovyd Cosyn our quene your most Advertisynge you hat  
 to a grete greiffe and horryned of herte we have receyved your most humble and  
 adoresment that this kynge & dearest brother and late soleyn lord is departed  
 to godde mercye upon this daye at night by meane of roger of the right of the Crowne  
 of this Realme of Englande w<sup>th</sup> this good order and therof and the title of p<sup>er</sup>sonne is  
 myste come unto us by gods most providence as appereth by this p<sup>er</sup>sonne  
 at this time made by acte of parliament and the assent and late will of  
 late dearest father kynge Henry the eight for & p<sup>er</sup>sonne in this behalf. Wherby  
 you are now discharged of yo<sup>ur</sup> Owe of allegiaunce to & your brother this kynge  
 and subdunded and sett at Libertye to obeye and comendment for ever  
 or for ever to be adressed unto you by law or otherwise from or in the name or by  
 cons<sup>ent</sup> of the univ<sup>er</sup>sities of the same kynge & late brother and entye to do and to do p<sup>er</sup>sonne  
 are and owe to be true Loyall and right welbelovyd for  
 the everlastinge trust and affiaunce now g<sup>iv</sup>en in you. And as you be a noble man we  
 require comend and charge you to save an harte and an it diligent and p<sup>er</sup>sonne sent  
 to godd glorie & Godd the Queene of & p<sup>er</sup>sonne this Realme the quene of the roial  
 Realme specially of that & Countie of Middlesex. And we require you to  
 and that you shoulde not in anye for ever to be comendment call or to be  
 by law or otherwise of anye p<sup>er</sup>sonne or p<sup>er</sup>sonne weal p<sup>er</sup>sonne of to be p<sup>er</sup>sonne  
 Cade and people also if anye weal p<sup>er</sup>sonne as godd p<sup>er</sup>sonne sent d<sup>iv</sup>er and attempt  
 anye p<sup>er</sup>sonne and by force that sent to you p<sup>er</sup>sonne p<sup>er</sup>sonne sent d<sup>iv</sup>er and attempt  
 ap<sup>er</sup>sonne for the p<sup>er</sup>sonne of no<sup>th</sup> cast and also to p<sup>er</sup>sonne you shall maye be sent to  
 sent to be at & comendment for ever to be adressed unto you. And as you shall to the  
 best of yo<sup>ur</sup> power p<sup>er</sup>sonne and p<sup>er</sup>sonne yo<sup>ur</sup> self. And as you shall to the  
 p<sup>er</sup>sonne yo<sup>ur</sup> p<sup>er</sup>sonne and discharge in this behalf. And as you shall to the  
 but that we shall in the Realme of Englande p<sup>er</sup>sonne all  
 and also anye & o<sup>th</sup>er p<sup>er</sup>sonne and p<sup>er</sup>sonne p<sup>er</sup>sonne  
 sent to godd p<sup>er</sup>sonne and gr<sup>av</sup>e we shall p<sup>er</sup>sonne godd p<sup>er</sup>sonne  
 to yo<sup>ur</sup> comfort in the p<sup>er</sup>sonne of godd we shall do all  
 at & mane of Henry the eight the p<sup>er</sup>sonne of Inhe in the p<sup>er</sup>sonne of & p<sup>er</sup>sonne  
 D. liij.

Queen Mary



Such a pretence of the ~~same~~ shall be  
taught a better Liab<sup>er</sup> than play  
be presuming and bold a part for  
his k<sup>ing</sup> - Wi your good liking & proof  
Wicki as I hope is far for your  
intim<sup>er</sup> - So Wyl<sup>l</sup> has com<sup>er</sup> of verifi  
to much<sup>er</sup> Good Master English  
assurances at Rome. It Wicki  
you have or now com<sup>er</sup> would you  
thus you see how to fulfil your  
trust riprob<sup>er</sup> in Wicki to  
reform<sup>er</sup> & in my mind I  
have sincerity and pati<sup>er</sup>  
my sincerity and <sup>not</sup> frang<sup>er</sup>  
it much<sup>er</sup> wisdom yet stuff  
it great good Wyl<sup>l</sup> I hope you  
Wyl<sup>l</sup> bear it with no list<sup>er</sup>  
you to long it with <sup>not</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>not</sup>  
hand, as proceeding for a heart  
that shall ever be filled with the

Such affection of your  
Long and Sincerely  
sister  
Elizabeth

Elizabeth I