

Discoveries in the Archives

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The Letters of Ernest Hemingway, collected to date in six volumes,
projected to be seventeen volumes



Hemingway Letters Staff Attending Conference in Spain, July 2024



18 year old Ernest Hemingway (center), volunteer for the Red Cross, in an Italian trench in WWI. He was seriously injured two weeks later in a mortar attack. Source: Toby and Betty Bruce Collection at Penn State University.



John F. Kennedy Library, which houses the Hemingway Collection of Manuscripts, Letters, and Memorabilia. Boston, MA



Hemingway Room at JFK Library no longer commonly used for research. Artifacts in the room include a lion rug and a traveler's trunk near the sofa, as well as animal trophies and paintings.



Ernest Hemingway writing in long hand, his common practice, before manuscript was typed. He revised extensively on both copies.

San Valley, Idaho
Nov 8 1946

Dear Mr. Andrews:

we are showing off ^{our} ~~our~~ ^{and} believe we put it is a
son of a bitching business to copy off one's own works
but if it has been ^{any} good and glad to do it
- can't just platter this - anyway -

For Jack D. Andrews -

"The great thing is to last and get your
work done and see and hear and learn and
understand; and write when there is something
that you know; and not before; and not too
damned much after. Let those who want to
save the world, if you can get to see it clear
and as a whole then any part you make need
represent the whole, if it's made truly."

But don't think this gives any man a
license not to go to bat when he
should; ^{not} to fight when he must;
^{not} to die anytime that ^{what is} is clearly indicated.
It is nice to have prose but it doesn't give
any sense to that ^{your always & present uniqueness}

Ernest Hemingway's letter to my father,
Jack D. Andrews, dated November 8, 1946

For Jack D. Andrews—

“The great thing is to last and get your work done and see and hear and learn and understand;
and write when there is something that you know; and not before; and not too damned much after.
Let those who want to save the world, if you can get to see it clear and as a whole.
Then any part you make will represent the whole, if it’s made truly.”

Hemingway’s advice to writers from *Death in the Afternoon* (1932)

Sun Valley, Idaho
Nov 8 1946

Dear Mr. Andrews:

We are shoving off from here
and packing etc and believe me pal it is a
son of a bitching business to copy off one's own works
but if it has been any good am glad to do it
—cat just splattered this anyway—

Hidden portion of Hemingway's letter revealed after removal from frame

But don't think this gives any man a licence not to go to bat when he should;
nor^not to fight when he must; nor^not to die any time that is^ what is clearly indicated.
It is nice poetical prose but it doesn't give any licence for that.

Yours always Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway's contrasting advice in 1946

Important Scene in *The Sun Also Rises*



The Concha in San Sebastian, Spain.

Background for “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber”



Ernest Hemingway with dead African Buffalo circa 1933.
Rifle is likely a Springfield.



A Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifle with two triggers. The rear trigger “set” the front trigger to fire with very little pressure. Hemingway had his rifle altered to have a single trigger.

“About the set trigger—I like it. I have learned to touch it off and made 7 consecutive bulls[eyes] on the 100 yd target with it and scope—But I would be afraid of it in promiscuous hunting since I’m a squeezer and when not thinking of gun—but of game am sure I would get in trouble with it sometime - **and would never be sure Pauline might not shoot me with it by mistake**”(Letters IV 373-374).

Hemingway’s letter to Milford Baker about the double trigger on the Mannlicher rifle.



Pauline Pfeiffer Hemingway on safari in Africa circa 1933. Rifle she is holding is likely Ernest Hemingway's Mannlicher 6.5 purchased in 1930. Animal pictured may be a Gazelle.

“When a buff comes he comes with his head held high and thrust straight out. The boss of his horns covers any sort of brain shot. The only shot is straight into the nose.” “. . . Macomber, as he fired, . . . saw fragments like slate burst from the huge boss of his horns. . . .And aiming carefully shot again with the buffalo’s huge bulk almost on him . . . And he felt a sudden white-hot blinding flash. . . .”

Setting the scene of the hunting accident.



African Buffalo, depicting the size of the horns and the large bulk of the animal, showing the challenge of shooting during a charge.

“Mrs. Macomber, in the car, had shot at the buffalo with the 6.5 Mannlicher as it seemed about to gore Macomber and had hit her husband about two inches up and a little to one side of the base of his skull.” The dead man and dead buffalo lay less than two yards apart. Wilson says to Margot, “That was a pretty thing to do. He *would* have left you too.”

Text of immediate aftermath of Francis Macomber’s death.

Hemingway, "The Art of the Short Story":
"I don't know whether she shot him on purpose any more than you do.
I could ask myself since I invented it . . . But you have to know where
to stop.
That is what makes a short story." in *The Short Stories of Ernest
Hemingway: The Hemingway Library Edition*, edited by Sean Patrick
Hemingway, Scribner's ,2017,pp. 1-14.

The author declines to remove the ambiguity of the ending of "The Short
Happy Life of Francis Macomber"

Role of Ambulances in *A Farewell to Arms*



Red Cross ambulances in WWI, driven by Red Cross volunteer, 18 year old Ernest Hemingway, and the main character of *A Farewell to Arms*, American volunteer Lt. Frederic Henry. Many roads were unpaved and during rain storms became muddy and sometimes impassable.

The first typescript made from the handwritten original has the sentences as they were published: “I aimed at the one who had talked the most, and fired. I missed and they both started to run. I shot three times and dropped one. The other went through the hedge and was out of sight” (204).

But the manuscript has “dropped one” crossed out, and in Hemingway’s handwriting, the phrase “one fell” substituted, reading then: “I shot three times and one fell” (JFK Box 64 and 65.4). Here we see Hemingway considering the tone, meaning, nuance of one crucial word. In the published text, he restored the more callous sounding, active hunting term “dropped one.”

Ernest Hemingway, considering the importance of one phrase to describe the controversial action of Frederic Henry in the novel *A Farewell to Arms*

Hemingway Visit to Sheridan, Wyoming

Source for “Wine of Wyoming”



Ernest Hemingway and his second wife Pauline Pfeiffer Hemingway at the Spear Ranch in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1928. Hemingway befriended a French couple who brewed beer and wine illegally (during Prohibition), a basis for the story “Wine of Wyoming.”

Madame Fontan replies in the text and all printed copies since publication of the story, “Sure, but you live in France.”

The underlined word is an error in the text of the story “Wine of Wyoming” which has persisted for nearly 100 years. The error leads to false interpretations of the narrator’s identity.

So where is the mistake? All manuscripts in the Kennedy show her response to the visitor is “Sure, but you **lived** in France.”

The correct word (bolded) is Hemingway’s original choice in the original manuscript.

Thank you – Questions welcome!

Penn State Archives



Hemingway Archives at the JFK

