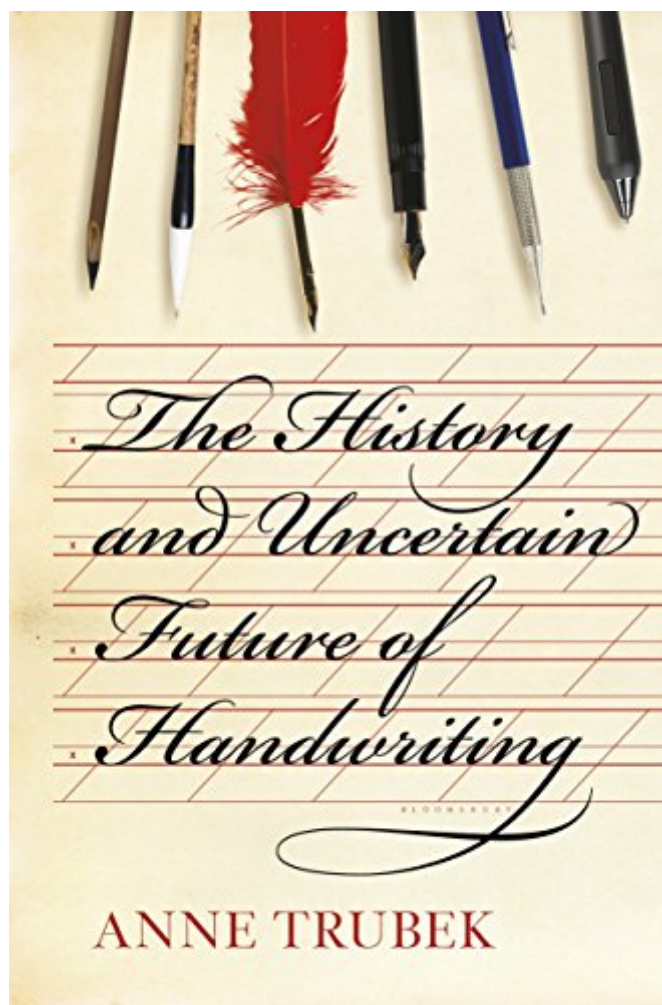


The book was found

The History And Uncertain Future Of Handwriting



Synopsis

In the digital age of instant communication, handwriting is less necessary than ever before, and indeed fewer and fewer schoolchildren are being taught how to write in cursive. Signatures--far from John Hancock's elegant model--have become scrawls. In her recent and widely discussed and debated essays, Anne Trubek argues that the decline and even elimination of handwriting from daily life does not signal a decline in civilization, but rather the next stage in the evolution of communication. Now, in *The History and Uncertain Future of Handwriting*, Trubek uncovers the long and significant impact handwriting has had on culture and humanity--from the first recorded handwriting on the clay tablets of the Sumerians some four thousand years ago and the invention of the alphabet as we know it, to the rising value of handwritten manuscripts today. Each innovation over the millennia has threatened existing standards and entrenched interests: Indeed, in ancient Athens, Socrates and his followers decried the very use of handwriting, claiming memory would be destroyed; while Gutenberg's printing press ultimately overturned the livelihood of the monks who created books in the pre-printing era. And yet new methods of writing and communication have always appeared. Establishing a novel link between our deep past and emerging future, Anne Trubek offers a colorful lens through which to view our shared social experience.

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Customer Reviews

This book was very interesting if you are wanting to learn about the history of handwriting in Western cultures. I would have liked to have seen an additional chapter (or two) about Chinese and Japanese calligraphy and their writing materials. I read the Kindle edition and I found it difficult to switch from the text to the illustration plates. For this edition, it would have made more sense to intersperse the text with the illustrations. However, aside from these quibbles, I really enjoyed this book and I learned a great deal.

I loved hearing her on NPR talking about this, and reading her op-ed in the NY Timesâ "Anne is fun to argue with, and you get to do that here. She's really thought about the history of handwriting, which is fascinating, with the monks and the seals and all of it. Such an interesting subject, paired with a really fun writer.

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