

# Great Letters

EVERYTHING  
TO EVERYBODY



In addition to over 40,000 volumes, Birmingham's Shakespeare Library includes personal documents such as letters, diaries and meeting notes.

Letters were the most important means of communication in Victorian times. Old letters kept in the Archives contain messages of love, business transactions, stories about events and news both good and bad.

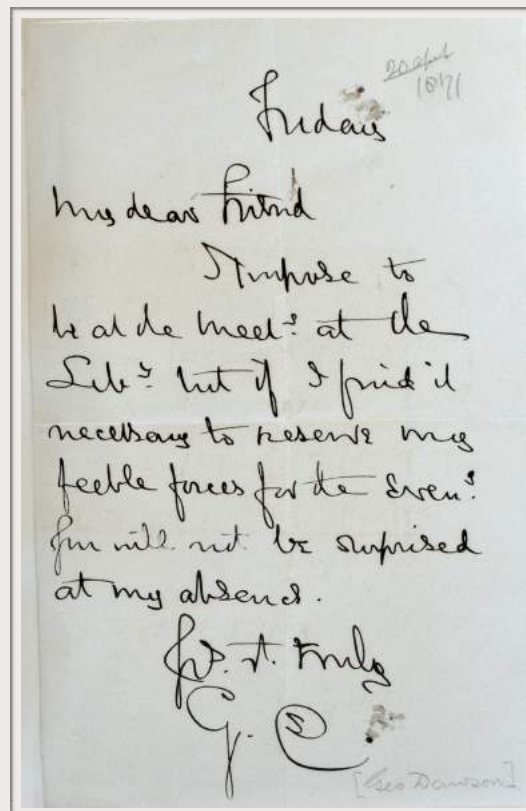
A super efficient postal system meant that some letters could be delivered within a day and they were post marked with a date stamped onto the envelope. In 1840 over 169 million letters were posted.

## Look carefully at the letter and answer the following questions

- Who is the letter addressed to?
- In what month was it posted?
- How much did the stamp cost?
- Who wrote the letter?
- On what day of the week was the letter written?
- Look at the postage stamp. Who is the image of?

Answers:

George Dawson; Friday; One Penny;  
Samuel Timmins; April; One Penny;



## Letter Writing Task

Write a formal letter to a friend containing news about an exciting event.

Try to copy the 'copperplate' style of handwriting.

Use your own address on the envelope

Design your own fancy and distinctive autograph to sign off



Signature of Queen Victoria