

EDITORIAL PROCEDURES

The following conventions have been adopted in the transcription and presentation of the letters printed here:

1. Texts are printed in full and are based upon original documents unless indicated by the word transcription in parentheses in the provenance heading. The letters are presented as edited texts and do not reproduce a given document's eccentricities; thus decorative elements, cancellations, and lineation are not indicated.

2. Information about the location and state of original documents is supplied in 'A Calendar of letters addressed to Conrad'. In the case of previously published letters the provenance heading provides publication information. Quotation of a fragment in a published source has not been recorded.

3. Letterheads are given in abbreviated form. Telephone numbers, addresses for telegrams, and other incidental matter on printed stationery have been omitted. Conrad's address when supplied by a correspondent has been omitted.

4. Placement of the date has been standardized to follow the address. Lineation of the complimentary close has not been diplomatically reproduced, and the absence of a signature in a text derived from a typed carbon copy has not been signalled.

5. Obvious spelling or typist's errors have been silently corrected. Omitted terminal punctuation and missing opening and closing quotation marks and round brackets have been silently provided. Accent marks in letters written in French have not been supplied or corrected except in the case of the letters from Gide transcribed by Jean-Aubry since the typewriter used lacked accents and as a result the transcriptions are particularly unreliable.

6. Square brackets are used for missing letters, for the expansion of abbreviations, and, when signalled by an equal sign, for the translation of foreign words and phrases. A question mark within square brackets indicates a doubtful reading. Ellipses within square brackets signal words that are illegible or irrecoverable because of damage to the document.

7. Where required by sense, a missing word has been inserted in square brackets. Words repeated inadvertently have been omitted.

8. The nineteenth- and early twentieth-century practice of using a dash for a full-stop has been retained, and a writer's varying use of quotation marks has not been regularized.

9. Underlining in original documents has been replaced by italics.
10. Paragraph breaks and the use of upper case are in certain instances open to varying interpretation, and resolution of these has necessarily been a matter of judgment.
11. Readers should note that letters are dated in the order of day, month, and year.
12. In the interests of space and given that this volume is addressed mainly to specialists, annotation has been kept to a minimum.