



Smithsonian
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Marcel's Letters: A Font and the Search for One Man's Fate* by Carolyn Porter**

Please see below for questions that we'll use to loosely guide our discussion on September 13th. Some of these questions were borrowed from the official book club discussion guide, [which you can find here](#). In addition, as the author will be joining our meeting, come prepared with questions you would like to ask Carolyn Porter.

- ❖ What did you think of the format of *Marcel's Letters*? Was there an aspect of the book that you enjoyed the most: the memoir, the letters & history, or typography?
- ❖ Did you know anything about the *Service du Travail Obligatoire* (STO) before you read this book? Do you think this is a topic that should be explored more when learning about World War II?
- ❖ Did you understand the author's obsession with Marcel's story? Have you undertaken any projects that have consumed you in the same way?
- ❖ Did this book change the way you look at fonts? In the same vein, did this book influence how you feel about handwritten letters?
- ❖ What did you think about the author's struggles with potentially controversial aspects of the letters, including how she handled the swastika on the letters?
- ❖ Imagine Marcel's fate had been different; how do you expect Carolyn would have reacted? How would the story have changed?