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?