**[Capt. Sterling](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/" \o "Go to Capt. Sterling's profile)**

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399704) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399704)

Anyone come across any actual examples of "crossed" writing from the late 17thc into the 18th century?

or crossed letter writing

**Edited May 11, 2011 by Capt. Sterling**

[**Silkie McDonough**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2754-silkie-mcdonough/)

* Proprietress of the Sealkies Hide
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 5,695 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:I have been a Virginian for 2 months now. LOVING it.
* Interests:Music, vocalizing, Irish balads. I love to draw, I do pencile portraits/detail drawings for barter and sale. The link in in my signature. Ireland, its history and culture. Sewing garb, mostly for myself. The arm of a strong gentleman round my waist.

Unfortunately, I don't do nearly enough of any of a these.

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399709) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399709)

Quick search gave me this.

[Bradfer - Lawerance, third image down.](http://bradfer.yascollections.org.uk/index.php?id=3829&secid=03)

Rather small though.

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[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399712) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399712)

Aye but that is 1829...I'm reading it was commonplace by the later 18th century... I want to know if they were doing it in our time frame and are their any originals to prove it... 

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

* Smells Like Wet Sheep
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Columbus, Ohio
* Interests:Mostly into GAoP, but starting to develop more Buccaneer era stuff for re-enacting as well. Generally I do re-enact both piratical/nautical and other impressions from the period. I am focusing on more "common" impressions from the period (i.e. average sailor/pirate, rank and file Red Coat, early Colonial huntsman, etc.)

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399714) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399714)

I can't view this page from my mobile device... but I recall the below link being posted recently on another forum i am on, and there being lots of extent handwriting examples (and some earlier stuff and lots of later stuff)... it is mostly in French, German and Dutch, but if you are just looking for handwriting styles, there is a lot to draw from... there are also some col maps of cities and battlefields there for those interested in that stuff.

Enjoy

<http://www.digam.net/?str=177>

Some navigation to the correct area may be required.. like I said I am reposting the link and can't actually see the content right now.

<http://www.digam.net/?str=177>

[**Silkie McDonough**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2754-silkie-mcdonough/)

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Unfortunately, I don't do nearly enough of any of a these.

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399716) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399716)

Sterling,

Since I had no idea what you were talking about until I did that search I like to think there are others who were just as clueless and I have aided them in their quest for understanding.

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

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[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399721) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399721)

Good point Silkie....so let me 'splain a bit further... crossed writing was an attempt to save money on postage in England, when the cost depended on how many sheets of paper were sent in a letter,etc. People would write, filling up a side of a page THEN turn the page 90 degrees and write some more on top of the first bit...actually quite easy to read...

The stuff I have been reading says it was quite common in the late 18th century, around the AWI...so I was wondering when did it start to be commonplace and if there were any examples of it from the GAoP time frame..

Mickey thanks...very interesting stuff...



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[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399726) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399726)

Thanks Mistress...

[**michaelsbagley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3724-michaelsbagley/)

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* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,548 posts
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[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399729) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399729)

Oops... Miss. Dobyns... I would very much like to appologize. It seems some new feature has been added to the pub, and not being careful of where I was tapping on my pocket mobile device and I accidentally deleted your post. Maybe one of the mods or admins on a real computer can figure a way to restore it... or I will try when I get home.

Sorry again

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

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[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399735) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399735)

To Paraphrase Mistress Dobyns' mistakenly deleted post... I made her go blind and she would jump to it in regards to hunting down any and all possible originals from our time frame...ahem...what a gal!

[**Bos'n Cross**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11032-bosn-cross/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 536 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Portsmouth
* Interests:many things.......

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399739) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399739)

my head just exploded........im none too sure how easy to read any of that is!

[**jendobyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11262-jendobyns/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 562 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Baltimore
* Interests:too numerous to mention, really. Period foodways, baroque dance, material culture, etc., etc.

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399743) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399743)

 On 5/11/2011 at 7:05 PM, michaelsbagley said:

Oops... Miss. Dobyns... I would very much like to appologize. It seems some new feature has been added to the pub, and not being careful of where I was tapping on my pocket mobile device and I accidentally deleted your post. Maybe one of the mods or admins on a real computer can figure a way to restore it... or I will try when I get home.

Sorry again

Ahhh, another "droidian slip"

[**jendobyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11262-jendobyns/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 562 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Baltimore
* Interests:too numerous to mention, really. Period foodways, baroque dance, material culture, etc., etc.

[Posted May 11, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399744) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399744)

 On 5/11/2011 at 8:53 PM, Capt. Sterling said:

To Paraphrase Mistress Dobyns' mistakenly deleted post... I made her go blind and she would jump to it in regards to hunting down any and all possible originals from our time frame...ahem...what a gal!

oh, noooo, it appears my efforts have been magnified by deletion! Or, rather become enlarged by their absence? Kind of like that big fish that got away

Having nothing better to do than send emails to various museum contacts today, I just sent a request for any evidence of this technique in the 18C, the earlier the better. It'll be interesting to see what folks come up with, if anything.

And yes, it did funny things to my eyes when I tried to read them

[**John Maddox Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/334-john-maddox-roberts/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 272 posts

[Posted May 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399755) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399755)

Much later, but it was also resorted to in the Confederate states during the U.S. civil War, because of a dire shortage of paper.

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[Posted May 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399757) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399757)

 On 5/11/2011 at 9:54 PM, Bos said:

my head just exploded........im none too sure how easy to read any of that is!

Wait!!! Wait... are ye telling me the blind guy and a bunch of third graders had no trouble reading this and with out spectacles???

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

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[Posted May 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399780) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399780)

Here ye go Jen... still had an original in my email account...

"----------------------------------------------------------------------

"easy to read" he says, as my eyes go crossed trying to read it! I'll see if I can't get a lead on this, although I suspect it would be a rare thing to survive."

[**jendobyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11262-jendobyns/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 562 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Baltimore
* Interests:too numerous to mention, really. Period foodways, baroque dance, material culture, etc., etc.

[Posted May 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399784) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399784)

Thanks!

So far the net I cast hasn't yielded anything 18C, although I was given this link for an exhibit of Jane Austen's writing from someone who used to work at Winterthur: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/fall10/Drummond/index.shtml>

 On 5/12/2011 at 9:21 AM, Capt. Sterling said:

Here ye go Jen... still had an original in my email account...

"----------------------------------------------------------------------

"easy to read" he says, as my eyes go crossed trying to read it! I'll see if I can't get a lead on this, although I suspect it would be a rare thing to survive."

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[Posted May 12, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=findComment&comment=399786) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18010-crossed-writing/&do=reportComment&comment=399786)

I contacted Colin Woodard, author of The Republic of Pirates...see if Woodes Rogers' correspondences shows any such technique.