

## The Letter in Flora Tristan's Politics, 1835–1844

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# The Letter in Flora Tristan's Politics, 1835–1844

Máire Fedelma Cross

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# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	viii
<b>1 Reading Flora Tristan</b>	<b>1</b>
Political controversy	1
Fascination for Tristan the feminist, traveller and narrator	6
New biographical dimensions through correspondence	9
Epistolary survival of political context	22
Tristan sources lost and found	23
<b>2 The Making of a Utopian Correspondent</b>	<b>33</b>
French society and mainstream politics	33
The impact of 1789 on Tristan's political ideas	37
Class formation and class consciousness	42
Epistolary evidence of political awareness in the 1840s	43
Protest politics and the growth of literacy	46
Flora Tristan's political and epistolary apprenticeship	51
Methodology in epistolary analysis	61
Letters to Flora Tristan	63
<b>3 Speaking from the Heart: The Dichotomy of the Letters in the 1843 and 1844 Correspondence</b>	<b>73</b>
Dimensions of political letters to a woman activist	82
Historical dimension of Tristan's political letters	87
Response to Flora Tristan's letters	90
Epistolary community of support	101
Epistolary creativity	102
Rival socialist networks and initiatives	104
Variety of style	106
<b>4 Conflicts of Authority in the Epistolary Creation of <i>Union ouvrière</i></b>	<b>116</b>
Letters of investigation	118

Letters from <i>notables</i>	135
Letters from a widening circle	149
Epistolary authority in politics	158
<b>5 Utopia in Flora Tristan's Letters</b>	<b>164</b>
Utopian inspiration for correspondence	164
Tensions of pragmatism and vision	167
Gender presence in Tristan's utopia	178
<i>Bibliography</i>	185
<i>Index</i>	195

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MÁIRE FEDELMA CROSS

# Preface

The aim in this study has been to contextualize Flora Tristan's politics and to present a close reading of some of her letters. I have opted for a qualitative rather than quantitative methodological approach as it is impossible to incorporate the bulk of her letters in a collective overview just as it is impossible to extrapolate much about the correspondents, many of whom are completely unknown. Each letter has an individual context. The sample of letters chosen is therefore representative in style and content of the types of letters written to and by Flora Tristan during the mid-1840s. I have opted to cite some letters in full to provide a flavour of the source. These letters, which are quoted verbatim, are written according to the norms of mid-nineteenth-century France; custom and practice of punctuation and spelling were very different. For instance capitalization of nouns was not consistent, full stops were used rarely and accents were frequently omitted. I maintained the spelling and adhered to the punctuation of the writer wherever possible, thus giving the reader access to the original text preserved in the archives. Once published, the letters were 'tidied up' by Puech and Michaud, thereby removing a layer of authenticity of the epistolary voice. In my references I cite the archive source first and then the published version, where relevant, in order to give an indication of previous scholarly work on the correspondence.

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