**Professor Renaud Morieux**, from Cambridge University’s History Faculty and Pembroke College, spent months decoding these and 102 other letters written with wild spelling, no punctuation or capitalization and filling every inch of the expensive paper they appear on. He published his findings in the journal [*Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/annales-histoire-sciences-sociales/article/lettres-perdues/C1E4A3CABA140B8D0BF72BAA10AF40E2).

“I only ordered the box out of curiosity,” Morieux said. “There were three piles of letters held together by ribbon. The letters were very small and were sealed so I asked the archivist if they could be opened and he did.