

Tracing the Correspondence of Frans Cranevelt through Time and Space

JK
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 6 Julij 1522

Quis ad omnia, p. h. factus trinomius.

Gerardus angustipus !

Presentation Outline

1. Introducing Frans Cranevelt
2. Digitizing Cranevelt's Letters
3. Visualizing the Collection
4. Letters in Time
5. Letters in Space
6. Conclusion: Limitations and Future Possibilities

Introducing Frans Cranevelt

Timeline (1485-1520)



1485

Born in
Nijmegen
on February
3rd, 1485



1501

Studies arts
and law at
the University
of Louvain



1506

Achieves M.A
in Pedagogy
the Lily, primus
of his class

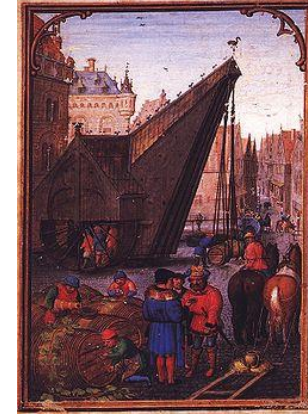
1509

Marriage
To Elisabeth
van Baussele



1510

Awarded doctorate
in civil and canon
law (*doctor juris
utriusque*)



1515

Moves to Bruges,
appointed legal advisor
(town pensionary) to the
city magistrate

Introducing Frans Cranevelt

Timeline (1420-1528)



Remains an important member of the Great Council of Mechlin until his death.

1521

Welcomes Christian II of Denmark, Emperor Charles V and Cardinal Wolsey to Bruges (July, August)

1522

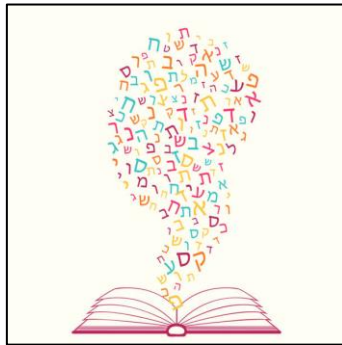
Knighted by the Emperor and appointed member of the Great Council of Mechlen (September)

1526

Living in Mechlen since 1522 but purchases his own home (July); moves in during summer of 1527

Introducing Frans Cranevelt

Timeline (1528-1564)



Learns Hebrew



Greek/Latin translations of texts

1530

1530s: Period of continued engagement with humanistic activities alongside work duties

1545

Death of Elisabeth van Baussele on April 26, 1525

1560

Remarried to Catherine de Plaine

1564

Died on September 8, 1564, in Mechlen

(medal designed in 1533 by Jan Secundus)



Digitizing Cranevelt's Letters

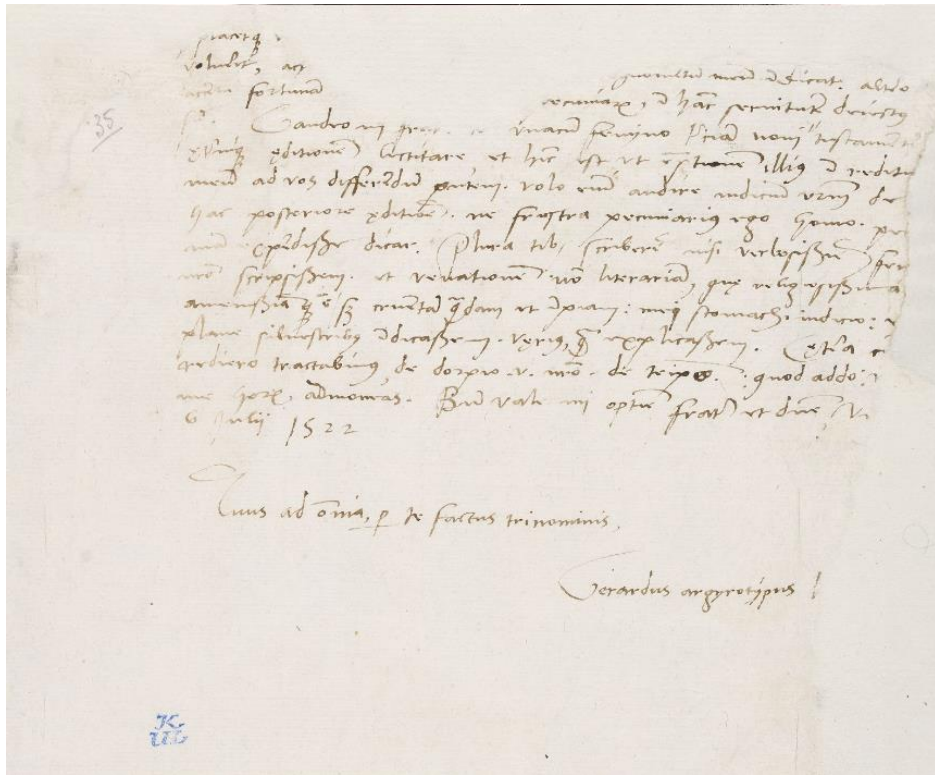


From photograph
First of two bundles discovered in 1913
Litterae ad Craneveldium, pg. XII

The Cranevelt Collection (385 Letters)

- 269 letters protected by Professor Henry de Vocht during WWI
 - Narrowly escaped with letters from enemy gunfire
 - Compiled letters in *Litterae ad Craneveldium* after war (1928)
- Remaining 116 letters secured at Christie's auction in London, 1989
 - Purchased by University Library of Leuven with support from King Baudouin Foundation
- Letters of friendship (*litterae amicales*)
 - Defined by personal expressions of friendship
 - Include reflections on major historical developments (i.e., Martin Luther and the Reformation)

Digitizing Cranevelt's Letters



Screenshot of Digitized Letter

From Gerard Geldenhouwer to Frans Cranevelt, 1522
(Veere, The Netherlands)

The Cranevelt Collection (385 Letters)

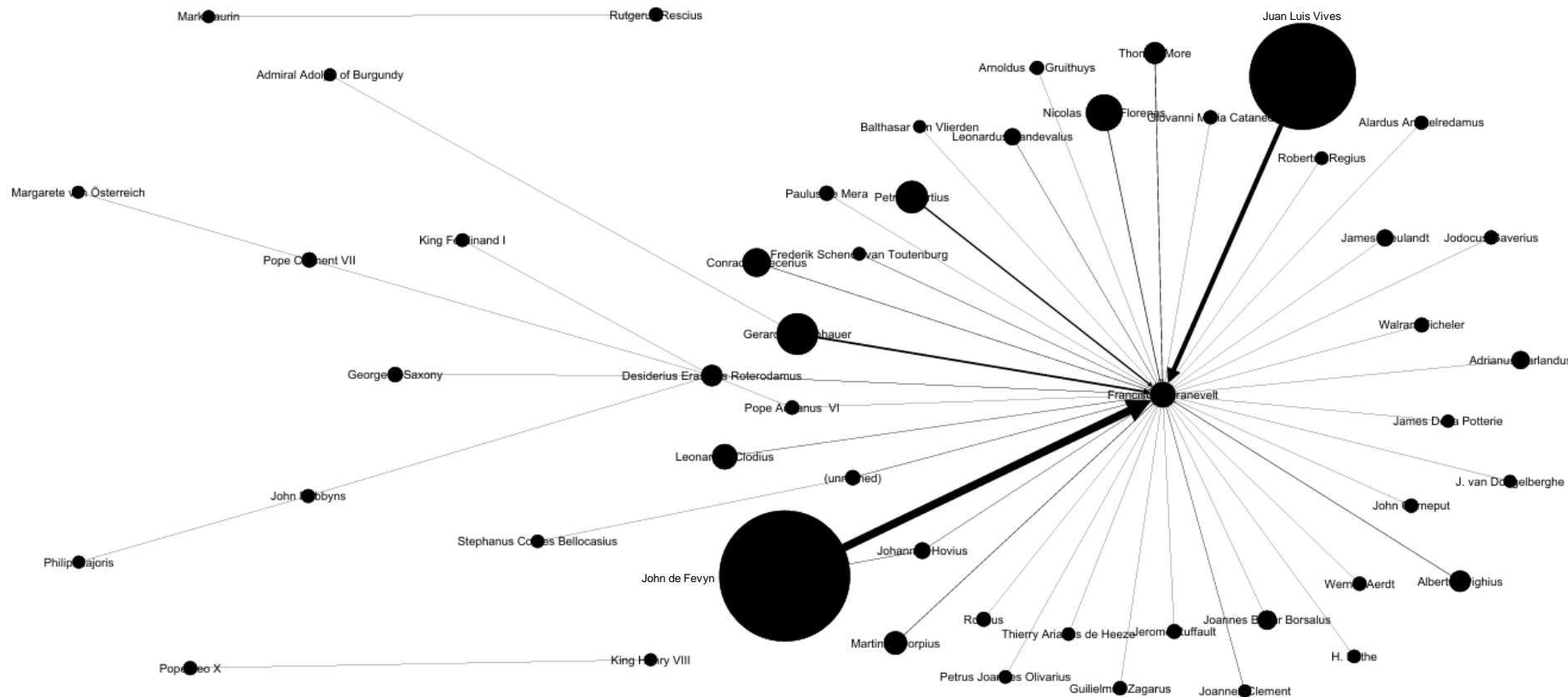
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Digitization Efforts

- Increased accessibility
- Ability to “see” letters outside of archive
- Systematic organization of collection

Visualizing the Collection

Collection Network



Collection

- 385 letters
- 350 sent to Cranevelt
- 17 written by Cranevelt
- 18 Other

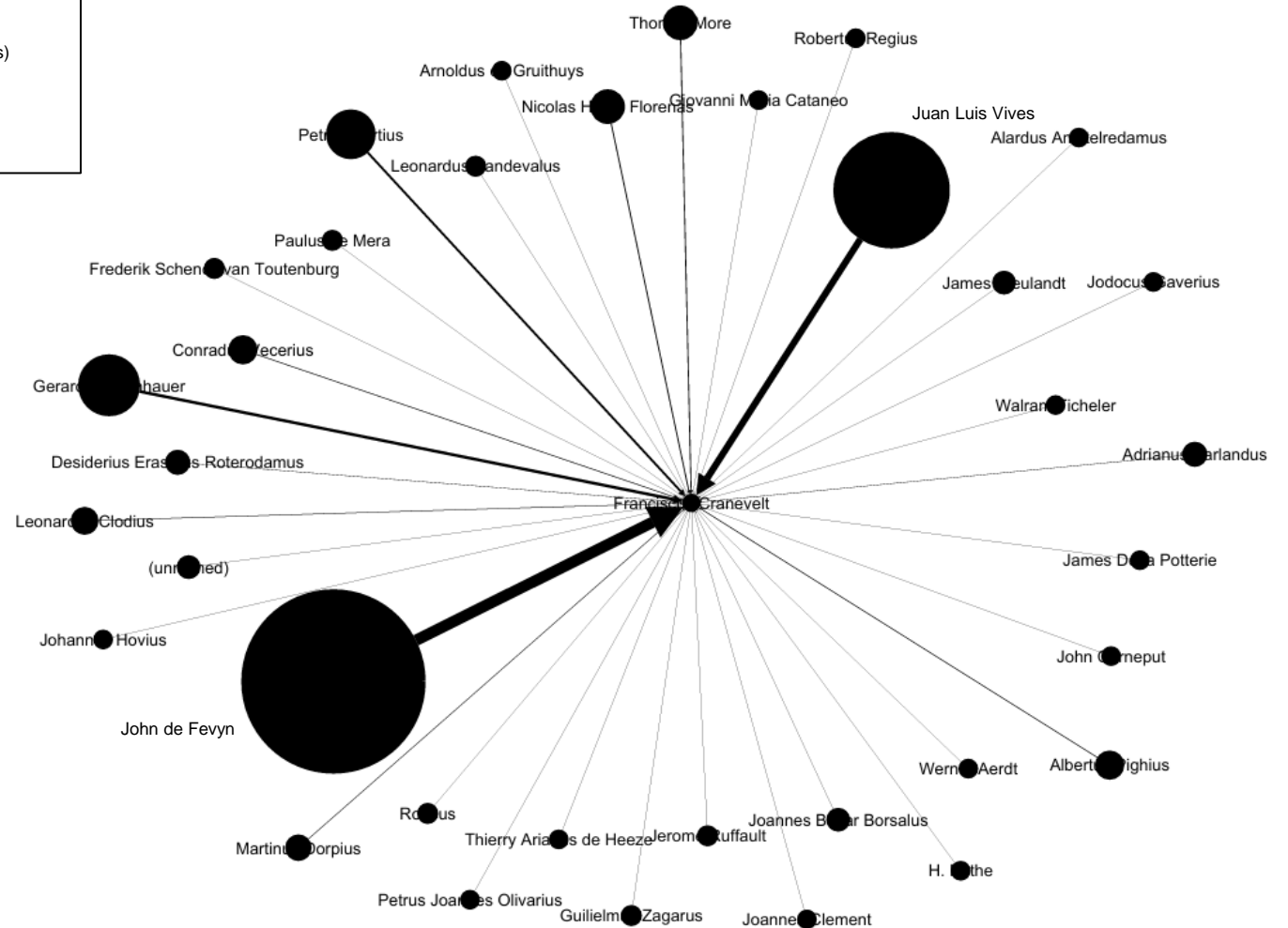
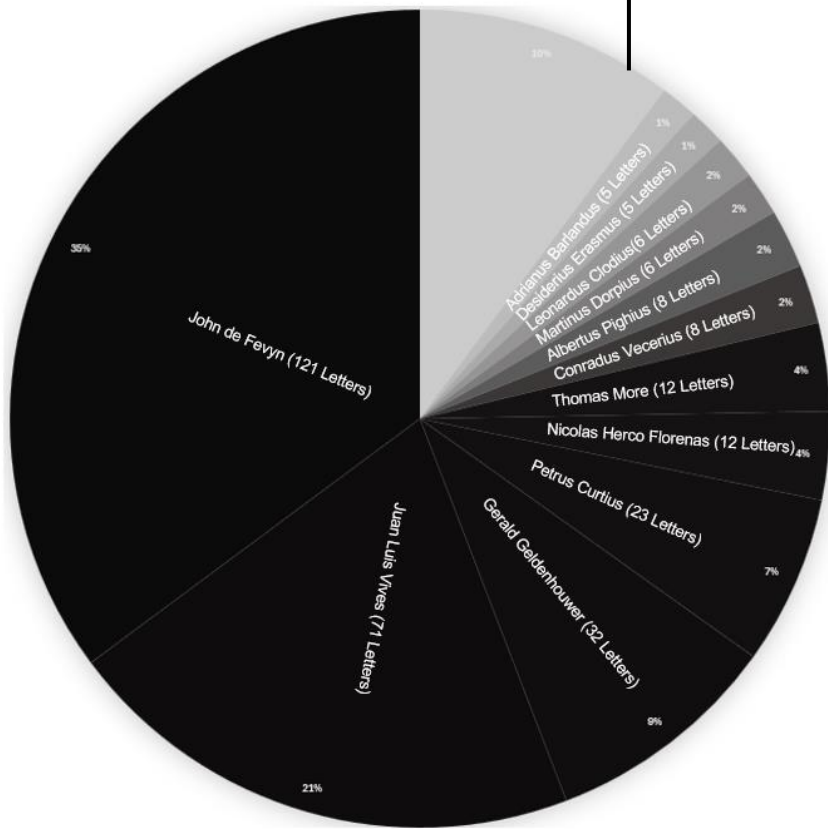
Network

- 50 different nodes
- (includes multiple “unnamed” letters that are grouped as one)

Visualizing the Collection

Letters sent to Cranevelt between 1520-1528 (344 letters)

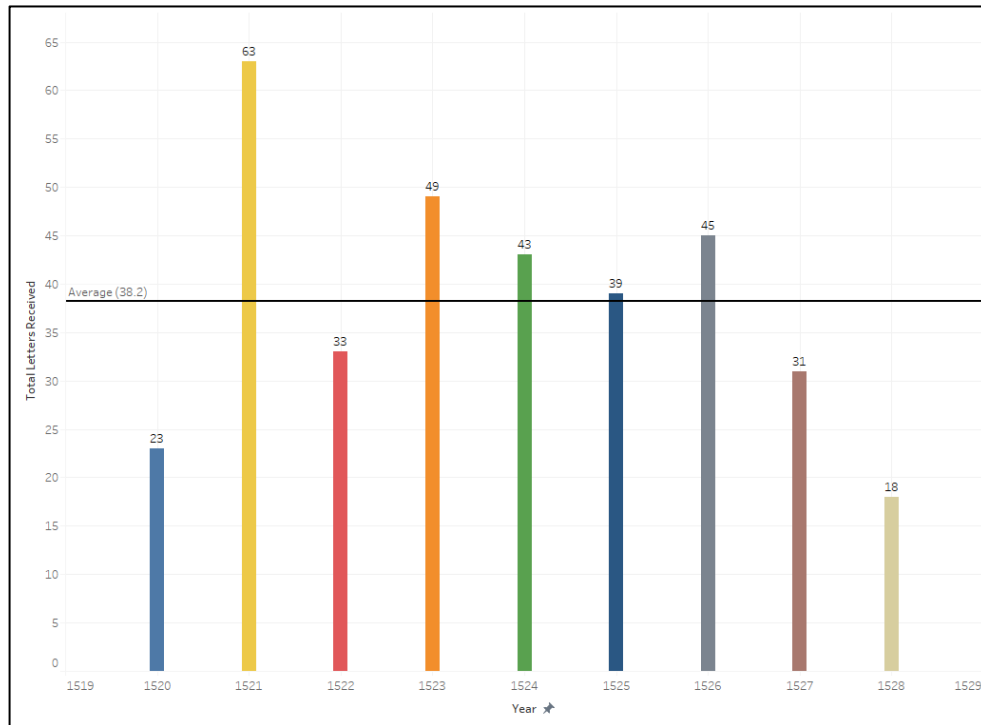
- Alardus Amstelredamus (1 Letter)
- Arnoldus de Gruithuys (1 Letter)
- Giovanni Maria Cataneo (1 Letter)
- H. Bothe (1 Letter)
- James De la Potterie (1 Letter)
- Joannes Clement (1 Letter)
- Jodocus Gaverius (1 Letter)
- Johannes Hovius (1 Letter)
- John Corneput (1 Letter)
- Petrus Joannes Olivarius (1 Letter)
- Robertus Regius (1 Letter)
- Thierry Ariaans de Heeze (1 Letter)
- Walram Ticheler (1 Letter)
- Werner Aerd (1 Letter)
- (unnamed) (2 Letters)
- Frederik Schenck van Toutenburg (2 Letters)
- Guilielmus Zagarus (2 Letters)
- Jerome Ruffault (2 Letters)
- Leonardus Vandevalus (2 Letters)
- Paulus de Mera (2 Letters)
- Roseus (2 Letters)
- Joannes Becar Borsalus (3 Letters)
- James Nieulandt (4 Letters)



Letters in Time

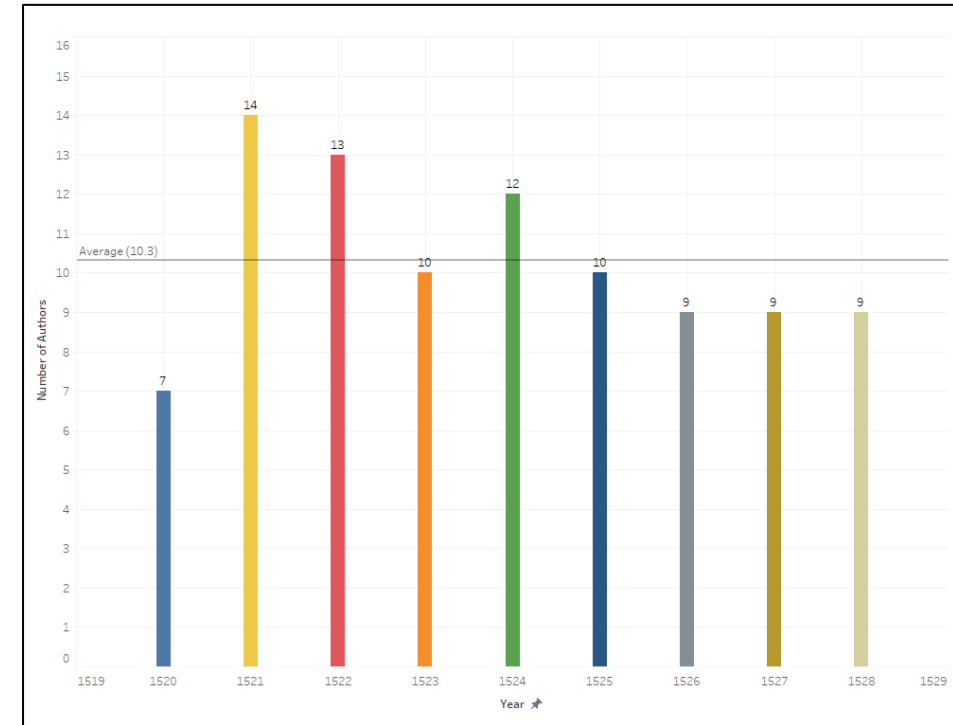
Zoomed Out: Visualizing Benchmark data

Letters received per year (1520-1528)



- Highest: 63 letters from 1521
- Lowest: 18 letters from 1528
- Average: 38.2 letters per year

Number of Authors per year (1520-1528)

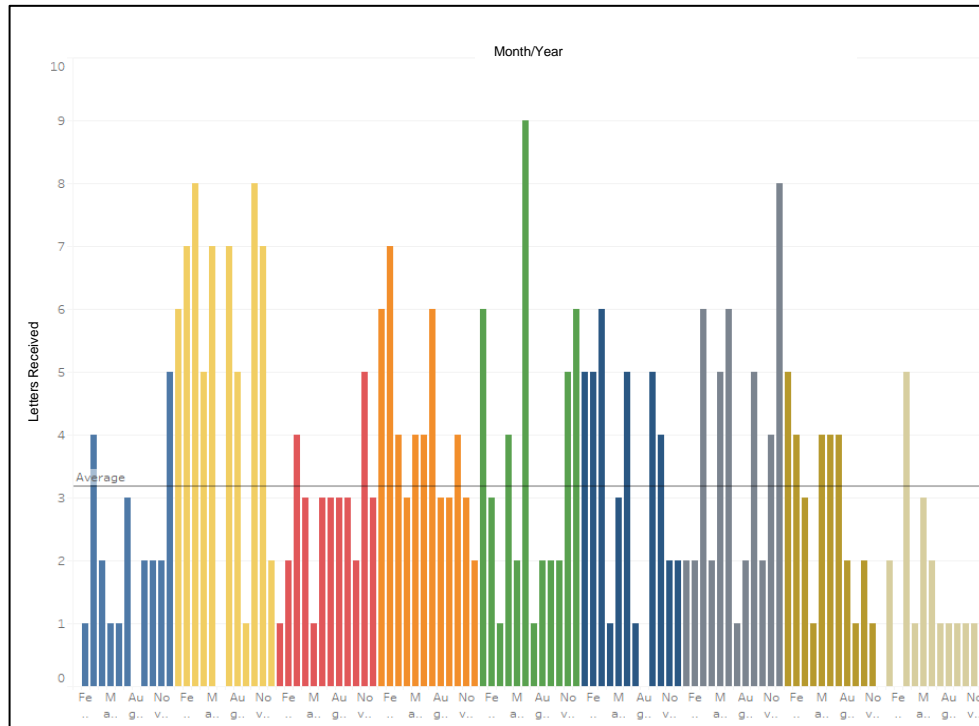


- Highest: 14 different authors in 1521
- Lowest: 7 different authors in 1520
- Average: 10.3 different authors per year

Letters in Time

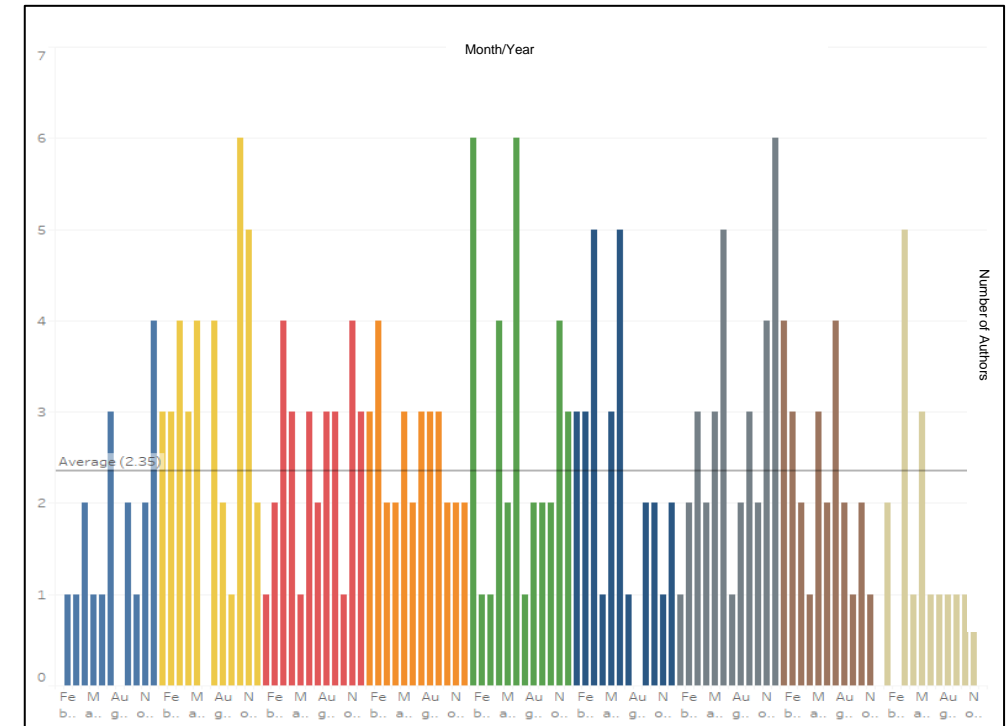
Zooming In: Letters/Authors per Month

Letters received per month (1520-1528)



- June 1521 → received 0 letters in the middle of a busy year/season.
- June 1524 → received 9 letters
- Missing Data or something else?

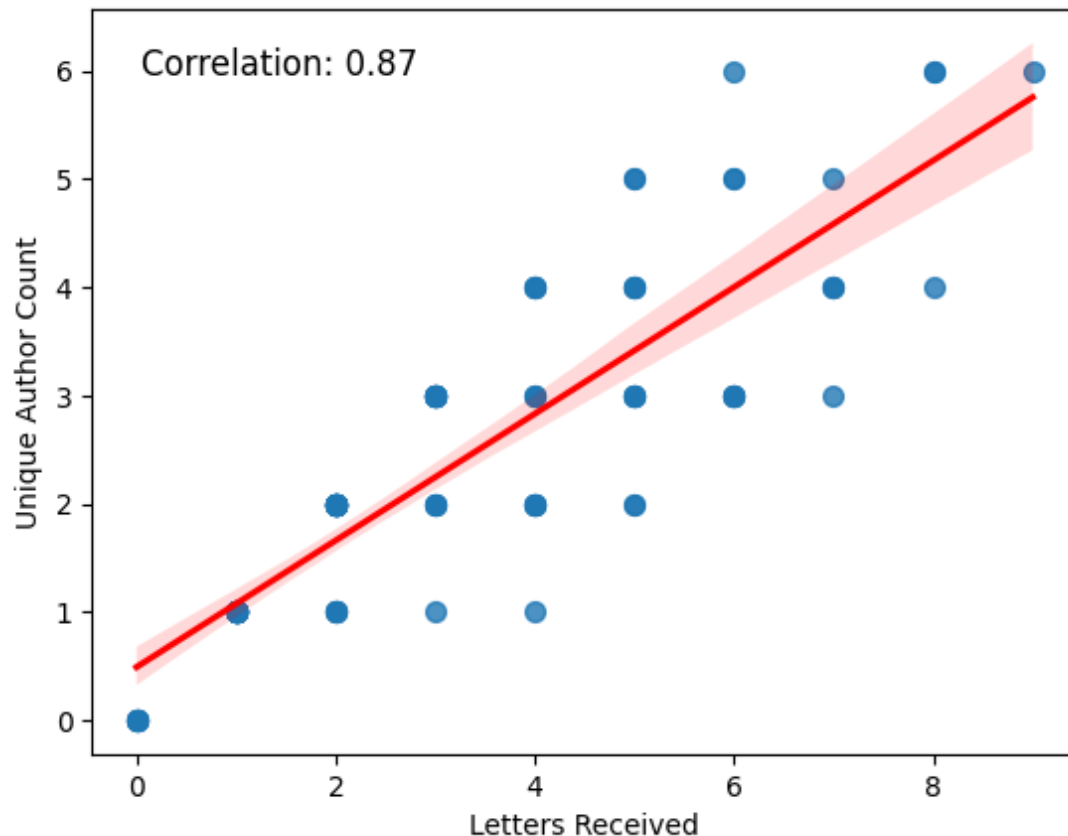
Number of authors per month (1520-1528)



- Introduces notion of “repeat” senders
- i.e., We now see 33 senders in 1521

Letters in Time

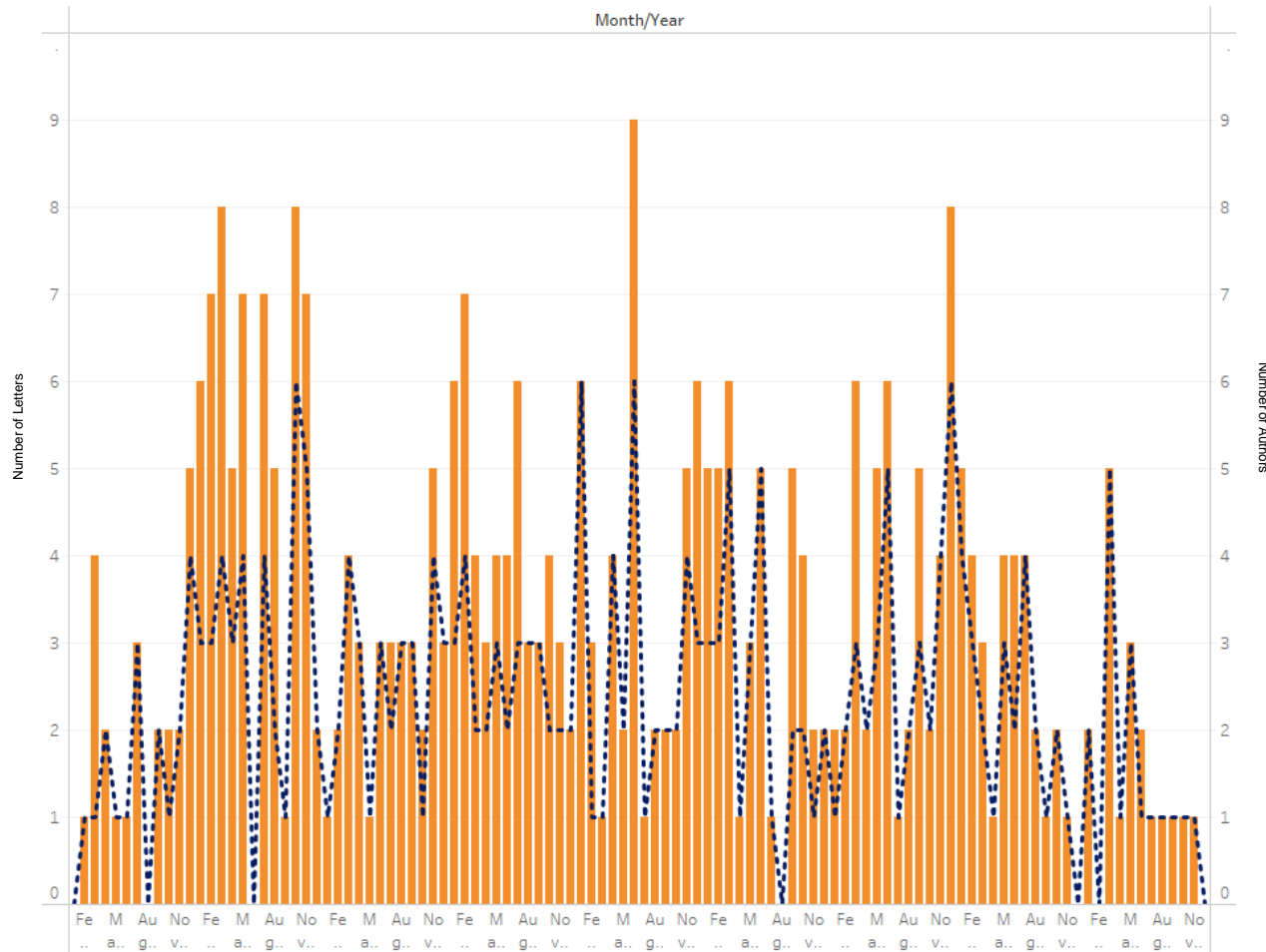
Zooming In: Looking for trends



- What Does this Chart Suggest?
 - Strong correlation between total number of authors every month and letters received
 - The more letters sent generally includes more authors writing
 - Insight: limited moment where one author is sending high volume of letters
 - Divergences from this trend worth looking at more closely

Letters in Time

Zooming In: Letters received against monthly authors



- In the current collection, 62 out of 108 months (9 years) include exact ratio of authors to letters received (57.4 %)
- Exclude months with zero data, and its still over 50%
- Insight? Suggests a level of consistent communication rhythm between Cranevelt and the network as a whole
- Anomalies?

Letters in Time

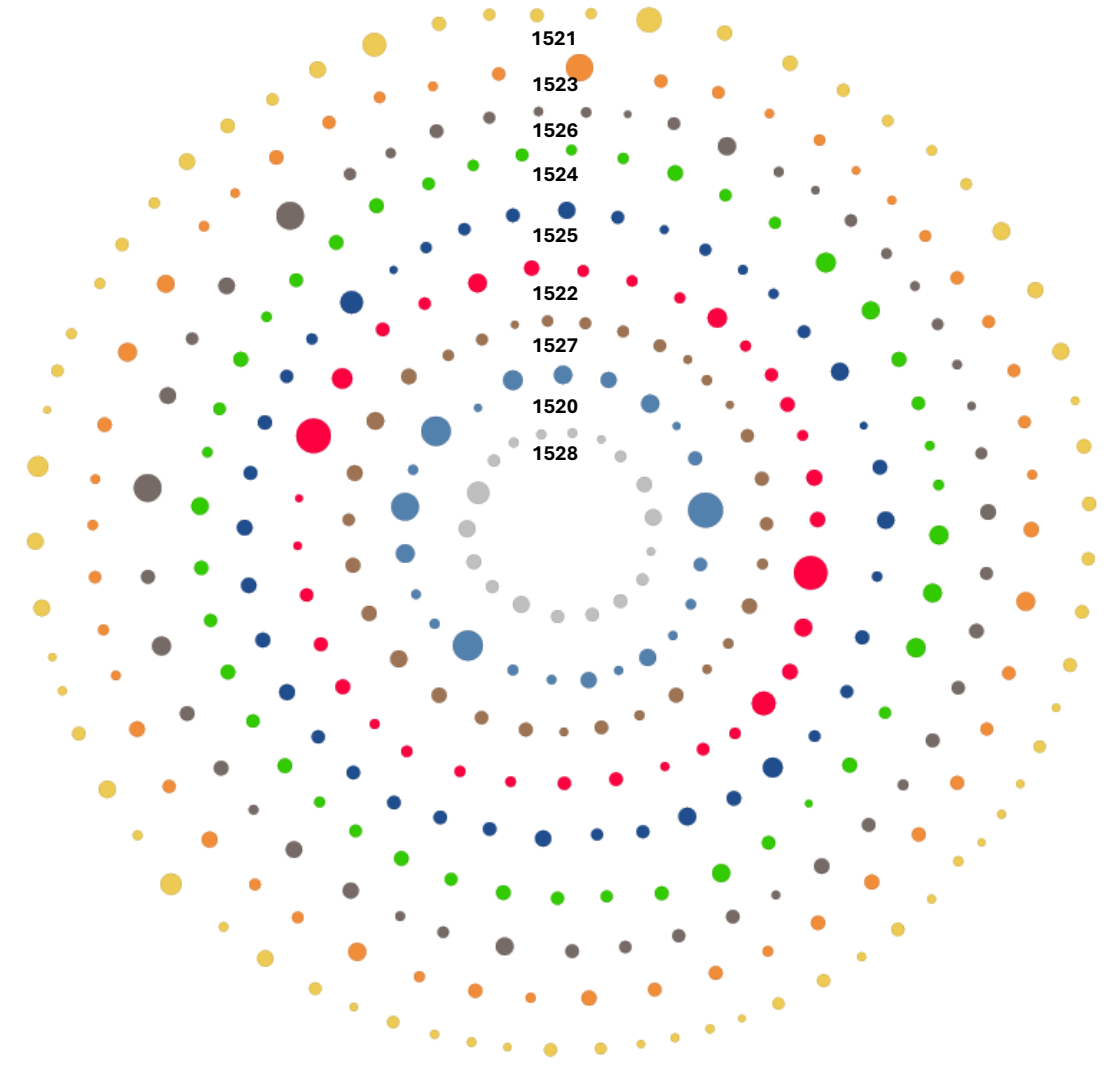
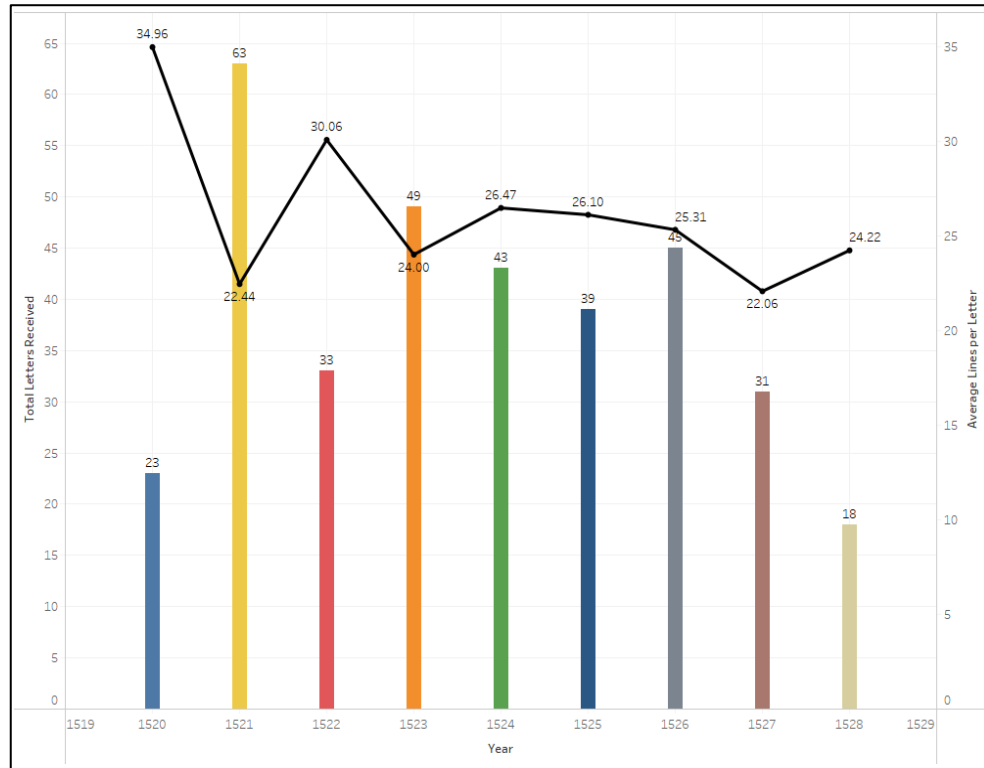
Zoomed In: Specific Insights Across Time

- Of the 35 total correspondents, **only 9** sent multiple letters within a given month
 - (authors with top 80%)
 - Gerard Geldenhauer
 - John De Fevyn
 - Juan Luis Vives
 - Nicolas Herco Florenas
 - Petrus Curtius
 - (authors outside top 80%)
 - Albertus Pighius
 - Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus
 - Frederik Schenck van Toutenburg
 - Joannes Becar Borsalus
- **Thomas More** is the only correspondent in the top 80% to *never* send multiple letters in a single month.
- There are never **more than two correspondents** at one time sending multiple letters per month
- **John de Fevyn** sent multiple letters in 30 months different months. This accounts for 82 of 121 letters, 10 of which were sent in February and March of 1521 alone. Demonstrates correspondent with high level of intensity, engaging in more frequent waves of communication with Cranevelt.
- Though he sent multiple letters to Cranevelt in 11 months, **Juan Luis Vives**, was statistically much less intense with his letters, especially after 1520 and 1521. 62 percent of his letters were sent in months when he sent only one letter.

Letters in Time

Other Dimensions (Surviving Letter Size)

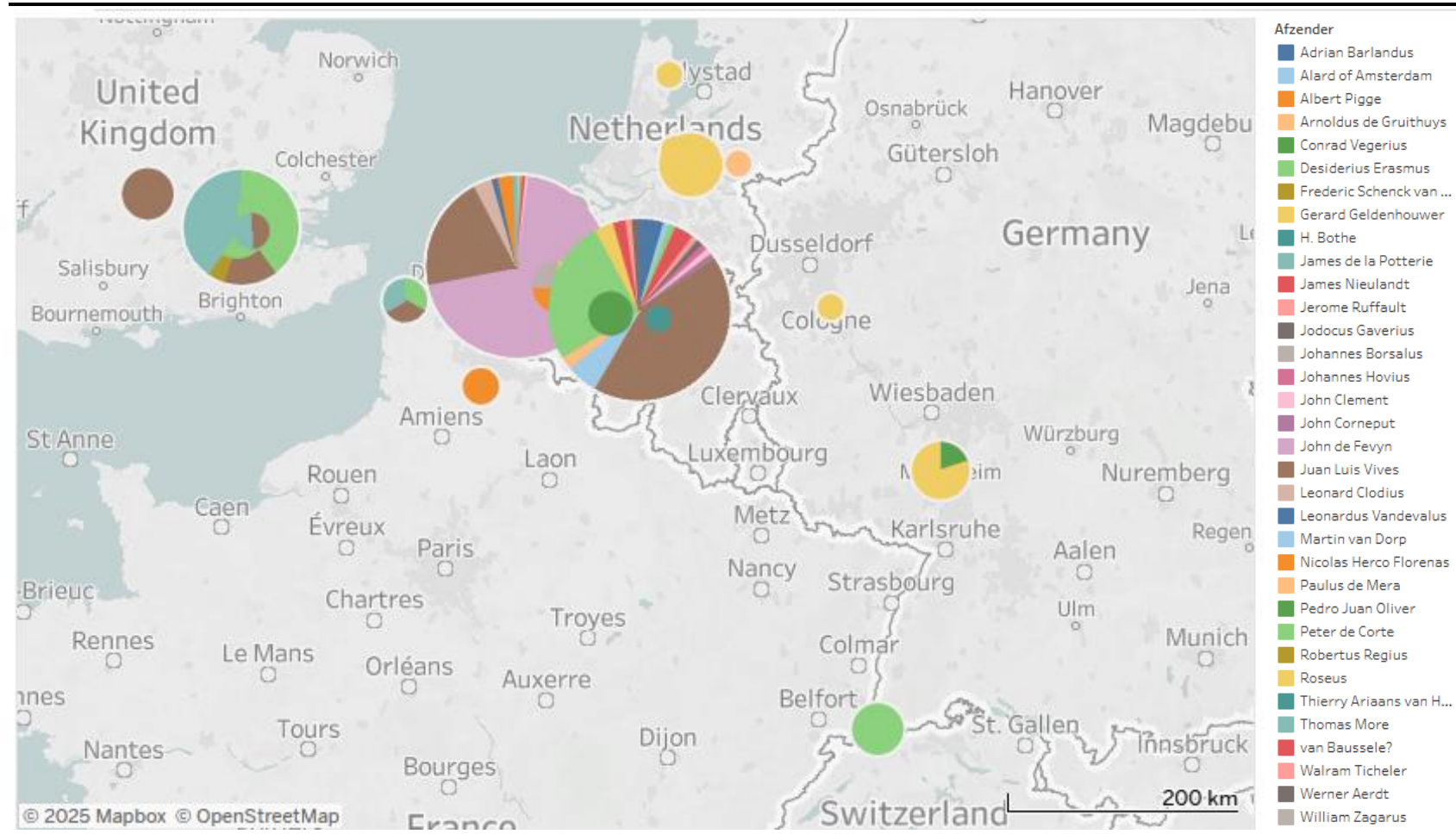
Letters received against letter size (1520-1528)



Letters in Space

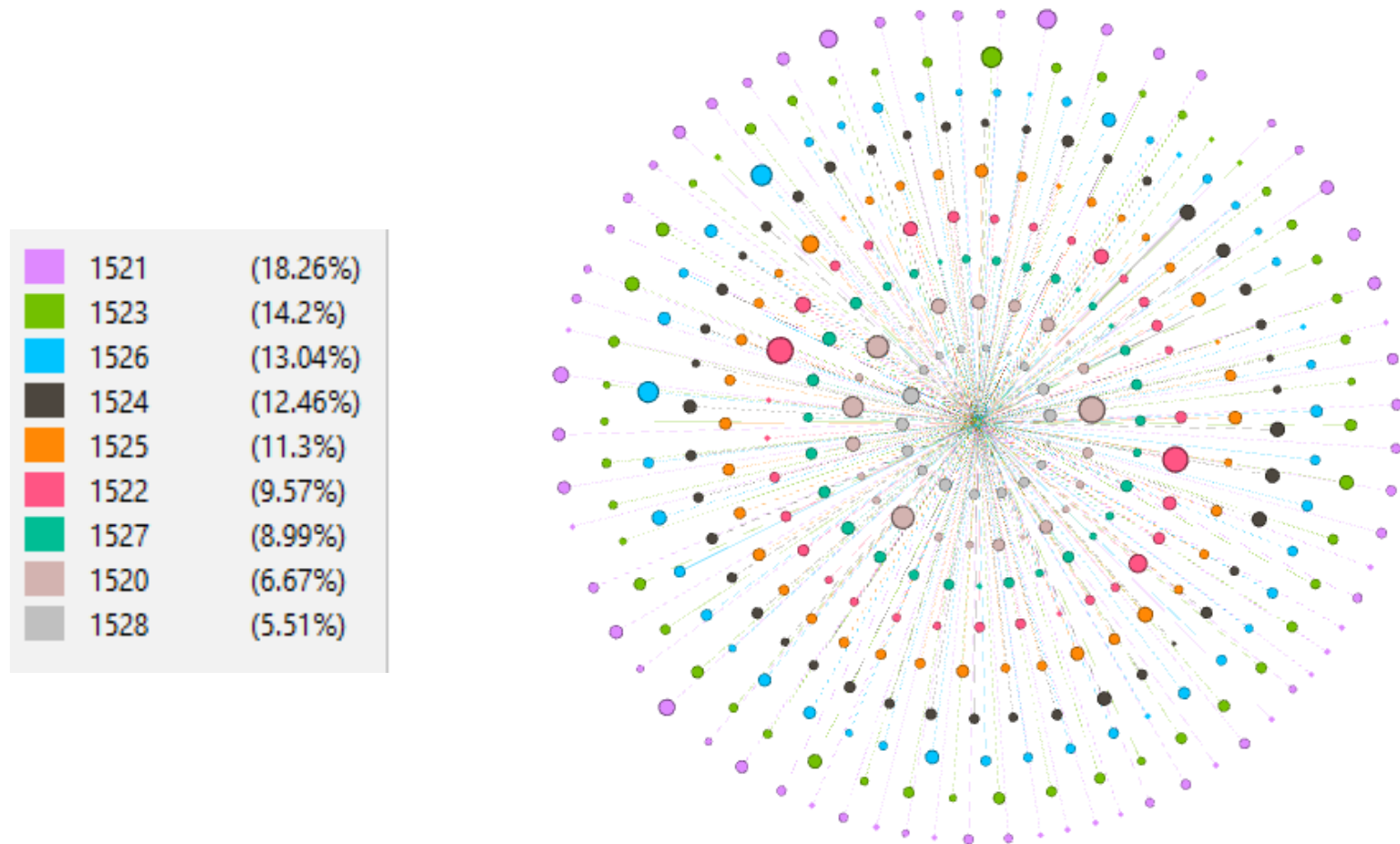
Interactive Map

Oud_Geografische spreiding van de afzenders van de craneveltbriefen (1520-1528) by [Bijzondere Collecties](#) 



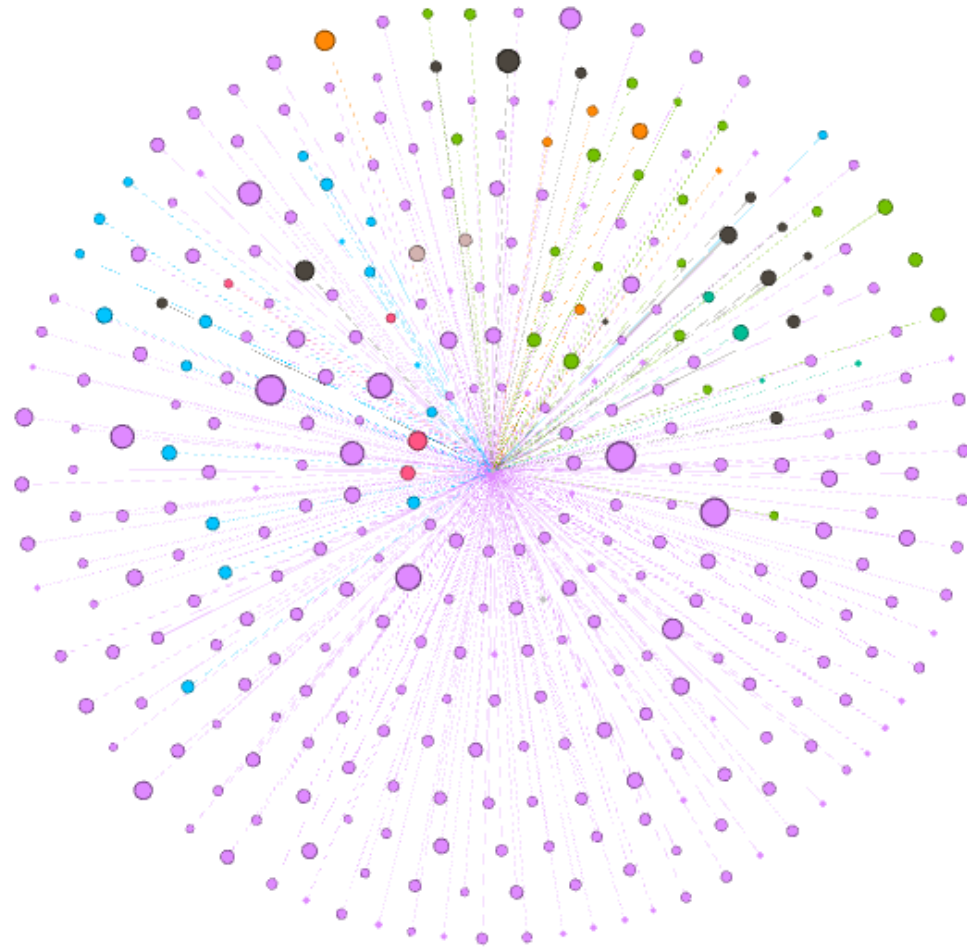
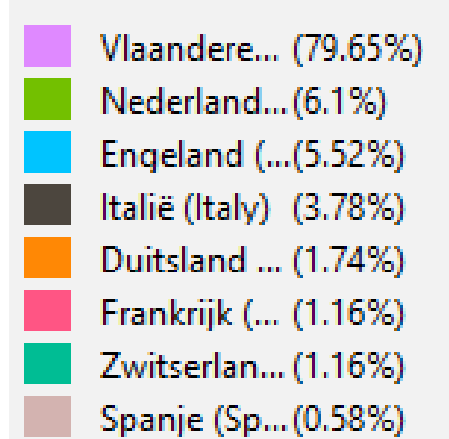
Letters in Space

Playing with Networks (Time)



Letters in Space

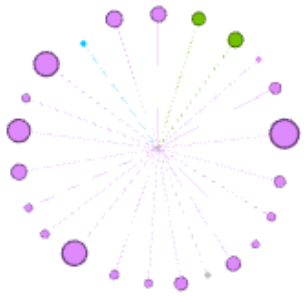
Playing with Networks (Space)



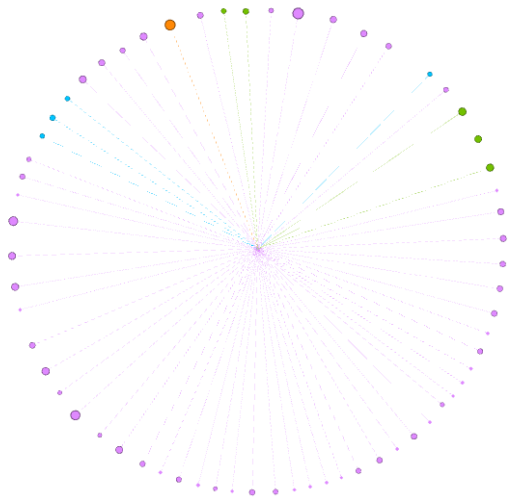
Letters in Space

Playing with Networks (Regions)

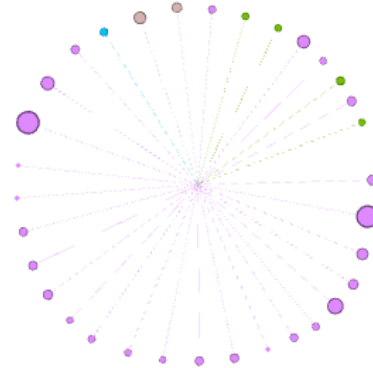
1520



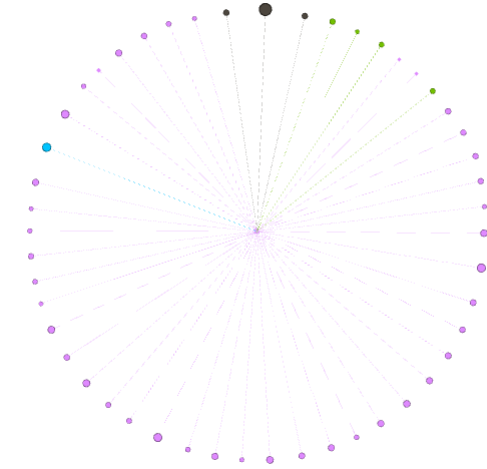
1521



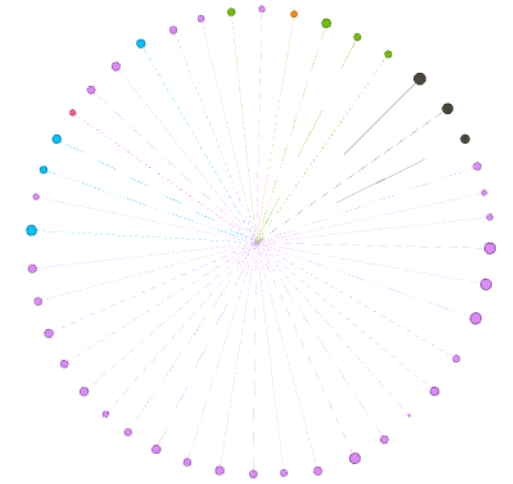
1522



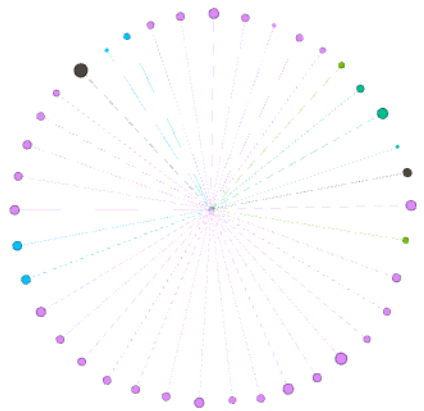
1523



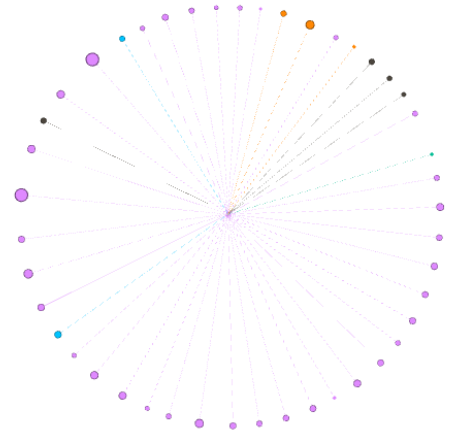
1524



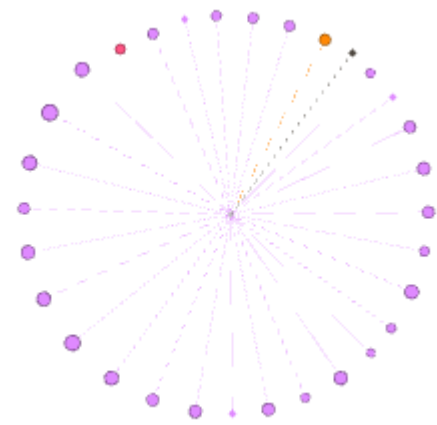
1525



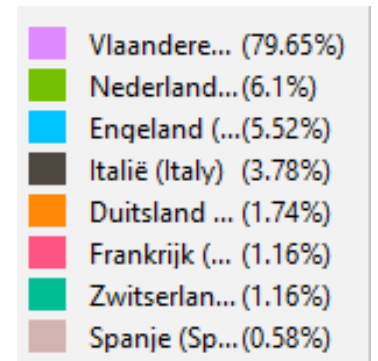
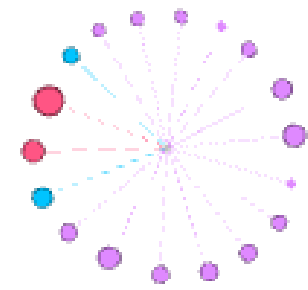
1526



1527



1528



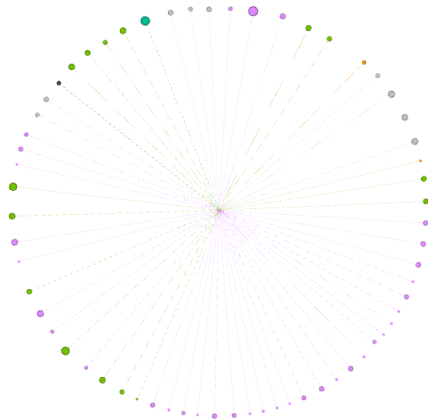
Letters in Space

Playing with Networks (Cities)

1520



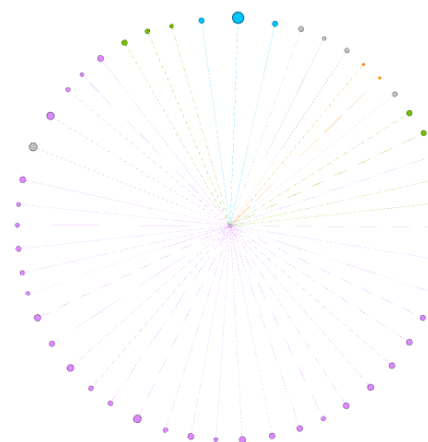
1521



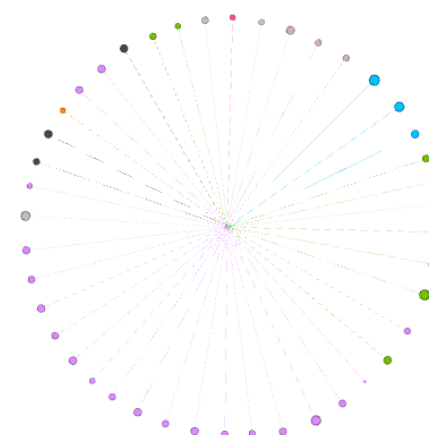
1522



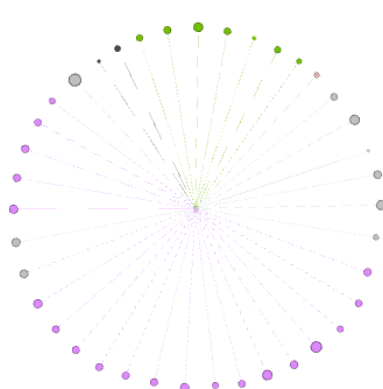
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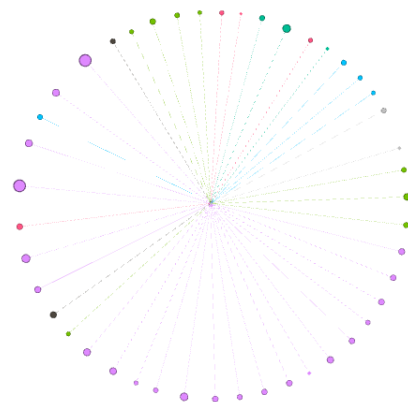
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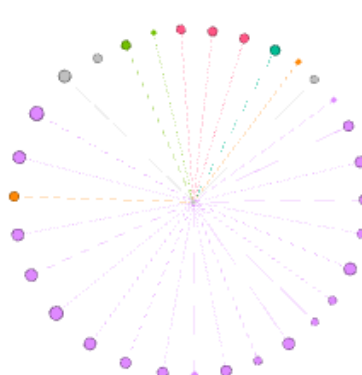
1525



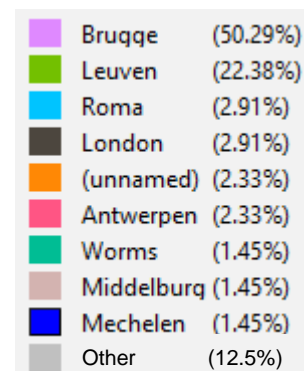
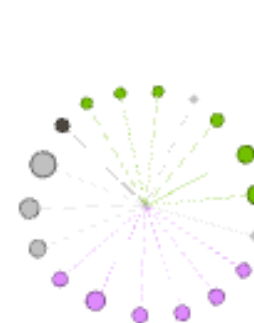
1526



1527

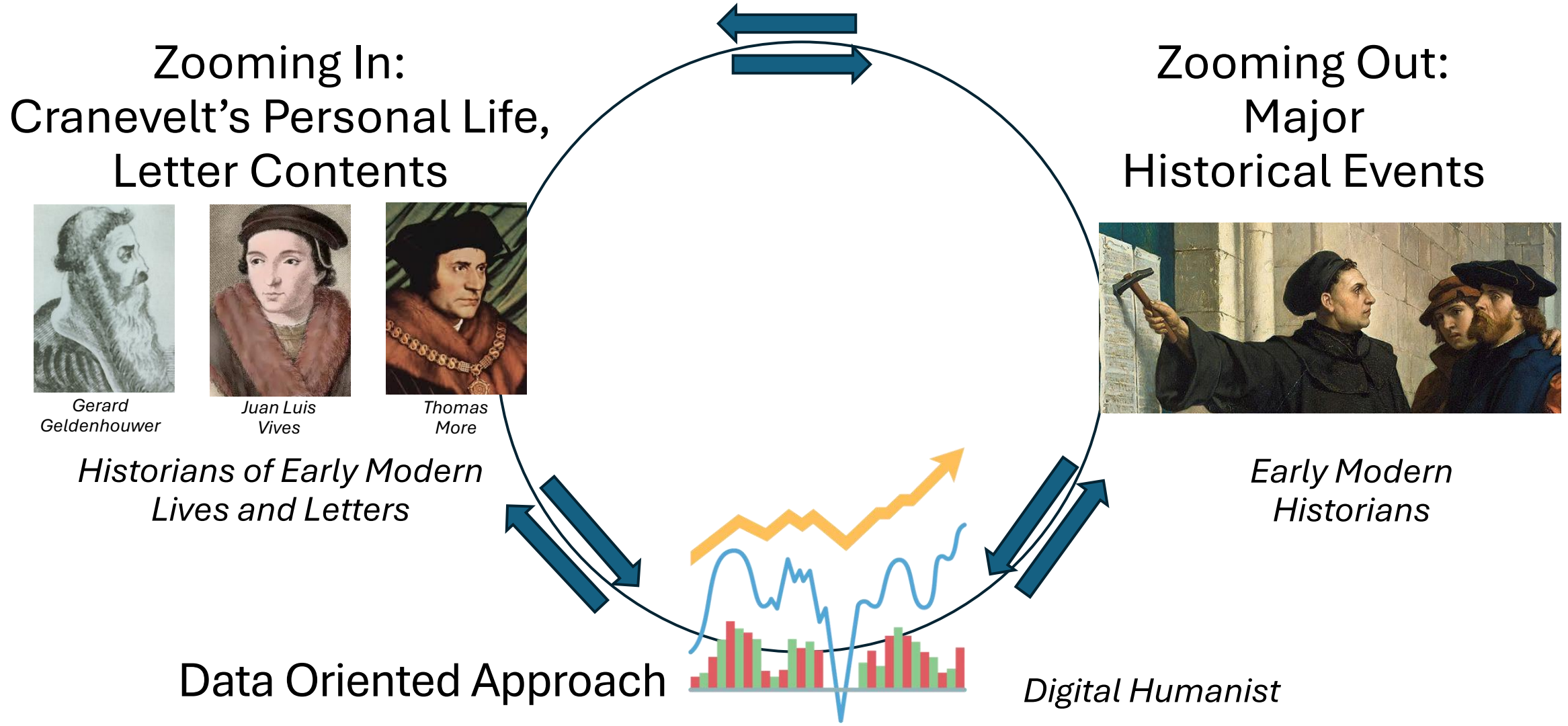


1528



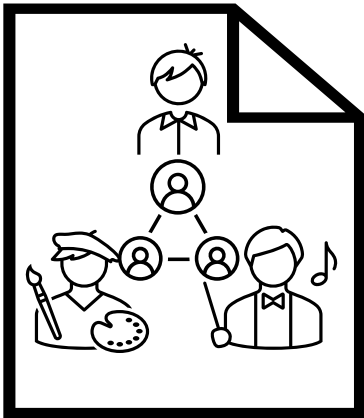
Conclusion

Limitations and Future Possibilities



Conclusion

Limitations and Future Possibilities



Zooming In

- How does Cranevelt's personal life contribute to the trends discussed?
- Who is talked about *in* the letters?
- What subjects, themes, or topics appear throughout the collection?
- How do these dimensions relate to each other across time or space?



Zooming Out

- How do larger historical events contribute to the trends discussed?
- How does the collection relate to other Early Modern collections?
- How does this collection connect to a larger network of Early Modern letter writing?

Thank You

Questions?