It should be noted that Einstein and Marić address each other with the formal “Sie” form in German until Letter 13, the first letter in which the familiar “Du” is used. The difference is similar to that of the now archaic formal “you” and familiar “thou” distinction in English.

In the early letters, both Einstein and Marić use initials in salutations, indicating a certain stage in their developing intimacy. I have expanded such cases.

I have retained a few German terms that do not have English equivalents. An Assistent (plural Assistenten) assists a professor in his teaching, laboratory, and research duties, often while working to obtain a doctorate or a position as a Privatdozent (unpaid university lecturer). Some Privatdozenten double as Assistenten. The Diplom is roughly equivalent to the baccalaureate and its acquisition requires the completion of a thesis, the Diplomarbeit. The holder of a Diplom can teach his or her subject in a secondary school or be eligible for a professional position in business or industry.

Any untranslatable plays on words by Einstein are explained in the notes.

Shawn Smith
Albert Einstein
Mileva Marić

The Love Letters