

Message in bottle arrives after 101 years

German fishermen _____ (find) a bottle containing a handwritten message on a postcard which was thrown into the Baltic Sea 101 years ago. It is believed that this is the oldest message in a bottle that the world _____ ever _____ (see). The bottle _____ (not suffer) any damage, despite the fact that it had been floating in the sea for 101 years. Some of the writing on the postcard inside _____ (become) illegible due to time and damp. Experts, who _____ (try) to work out what the complete message says, say they _____ (not succeed) yet, but hope to in the near future.

By looking at the address on the postcard, they _____ (identify) its author as Richard Platz, the twenty year-old son of a baker. A handwriting comparison with letters written by Platz _____ (confirm) he is the author. The researchers _____ also _____ (track down) his granddaughter, Angela Erdmann, who lives in Berlin.

Erdmann has been presented with the bottle, which will be displayed in a museum. She says that over the last few days, since the discovery, she _____ (look) through scrapbooks to find out more about her grandfather, who she had never met.

Despite her joy at receiving the bottle, Erdmann has said she hopes people won't repeat what her grandfather did and throw bottles with messages into the sea.