

MANUSCRIPTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

WALPOLE's correspondence with Gray now includes 139 letters, of which 126 are from Gray.

One hundred and eight of Gray's letters to Walpole were bequeathed by Mrs Damer, Walpole's executrix and legatee, to her Twickenham neighbour, Sir Wathen Waller, 1st Bt, in 1828. Their first appearance in the sale room was at Sotheby's, 5 December 1921, when they formed lot 198. The consignor was Sir Wathen A. Waller, 5th Bt, who bought them in at £410. Their second and final public appearance was at Christie's, 18 December 1947, as lot 16, where, following Sir Wathen's death, they were sold by Lady Waller. Messrs Maggs, acting on behalf of Mr Dudley Colman, paid £1250 for them. It is pleasant to record that, through the gift of Mr Colman, the letters have now come to rest in the library of Gray's adopted college, Pembroke, Cambridge. The manuscripts of sixteen of the remaining eighteen letters from Gray to Walpole are missing. Of the other two, that of 7 July 1746 is in the Charles Roberts Autograph Collection at Haverford College, and that of 2 Sept. 1760 is now at Eton.

Of Walpole's thirteen surviving letters to Gray, the manuscripts of five (20 Feb. 1753, 25 Dec. 1755, 15 Feb. 1759, August 1760, and 25 March 1771), which formed part of Mrs Damer's bequest, are now wsl. Two others, ca 15 Oct. 1735 and 8 March 1768, from the Waller and the Lister Collections, are now in the Pierpont Morgan Library. Descriptions of the provenance of these manuscripts (and of Walpole's fragmentary letters of ca 3 Jan. 1763 and ca 26 Sept. 1766) and of the other letters listed below are given in the notes prefixed to each letter.

The regrettable one-sidedness of this correspondence is not likely to be balanced by a lumber-room discovery. Walpole wrote to William Mason 27 November 1773 that most of his early letters to Gray and West—'wretched boyish stuff'—had been destroyed by the recipients. Nor, apparently, did Gray keep many of Walpole's later letters, for Mason, who was Gray's executor, reported to Walpole, after going through the letters among Gray's effects,