

which three are from Walpole. The MS of one of Walpole's letters, 14 May 1740, survives, and is now in the possession of Mr C. C. Auchincloss. Walpole's two other letters have a manuscript source in the Mitford transcript mentioned above. Of the two letters from Ashton, that of 7 August 1737 is now published for the first time from the original manuscript among the Berry Papers in the British Museum (Add. MS 37,728, f. 42). The manuscript of the other, 25 July 1741, is now WSL.

The correspondence with West and Ashton has been published in Paget Toynbee's *Correspondence of Gray, Walpole, West and Ashton*, to which references are given in the List of Letters.

Sources quoted in the biographical footnotes may be assumed to be supplemented by the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the *Complete Peerage* and *Complete Baronetage*. Our constant use of the Toynbee and Whibley notes in the *Correspondence of Thomas Gray* was acknowledged in our first proofs by the formula (T-W), but this was so ubiquitous as to be both unsightly and disconcerting, and we decided to strike it out. The work of these editors, especially in running down quotations and allusions, has greatly reduced our own labours.

All English books mentioned in the references, unless otherwise specified, are assumed to have been published in London.

Square brackets indicate editorial emendation; angular brackets, the restoration of the manuscript where it has been damaged.

In all the letters, the hyphenization and capitalization have been modernized here. The spelling has also been modernized (for lists of Walpole's obsolete spellings see COLE i. xliii and MONTAGU i. xxxiii), except that of proper names, which are spelled as in the manuscripts or printed sources. Gray's pointing has been revised; his omnipresent colons and other caprices of punctuation perhaps add distinction to his manuscripts, but are an annoyance in a printed text. Walpole's punctuation has as usual been retained. When we have used a printed source, however, we have occasionally revised the punctuation where we believed the transcription was incorrect.

W. S. L.  
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