

PS. The enclosed is the oath of matriculation.¹⁰ I am charmed with Pope's letter¹¹—never did anybody long for anything, as I do for your masquerade;¹² pray d'ye design to go as a judge, or a devil, or undisguised, <or as an angel in propria persona>.¹³ I wonder how you can dislike *The Distressed Mother*.¹⁴ < >¹⁵

To GRAY, ca Friday 17 January 1735

Missing. Probably written in St James's Square. Mentioned *post* 19 Jan. 1735.

From GRAY, Sunday 19 January 1735

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Misdated by Gray. Dated by the postmark, the address, and the reference to the 'long Christmas' which Gray spent at Cambridge the previous year.

Address: To the Honourable Mr Horace Walpole at his house in St James's Square, London. *Postmark:* CAMBRIDGE 20 IA.

[Cambridge,] Sunday, Jan. 21 [19, 1735].

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YOU have performed your promise as fully as I could have wished it. There seems to have been no occasion for ushering it in with an apology, since I have long learned to be more than contented with whatever comes from a hand so dear. The things that are to be delivered by word of mouth¹ give me so much impatience that I would desire you to send down your mouth by the coach, if I were not appre-

10. Missing. On the day of matriculation (the second day of the term) each student was given a printed copy of the Latin matriculation oath by the vice-chancellor at the Senate House, where the oath was administered. For the text of the oath see Adam Wall, *Account of the Different Ceremonies Observed in the Senate House of the University of Cambridge*, Cambridge, 1798, p. 39; see also Gilbert Ainslie, *Historical Account of the Oaths and Subscriptions Required in the University of Cambridge on Matriculation*, Cambridge, 1833, p. 59.

11. The *Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot*, which was published 2 Jan. 1735 (*London Evening Post* 31 Dec. 1734–2 Jan. 1735).

12. That is, for HW's account of it: probably the first of three balls held at the

King's Theatre in the Haymarket this year (see *post* 19 Jan. 1735). 'At the King's Theatre in the Haymarket on Thursday next, being the 16th day of January, will be a ball. Tickets will be delivered to the subscribers on Wednesday next at White's Chocolate House in St James's Street' (*London Evening Post* 7–9 Jan. 1735). See also *Daily Adv.* 11 Jan., 14 Jan. 1735.

13. Heavily scored through by HW.

14. By Ambrose Philips (ca 1675–1749). HW probably attended the performance at Covent Garden on either 9 or 10 Jan. 1735 (*Daily Adv.* 9 Jan., 10 Jan. 1735).

15. A line cut out in MS.

1. HW left for King's College, Cambridge, 11 March 1735 (*ante* i. 5).