

FROM GRAY CA 15 JUNE 1747

So big with weddings, waddles W,
 And brings all womankind before your view;
 A wench, a wife, a widow, and a w[hor]e,
 With woe behind, and wantonness before.

When you and Mr Chute can get the remainder of *Mariane*,¹⁵ I shall be much obliged to you for it—I am terribly impatient.

TO GRAY, August 1747

Missing. Probably written at SH and addressed to Gray at Cambridge. Mentioned *post* 9 Sept. 1747; answered *post* 19 or 26 Aug. 1747.

From GRAY, Wednesday 19 or 26 August 1747

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

The month is determined by Gray's intended visit to SH in Sept. 1747, referred to below as 'next month' and *post* 9 Sept. 1747 as 'this month.' The date of the year is ascertained by the reference to Middleton's third marriage. Since Gray did not leave Cambridge until ca 16 Aug. (n. 1 below), 'Wednesday' must be either 19 or 26 Aug.

[Stoke,] Wednesday [Aug. 19 or 26, 1747].

I CAME to town the day that you went out of it,¹ and am now at Stoke very hot, and very well, thank ye. I embrace your invitation,² and shall be glad to make you a visit at Strawberry Hill.³ The week I leave to you; it is indifferent to me what time next month it shall be; Mr Walpole and Comp[any]⁴ will settle it among them. You must inform me what place on the Windsor Road is nearest Twickenham, for I am

15. *La Vie de Marianne, ou les Aventures de Madame la Comtesse de * * ** by Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux (1688–1763) was published in Paris in eleven parts 1731–41. In 1745 a spurious twelfth part appeared in an edition published at Amsterdam. Gray probably refers to this French continuation, but he may be alluding to one of the several English translations which appeared between 1736 and 1746 (see Jean Fleury, *Marivaux et le mari-vaudage*, 1881, p. 195; Helen S. Hughes, 'Translations of the *Vie de Marianne* and Their Relation to Contemporary English Fiction,' *Modern Philology*, 1917–18, xv. 127). Gray sent three parts (probably parts

ix–xi, about Mlle de Tervire) to Chute in July 1742 (*Gray's Corr.* i. 217–18).

1. Gray left Cambridge 16 Aug., or a day or two earlier (he was charged half-commons at Peterhouse the week of 14 Aug.).

2. Contained in HW to Gray Aug. 1747, missing. In HW to Mann 1 Sept. 1747, O.S., written in Arlington Street, HW speaks of going to Twickenham with Chute 'tomorrow for the rest of the season.'

3. At this time merely 'a small house near Twickenham,' which HW leased from Mrs Chenevix in May 1747 (*ante* i. 17).

4. John Chute.