

From GRAY, Tuesday 31 January 1764

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated by the postmark and the instructions for sending books (see *ante* 27 Jan. 1764).

Address: To the Honourable Horace Walpole in Arlington Street, London.

Postmark: SAFFRON WALDEN 1 FE.

[Cambridge,] Tuesday [Jan. 31, 1764].

AND so I must stay two if not three days longer for my books! They are to come by the *Cambridge fly*, which sets out from the *Queen's Head in Gray's Inn Lane*. Mr Mason is here, but talks of going to London tomorrow, where he will be at Lord Delaware's house.

All letters to and from this place, that seem to promise anything, are opened (I hear) at the General Post Office.²

To GRAY, ca February 1764

Two letters missing. Probably written in Arlington Street. Mentioned *post* ?18 March 1764.

From GRAY, Sunday ?18 March 1764

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated by the reference to the election contest at Cambridge.

[Cambridge,] March [?18], Sunday [1764].

YOU had received an answer to your last letter¹ sooner, had I been able to write; but I have been very ill for near a month,² and this is the first day that I have breathed the open air. I do not believe I can give you any satisfaction as to the Provençal poetry.³ Italy and France

1. John West (1693–1766), 7th Bn de la Warr, cr. (1761) E. de la Warr. He lived in Hanover Square (*Court and City Register*, 1764, p. 19).

2. In Lombard Street, London.

1. Missing.

2. With hæmorrhoids. Gray aggravated his illness by taking 'soap in large quantities,' and had to be operated on during the

summer (Gray to Wharton 10 July 1764, *Gray's Corr.* ii. 837).

3. HW's interest in Provençal poetry seems to have started with his search for Richard I's alleged Provençal poems (see HW to Mann 20 Nov. 1757) for the *Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors*. HW made additions to the *Catalogue* as late as 1787 (*Journal of the Printing-Office* 20; see also Hazen, *SH Bibliography* 135).