

From GRAY, Friday 26 May 1769

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

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

Postmark: 27 MA.

Pembroke Hall, 26 May 1769.

OLD Cole lives at *Water-Beach*¹ near the road from Cambridge to Ely; but I believe you had best send the book² to me, and I will take care it shall be delivered to him.³ I have not seen it yet, but propose to buy it⁴ on your recommendation; if it has a hundredth part of Linnæus's⁵ merit, it must be divine! What the title means, I do not conceive.

To GRAY, ca August 1770

Missing. Implied in *post* 12 Sept. 1770.

From GRAY, Wednesday 12 September 1770

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

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

Postmark: ROYSTON 13 SE.

be preserved; and am glad of it, though I might have been the better for its ruins' (HW to Lord Strafford 3 July 1769). Shortly before 1830 a new chapel was erected at Luton Park by the Marquess of Bute, and the original embellishments transferred to it (Shaw, *op. cit.* 1).

1. Five miles NE of Cambridge. Cole lived there from 1767 to 1770.

2. *A Biographical History of England, from Egbert the Great to the Revolution: consisting of Characters disposed in different Classes, and adapted to a Methodical Catalogue of Engraved British Heads*, by James Granger (1723–76), vicar of Shiplake, Oxon, 4 vols quarto, published 26 May (*Daily Adv.* 26 May 1769). It was dedicated to HW.

3. In his diary for 5 June 1769 Cole wrote, 'Mr Gray of Pembroke and Mr Tyson of Benet came by eleven o'clock and stayed till past seven. Mr Gray brought me

the two sets of Mr Granger's books: one which I had bought and lent him, the other with blank leaves which Mr Walpole made me a present of' (Add. MS 5835, f. 207 verso). See also COLE i. 157–9.

4. It is not in the MS catalogue of Gray's library.

5. Carl von Linné (1707–78). Gray in 1759 bought the 10th edition of *Caroli Linnæi . . . Systema naturæ*, 2 vols 8vo, Stockholm, 1758–9 (Gray first quotes it in his letter of 18 Sept. 1759 to Wharton). He had his copy (now at Harvard) interleaved, and his profuse annotations and drawings tend to confirm Mason's assertion that 'the favourite study of Mr Gray, for the last ten years of his life, was natural history' (Mason, *Mem. Gray* 341). See also chapter vii ('The Disciple of Linnæus') in W. Powell Jones, *Thomas Gray, Scholar*, Cambridge, Mass., 1937, pp. 125–41; C. E. Norton, *The Poet Gray as a Naturalist*, Boston, 1903.