

or the great haste with which the letters were written, made indispensably necessary, as will plainly appear, not only by the unavoidable chasms, where the originals were worn out or torn away, but by many idle relations and injudicious remarks and prejudices of a young man; for which the only excuse the author can pretend to make, is, that as some future reader may possibly be as young as he was, when he first wrote, he hopes they may be amused, with what graver people (if into such hands they should fall) will very justly despise. Whoever has patience to peruse the series, will find perhaps, that as the author grew older, some of his faults became less striking.

### From MANN, April 1740

Missing. A 'long letter' is acknowledged by HW, *post* 16 April 1740 NS.

### To MANN, Saturday 16 April 1740 NS

Originally dated 'Rome April 15 1740 NS,' then corrected to 'April 16.' Dated 16 April by the references to the Prince and Princesse de Craon's visit to Rome, to tenebræ, to HW's and Gray's visit to St Peter's, etc.

*Endorsement by Mann:* From Mr H. Walpole, junior. Answered April 19, 1740.

Rome,<sup>1</sup> April 16, 1740 NS.

**W**ELL, Sir Miny,<sup>2</sup> you are a good creature, to send one such a long letter,<sup>3</sup> such a large packet, and such a quantity of news. I would be as good as you if I had as much time; but you see how many letters<sup>4</sup>

retts, probably suppressed this reference. He omitted passages asking for the return of his letters (see n. 2 above). He edited Mann's letters more sparingly than his own, but he crossed out lines in the letter of 23 May 1741 NS. He cut out, with scissors, parts of his own original letters of 29 June 1741 NS, 19 July 1741 NS, and 5 Sept. 1741 NS.

1. HW and Gray left Florence 21 March, and reached Rome on the 26th (GRAY i. 205).

2. Minister. 'His Majesty's ministers,' a generic term, applied to the first three grades of diplomatists: ambassador, envoy, and resident (*Court and City Register* 1748, pp. 114-15; Jean de la Serraz du Fran-

quesnay, *Le Ministre public dans les cours étrangères* . . . , Amsterdam, 1731, p. 73). Mann in his letter to the Duke of Newcastle, 6 March NS, had acknowledged his promotion (BM Add. MSS 32802, f. 87), and was expecting at this time his credentials, promoting him from chargé d'affaires to resident (see *post* 23 April 1740 NS). The 'Sir' is jocose: Mann did not become a baronet until 3 March 1755.

3. Missing.

4. HW wrote to West on the 16th, and on the 23d, writing to Conway, he refers to two 'long letters' he had 'lately' written to Conway, and to another he had written to 'Selwyn upon his illness' (see HW to Conway 23 April 1740 NS).