

MANUSCRIPTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Most of the letters in this volume were at Strawberry Hill when Walpole died. Mrs Damer, who lived there until 1811, bequeathed them to her neighbour Sir Wathen Waller, 1st Bt, in 1828. They remained in the Waller family until they were sold at Sotheby's 5 Dec. 1921 (first Waller Sale). Many were bought in and resold at Christie's 15 Dec. 1948 (second Waller Sale).

Elizabeth Laura Countess Waldegrave took possession of Strawberry Hill when Mrs Damer moved out of it in 1811. On Lady Waldegrave's death in 1816 Strawberry and its contents were inherited by her son John James, 6th Earl Waldegrave. Some letters were apparently included in the bundle of 'private and family papers' in Walpole's Box A, which Walpole bequeathed to Lord Waldegrave (see Appendix 3). Some letters and the manuscript of Walpole's *Last Journals*, which includes transcripts of letters, remain in the possession of the Waldegrave family; other letters were sold, probably by Lord Euston as executor for the 6th Earl Waldegrave, to Richard Bentley (1794-1871), the publisher, to whose grandson the manuscripts descended. They were acquired from his estate in 1937 by W. S. Lewis.

The manuscripts of the four early letters from Walpole to his mother, Lady Walpole, and the three letters between Walpole and his father, Sir Robert, were bequeathed by Mrs Damer to Sir Wathen Waller, 1st Bt; they were included in the two Waller sales, and were bought by Maggs for W. S. Lewis.

There are twenty-nine surviving letters between Walpole and his brother, Sir Edward; twenty from and nine to Sir Edward, five of them previously unpublished. Five of these letters may have been included in Walpole's Box A, inherited by the 6th Earl Waldegrave; two of these remained at Strawberry Hill and then at Chewton until 1948, when W. S. Lewis acquired them from Lord Waldegrave; the other three were sold to Richard Bentley, and were acquired by W. S. Lewis in 1937. Fifteen letters have a Damer-Waller provenance