

# HORACE WALPOLE'S CORRESPONDENCE

## TO LADY WALPOLE,<sup>1</sup> 1725

Printed from the MS now wsl; first printed, Toynbee *Supp.* i. i. The MS was bequeathed by Mrs Damer to Sir Wathen Waller, Bt; sold Sotheby's 5 Dec. 1921 (1st Waller Sale), lot 47; bought in under the name of 'Edge'; resold Christie's 15 Dec. 1947 (2d Waller Sale), lot 28, to Maggs for wsl.

Dated by the reference to 'cosans'; in 1725 HW went to Bexley in Kent with his cousins, the four younger sons of Lord Townshend ('Short Notes,' GRAY i. 3).

*Endorsed* (by HW): My first letter to my mother.

**D**EAR mama I hop you are wall and I am very wall and I hop papa<sup>2</sup> is wall and I begin to slaap and I hop al was wall and my cosans<sup>3</sup> likes thers pla things vary wall and I hop Doly phillips<sup>4</sup> is wall and pray give my Duty to papa

HORACE WALPOLE

and I am very glad to hear by Tom<sup>5</sup> that all my cruataurs are all wall and Mrs Seluen<sup>6</sup> has sprand her Fot and guis her Sarves to you and I dind ther<sup>7</sup> yester Day

1. Catherine Shorter (1682-1737), m. (1700) Robert Walpole. She was the granddaughter of Sir John Shorter (1625-88), Kt, 1675, lord mayor of London 1687-8, and of Sir Erasmus Philipps (ca 1623-97), 3d Bt, 1648 (Matthew Taubman, *London's Triumph . . . performed on Sat. Oct. 29, 1687 for the Confirmation and Entertainment of the Right Hon. Sir John Shorter*, 1687; J. J. Baddeley, *The Aldermen of Cripplegate Ward*, 1900, pp. 79-81; Mervyn Archdall and John Lodge, *Peerage of Ireland*, 1789, vii. 98).

2. Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745), K.B. 1725, K.G. 1726, cr. (1742) Bn of Houghton, Vct Walpole and E. of Orford; prime minister 1721-42; he m. 1 (1700) Catherine Shorter; 2 (1738) Maria Skerrett (ca 1702-38), his mistress.

3. George (1715-69), Augustus (1716-46), Horatio (ca 1717-64) and Edward (ca

1719-65), sons of Charles Townshend (1675-1738), 2d Vct Townshend of Raynham by his second wife Dorothy Walpole (1686-1726), Sir Robert's sister.

4. Doubtless a family connection, perhaps one of the unmarried daughters of Sir John Philipps (ca 1666-1737), Lady Walpole's uncle (Archdall and Lodge, op. cit. vii. 99; Society of Cymmrodorion, *Transactions*, 1904-5, pp. 76-7).

5. Possibly Thomas Barney, HW's servant (MANN i. 101, n. 20; ii. 498).

6. Mary Farrington (ca 1690-1777), m. (ca 1708-9) Col. John Selwyn; George Selwyn's mother (MANN i. 339, n. 33; SELWYN 63).

7. A house near Fooks Cray known as Danson Hill (E. A. Webb, G. W. Miller, J. Beckwith, *The History of Chislehurst*, 1899, p. 161; OSSORY ii. 55, nn. 16, 17).