

INTRODUCTION

THIS is the final instalment of the Yale Walpole except for the five or six volumes of index, which we hope to have out in two years. My initial guess in 1933 that the edition would take seventeen years and fill thirty volumes has been thirty years and twenty volumes off.

These final letters are not the sweepings of the ballroom floor. They include Garrick, Burke, Boswell, Fanny Burney, Chesterfield, Gibbon, Hume, and Voltaire; the elder Pitt, C. J. Fox, and Lord North; George IV, Princess Amelia, and Stanislas II of Poland; Robert Adam, Sir William Chambers, and J. S. Copley. We have printed the few letters to and from the correspondents chronologically, a course that has provided a conspectus of Walpole's life. It has also highlighted his five chief interests—politics, the great world, literature, the fine arts, and antiquarianism. These last three volumes are a happy conclusion to the whole undertaking.

We celebrated its fortieth year with a 'Jubilee' in October 1973. There were publications, exhibitions, speeches, dinners, and a concert by the wife of one of our colleagues, Beth Riely. I repeat my tributes to the five Yale Librarians, Andrew Keogh, Bernhard Knollenberg, James Babb, James Tanis, and Rutherford Rogers, who headed the staff that for forty years has done all in its great power to help us. My gratitude to the Yale Library goes back fifty years to May Humphreys and descends through Donald Wing, John Ottemiller, Emily Hall, and Radley Daly. Invaluable aid was given at Farmington by my wife, and by Catherine Jestin and Joan Sussler who put our library and print room there in order.

Besides sponsoring us, the members of our Advisory Committee have read our proofs and reviewed us favourably in major