

FROM PETER ELMSLY,¹ Friday 7 July 1775

Printed from a photostat of the MS inserted in HW's presentation copy of Robert Wood's *Essay on the Original Genius and Writings of Homer*, 1775, in the Henry E. Huntington Library. First printed in H. M. Nixon, 'Baumgarten's Will,' *Festschrift Ernst Kyriss*, Stuttgart, 1961, p. 400. For the history of the copy of Wood's *Homer* see Hazen, *Cat. of HW's Lib.*, No. 37.

July 7th 1775.

P. Elmsly presents his respects to Mr Walpole and, by order of Mrs Wood,² sends him a copy of the late Mr Wood's *Essay on Homer*;³ he had orders to bind the copy in the most elegant manner⁴ and hopes it pleases.⁵

summer to Lord Camden, begging him, if sent for, not to accept till the King was so reduced, and the nation so provoked, that the authors of the late measures might be punished, and a total end put to the plan of despotism. I sent the letter by a messenger, but Lord Camden pretended to be afraid of answering it even that way. But as he even did not come to me on my return from France [17 Oct. 1775], I saw he was displeased at my advising him to hesitate a moment about accepting the seals' (*Last Journals* i. 494).

1. (1736-1802), bookseller in the Strand. He was one of the most prominent booksellers in London, and his customers included the Duke of Grafton, Lord Spencer, Topham Beauclerk, John Wilkes, Sir Joseph Banks, and Gibbon (whose *Decline and Fall* he declined to publish) (Nichols, *Lit. Anec.* vi. 440-1; OSSORY ii. 90 and n. 7).

2. See *ante* 13 May 1773, n. 1.

3. *An Essay on the Original Genius and Writings of Homer: With a Comparative*

View of the Ancient and Present State of the Troade, 1775, by Robert Wood (ca 1717-71), the traveller and antiquary. This posthumous work, which was published jointly by Elmsly and Thomas Payne on 7 July, was prepared for the press by Jacob Bryant (MASON i. 212 n. 12). Wood had sent HW a copy of the 1769 edition of his *Essay*, and HW offered detailed comments on it; see *ante* 19, 23 Nov. 1769. HW wrote Mason 10 July 1775: 'Mrs Wood publishes an essay, which her husband showed me and I liked, on Homer's country' (MASON i. 212).

4. HW's copy, now in the Huntington Library, is handsomely bound in gold-tooled green morocco with HW's arms on the sides. Mr H. M. Nixon, Librarian of Westminster Abbey, believes this binding to be the work of the man who bound the special copy of the *Mysterious Mother* that was kept in the Beauclerk Closet at SH. The binder was probably John Baumgarten (Hazen, *op. cit.*, No. 37; Nixon, *op. cit.* 400, illustrated p. 399).

5. See following letter.