

## TO MRS ROBERT WOOD, Friday 7 July 1775

Printed for the first time from a photostat of the MS in the possession of Mr Robert W. Wood, Fields End, Roman Road, Lyme Regis, Dorset, kindly supplied by Mr Wood's father, the late Canon G. Robert Wood. For the history of the MS see *ante* 19 Nov. 1769.

*Endorsed by Mrs Wood:* Mr Walpole 7th July 1775. Answered the same day.

July 7th 1775.

**I**F anything could add value to a work of Mr Wood in Mr Walpole's eyes, it would be the very kind and obliging manner in which he has received the *Essay on Homer* from Mrs Wood;<sup>1</sup> he begs her to accept his most grateful acknowledgments, and assures her that nobody but she herself will receive more pleasure than Mr Walpole from the justice which he is persuaded the public will pay by its praises to the present she makes it in so excellent a book.

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*Endorsed by Mrs Wood:* Copy to Mr Walpole 7th July 1775.

South Street,<sup>1</sup> 7th July 1775.

Sir,

**I**BEG leave to return my best thanks for the very acceptable pleasing manner in which you have received the *Essay*, and express your approbation of it,<sup>2</sup> and thereby give me the highest satisfaction.

I am unhappy that I cannot address myself to you, Sir, without renewing the subject of a melancholy debt yet unpaid,<sup>3</sup> which is

1. See previous letter.

1. Grosvenor Square.

2. See previous letter.

3. In her letter *ante* 13 May 1773, Mrs Wood asked HW to suggest the design

for a monument to her husband, to be placed in the cemetery at Putney. HW promised to 'look over my books, and submit some different designs to your option' (HW to Mrs Wood *ante* 16 May 1773).