

PREFACE TO THE INDEX

This is an index to the eighteenth century as reflected in Horace Walpole's correspondence and in the supporting materials affixed to it.

'This edition, through its index, hopes to lead the scholar, whether the subject of his research is Dr Johnson or ballooning, to whatever Walpole's correspondence may have to say about it'—so wrote W. S. Lewis in his preface to our first volume, in 1937. He envisioned this final index as 'the index to end all indexes.'

We index not only Walpole's correspondence but his own footnotes to that correspondence, and also such unpublished MSS, and extracts from periodicals, as we have printed in appendices or quoted in our own footnotes.

Besides hundreds of individuals, this index includes events, objects, publications, and the whole fabric of political, social, financial, artistic, military, and literary history so far as it is portrayed in our volumes. There are special group-headings for topics such as Costume, Food, Landscape effects, Law, Medicine, Music, Opera, Painting, Religion, Theatre, War, etc.

From beginning to end, our volumes are consecutively numbered in arabic numerals, while the multi-volume component correspondences are internally numbered in roman letters. Therefore the volume numbers in this final index are in bold-face arabic numerals, followed by page numbers in plain arabic numerals.

When an important biographical footnote identifies any individual whose index entries are numerous, its location is usually indicated by a page number in italic type. This is considered unnecessary for famous people who are to be found in all the reference books.

Footnote references are distinguished by 'n' after the page number.

Women are indexed under their maiden names and peers under their family names, with cross-reference from married name or title. In giving the peerage-number of English noblemen, we have followed Walpole's own practice of omitting from the numbering any female title-holders who might have held that peerage—for instance, Walpole considered it improper to call a man *second* Earl Temple when the *first* holder of the earldom had been a Countess. However, in certain baronies (such as Dacre), there were so many Baronesses that this would be confusing. Where we have