

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND METHOD

WALPOLE'S correspondence with George Montagu now consists of 449 letters, of which 262 are Walpole's and 187 are Montagu's. The latter have not previously been published (except those of 28 July 1745 and ca 25 Sept. 1749, printed in the first supplement to Mrs Toynbee's edition of Walpole's letters), but fragments of ten letters¹ were printed by Cunningham in footnotes to his edition of the letters, and considerable fragments of twenty-six letters with shorter quotations from some seventy others were published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission in its calendar of the manuscripts at Kimbolton.² A few of Walpole's memoranda on the backs of Montagu's letters were also quoted in this calendar but most of them are here first printed. Cole's description of his journey with Walpole (Appendix 4), Mrs Piozzi's note on the Earl of Salisbury (Appendix 5), and her marginal notes to Walpole's letters are printed here for the first time. Many letters from Montagu and a few from Walpole are obviously still missing; the correspondence as it now stands is very one-sided up to 1760. The missing letters, beginning with 1760, are indicated here by headings, with approximate dates.

Frederick Montagu of Papplewick, Notts, who was George Montagu's second cousin, residuary legatee, and sole executor, came into possession of Walpole's letters to Montagu, which Montagu had once said he intended to bequeath 'with the most solemn trust and precautions to the last Cu of ye Cudoms.'³ After George Montagu's death in 1780, it seems clear⁴ that the letters were returned to Walpole, who half-heartedly essayed to edit them. In some cases he crossed out passages (e.g. in his letter of

1. Those of 27 Nov. 1768, 11 April, ca 25 Aug., 27 Aug., 18 Sept., 22 Oct., and ca 18 Dec. 1769, 18 June, 17 July, and 6 Oct. 1770.

2. *Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, App. II, 1881, pp. 112-20.

3. Montagu to Walpole 3 Feb. 1760.

4. Walpole to Frederick Montagu 28 Oct. 1784, printed here at the beginning of the correspondence.