

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE two men to whom our first acknowledgments are due are, alas, no longer alive. They were Sir Wathen Waller and Leonard Whibley.

Sir Wathen was the owner of virtually all of Gray's letters to Walpole. He granted us permission to have them photostated for use in this edition, but his generosity did not stop there. He was also a friend who was eager to help us in any way he could. When he led an expedition of discovery into the attics at Woodcote his joy at 'finding' was the equal of mine. The Walpole manuscripts, carefully preserved in wrappers upon which Sir Wathen wrote pertinent information in his clear hand, were always at our disposal. Most of them are now at Farmington, where Lady Waller assures me her husband hoped that they might one day be.

The Waller Collection of Gray's letters to Walpole is now at Pembroke College, Cambridge, whence so many of them were written. The retiring Master, Sir Montagu Butler, and the incoming Master, Mr S. C. Roberts, have both, on behalf of the College, granted permission to us to print these letters.

No one would have rejoiced more at the final disposition of Gray's letters to Walpole than Leonard Whibley, who was a Fellow of Pembroke for more than forty years. My friendship with him began in 1931 and continued with annual meetings until 1939; we wrote each other about once a fortnight until his death in 1942. A large proportion of our correspondence dealt with Gray and his friends. Whibley enjoyed copying long extracts from the records relating to Gray at Peterhouse and Pembroke and from books which he thought we might lack. Nothing was too much trouble for him to undertake; whatever he found he freely imparted to us for what use we might care to make of it. We have acknowledged his specific contributions in the notes, but they are only a small part of his total contribution to these volumes. The walks at Frensham and the hours spent in the library at the Dial House were devoted to Gray, about whom he knew more than any living man. The information acquired in this way cannot be placed, with credit, in a footnote.