

FROM WEST 12 JULY 1737

For me, I've 'scaped the wreck; let yonder fane
 Inscribed my gratitude declare
 To him that rules the main.

I am, dear Sir, with all sincerity,

Your most humble servant and affectionate friend,

RICH. WEST

PS. I am afraid I cannot see you this summer, but I long to hear from you.

To GRAY, ca Thursday 14 July 1737

Missing. Mentioned as 'your little modicum' below. Probably written on HW's arrival at Houghton. HW, to whom Lord Hervey intended a visit at Cambridge on his way from Ickworth to London in late June or early July 1737, was at Cambridge 26 June, and left Cambridge for Norfolk Wednesday 13 July (Conyers Middleton to John, Lord Hervey 26 June, 17 July 1737, in the collection of autograph letters of Hervey and Middleton on the Roman Senate, vol. ii. pp. 86, 91, at Ickworth. Cited with the kind permission of the Marquess of Bristol, from a transcript made by Miss Dorothy Margaret Stuart).

From GRAY, ca Saturday 16 July 1737

Printed from MS in Waller Collection.

Dated by Mason, Aug. 1738 (*Mem. Gray*, p. 35). The above conjectural date is based on the address and Gray's allusion to his trip to London 'the week after next.' In 1738 Gray was in residence at Cambridge throughout the summer and did not leave it until ca 14 Sept. (*Gray's Corr.* i. 90-1). In 1737, on the other hand, he left Cambridge on or before 29 July (he was charged for commons up to 28 July). There is no record of HW's being at Houghton in 1738, but he was there in 1737 (see note on *ante* ca 14 July 1737, missing). The letter was written before 17 July, since otherwise Gray would have referred to his trip as 'the next week.'

Address: To the Honourable Horace Walpole Esq. at Houghton Hall, Norfolk.

Postmark: CAMBRIDGE.

[Cambridge, ca July 16, 1737.]

My dear Horace,

I WAS just going to write to you, in opposition to a couple of very weighty reasons: one, that you did not bid me, and t'other, that I had nothing to say; but, alas! what are reasons against one's inclinations! for you know in such a case a feather at any time will weigh down lead; but you, by instinct knowing my situation, were so good as to supply me with the cause, though not with materials. If you never were