

## TO ASHTON July 1740

Missing. Between 8 July, the date of HW's and Gray's return to Florence (post 31 July 1740, N.S., n. 1) and 16 July, HW finished his *Epistle from Florence, to Thomas Ashton, Esq.*, and sent it to Ashton in a letter. See Gray to West 16 July 1740, N.S., *Gray's Corr.* i. 170; post ca 10 Nov. 1747.

## TO WEST, Sunday 31 July 1740, N.S.

Reprinted from *Works* iv. 450–2.

Written in collaboration with Gray.

Florence,<sup>1</sup> July 31, 1740, N.S.

Dear West,

I HAVE advised with the most notable antiquarians of this city on the meaning of *Thur gut Luetis*. I can get no satisfactory interpretation. In my own opinion 'tis Welsh.<sup>2</sup> I don't love offering conjectures on a language in which I have hitherto made little proficiency, but I will trust you with my explication. You know the famous Aglaughlan,<sup>3</sup> mother of Cadwallador, was renowned for her conjugal virtues, and grief on the death of her royal spouse. I conclude this medal was struck in her regency, by her express order, to the memory of her lord, and that the inscription *Thur gut Luetis* means no more than *her dear Llewellyn*.

In return for your coins I send you two or three of different kinds. The first is a money of one of the Kings of Naples; the device a horse; the motto, *Equitas regni*.<sup>4</sup> This curious pun is on a coin in the Great Duke's<sup>5</sup> collection, and by great chance I have met with a second. Another is, a satirical medal struck on Lewis XIV;<sup>6</sup> 'tis a bomb, covered

1. HW and Gray returned to Florence ca 8 July (*Gray's Corr.* i. 165).

2. 'Thur gut Luetis' is not Welsh. It is unlikely that HW intended his 'conjectures' to be taken seriously; but the proper names were probably derived from a vague recollection of John Philipps's chart showing Lord Walpole's descent from Cadwaladr (see *ante* 25 Feb. 1735, n. 1).

3. Perhaps HW was aiming at Angharad. There was an Angharad who was married to a Llywelyn (d. 1023?: see DNB), and another who was the mother of a later Cadwaladr (d. 1172).

4. A bronze coin of Ferdinand I of Aragon (1423–94), King of Naples, described

by Zanetti as 'testa coronata, e all' intorno FERDINANDUS REX. Dal rovescio un cavallo sciolto in moto, e la leggenda EQUITAS ✠ REGNI' (Guid' Antonio Zanetti, *Nuova raccolta delle monete e zecche d'Italia*, Bologna, 1775–89, ii. 125; see also *Catalogo del Museo Nazionale di Napoli*, vol. iii, Naples, 1871, pp. 22–3). The coin was among the twenty-five most precious coins and medals in the rosewood case in the Library at SH (see 'Des. of SH,' *Works* ii. 451).

5. Francis II, of Tuscany, husband of Maria Theresa.

6. Louis XIV (1638–1715), of France.