

'Tuesday [20 December]. . . The new opera, I am told, is extremely disliked. Mr Walpole says he will go to it no more. He made the Princess Amelia a present of his snuff-box with the picture of Harry the Fourth of France, who she was expressing her admiration of. As he had wore it in his pocket for above a year, I don't think it was proper, at least I should have thrown out the snuff; however, it was very politely received and accepted' (ii. 430-1).

'Friday [6 January 1769]. . . Before he [Mr Walpole] came in, the Princess showed me the lines he had sent her engraved in the lid of the box; to which she had ordered to be added, that it was given her by the Honourable Horatio Walpole, son of that great Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford. Nothing, I think, could be more polite to Mr Walpole, and he seemed to be of that opinion when she showed it him, only saying that he was quite ashamed of her goodness' (iii. 3; the verses are printed in MONTAGU ii. 328).

'Thursday [12 January]. . . [At Lady Townshend's] Mr Walpole tried to make Lady Charlotte Edwin and me dispute about the Douglas cause, but I avoided it by saying I was sure our wishes were the same—that it might be decided according to justice' (Coke, *Journals* iii. 7).

*Lady Mary soon recovered from her pique, but her Journal shows her increasingly ready to take offence at HW's behaviour:*

'Tuesday [25 April]. . . Mr Walpole called at my house, and approves of all I have done since he was here. He has given me a design for some frames to be placed over the doors in my book-room, and repeated to me the epilogue he made for Mrs Clive which she spoke last night on quitting the stage. 'Tis like everything he has ever wrote, extremely pretty. Nobody has his genius. He gave me a play [*The Mysterious Mother*] of his own writing. I once heard him repeat some scenes that I thought very fine' (iii. 64).

'Thursday [27 April]. . . Lady Spencer has lost her little child. Mr Walpole laughed at me for saying I was concerned' (iii. 65).

'Sunday [14 May]. . . I must not forget to mention that on Saturday evening Mr Walpole, who was one of the party, was both uncivil and ill-natured to me, and with no other provocation than saying what almost every other person agrees in that the French Ambassadors was very ill-bred. Mr Conway with his usual goodness took my part very warmly and seemed hurt at what Mr Walpole had said. As it was with an ill-natured intention, I own it surprised me, and I'm afraid I shall not soon forget it' (iii. 70-1).

'Wednesday [7 June]. . . Mr Walpole called on me between two and three o'clock to invite me to dine with him to meet Lady Ailesbury, etc. on Friday. He told me the Russian and French Ambassadors had a great quarrel at the Birthday about place; words ran very high, but the next