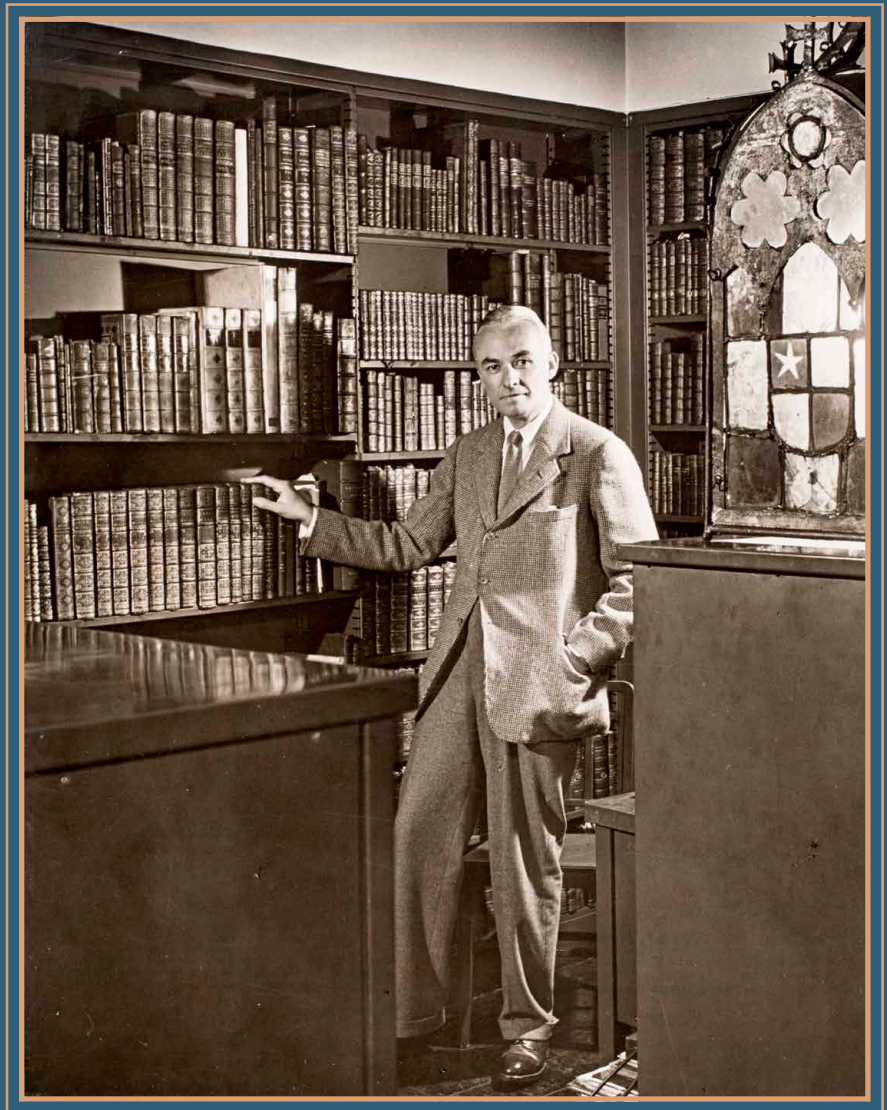


# *Rescuing Horace Walpole*

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF W.S. LEWIS





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Stephen Clarke

The Lewis Walpole Library  
Yale University





IN HIS LAST BOOK, *Rescuing Horace Walpole*, published the year before his death, Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis (1895–1979) reminisced on the achievements of a lifetime of collecting. The idea of the book was a fantasy in which God allowed Lewis to preserve twenty-six items from what was by then the finest collection in the world devoted to Horace Walpole and his circle, recovering much that had been dispersed when Walpole's collection was scattered in the Strawberry Hill sale of 1842. The format enabled Lewis to discuss his most important acquisitions and how he had secured them; and in listing his prize exhibits, it echoed a list that Walpole had prepared of his most treasured possessions, the sixty-four Principal Curiosities drawn from the collection at Strawberry Hill.<sup>1</sup> But while Walpole merely listed his most prized objects, Lewis not only celebrated his items and retold the anecdotes of how they were traced and secured, he also—unable to restrict himself to so small a number from so great a treasure—described twenty-six runners-up, for which he suggested his Maker had punished him with two further sessions in Hartford Hospital. The combination of dedication and self-indulgence, of obsession and achievement, is what underlies this exhibition.

Lewis was born in Alameda, California, on November 14, 1895, the youngest son of Dr. Azro Lewis by his second marriage to Miranda Sheldon. The couple had moved west from Rhode Island following the death of her uncle Charles Lux, a cattle baron, and Dr. Lewis was then able to give up his practice as a dentist and raise his family in considerable comfort. From his parents Lewis learned of the sanctity of money and the freedom and status that it brought, and also of the heavy and insistent strains created by their unhappy marriage. He went to the Thacher School in southern California in 1910, and in 1914 arrived as a freshman at Yale, where his very first class in Freshman English was taught by Chauncey Brewster Tinker (1876–1963), the legendary Sterling Professor of English Literature who in his long teaching career inspired generations of Yale students. Lewis was elected to the Elizabethan Club, discovered the Brick Row bookshop, and graduated in 1918, though in a sense he never really left. After a brief spell in the army, marked by illness, and six months with his widowed mother in Alameda, he returned to New Haven, spent two years working for the Yale University Press, and wrote a quietly received novel, *Tutors'*

1. The Lewises with their car outside Cowles House, 1944. Photograph. LWL MSS 22, box 23, folder 16. The car is a 1943 Pontiac station wagon.





*Lane* (1922). That year he resigned from the Press and traveled with friends to England, buying books and completing a John Masfield collection. When he returned to the States, he retired to Farmington. He was twenty-six.

Lewis had been invited to Farmington by a friend from Thacher and Yale, Austin Dunham Barney, whose parents lived in one of its elegant Federal houses. He was introduced there to Mrs. William S. Cowles, the elder sister of Theodore Roosevelt, who lived in a time capsule of Edwardian society at Oldgate, the finest of the town's eighteenth-century houses, where he first met his future wife, Annie Burr Auchincloss (1902–1959). Lewis, who said that he sensed in his cradle that he had received the gift of perpetual middle age, was attracted by the town's elegance, its old-fashioned charm as celebrated by Henry James, and perhaps by welcoming and sophisticated glimpses of a family life that Alameda had not provided. In 1926 he bought the handsomely paneled house next-door to Oldgate, which had been built by Major General Solomon Cowles in the early 1780s (fig. 1). In 1928 he married Annie Burr. Lewis noted at their first meeting her quiet separateness, a mixture of composure and shyness, and later recalled the Virgilian line “Truly a Goddess by her walk” as he saw her coming to meet him at Grand Central Station.<sup>2</sup> They would in the summer stay at Newport, where Annie Burr's mother owned Hammersmith Farm, later famous as the Kennedy summer White House (fig. 2). She assisted him in his collecting and toward the end of her life played a major role in cataloging the print collection. Theirs was a mutually supportive partnership that lasted until her death from cancer in 1959.

2. W.S. Lewis and Annie Burr Auchincloss at Newport, Rhode Island, 1927. Photograph. LWL MSS 22, box 7, folder 1. They married the following year.

Meanwhile, in 1923 Lewis had undergone the Damascene moment that transformed his life. In a story often retold by him, he had on a book-buying trip to England been persuaded by the proprietor of Godfrey's bookshop in York to buy a copy of John Heneage Jesse's *George Selwyn and His Contemporaries* (1843). It is a collection of letters written to the eighteenth-century wit, but in a pocket of the first volume were loosely inserted thirty-three pages of notes and anecdotes by Lady Louisa Stuart (1757–1851), the granddaughter of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (fig. 3). Later that year, when a group of friends were browsing through his purchases after dinner in Farmington, Lady Louisa's notes were



3. John Heneage Jesse, *George Selwyn and His Contemporaries*, vol. 1 (London: Richard Bentley, 1843), 53 Se4J49; and Lady Louisa Stuart, manuscript notes on John Heneage Jesse's *George Selwyn and His Contemporaries*, ca. 1843–44. LWL MSS File 118. These are the anecdotal manuscript notes that sparked Lewis's interest in Horace Walpole.

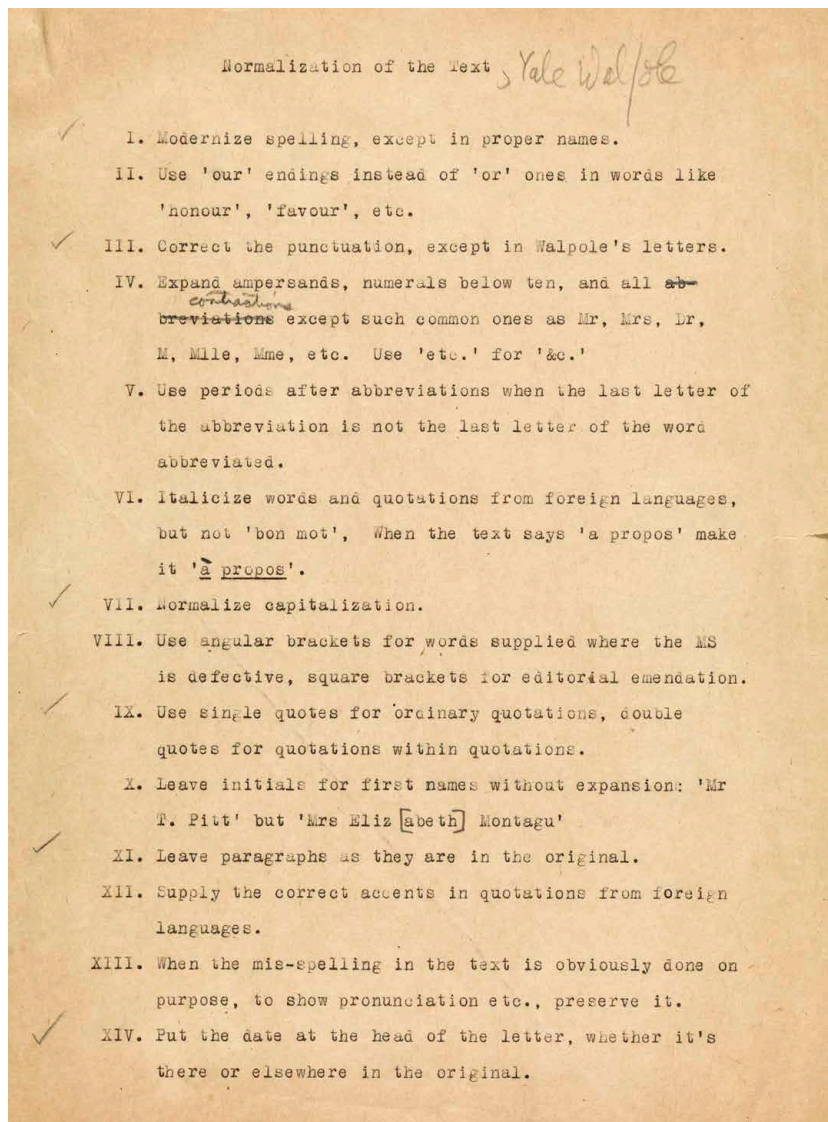
read aloud and caught Lewis's imagination. He read up on Selwyn, Lady Louisa, and Lady Mary, and again and again found himself confronted with the name of Horace Walpole (1717–1797), the collector, historian, and celebrated letter writer. The following year he walked by chance into a book auction in London and bid successfully for six letters from Walpole; when he had read them, he was so entranced that he read Walpole's entire published correspondence. Lewis had at that time an income that allowed him to spend \$5,000 a year on books, but he had been looking for an author to collect. In Walpole he found an under-rated writer whose letters brought the eighteenth century to life, whose range of interests was wide and varied, who had collected books and printed them at his private press, who had sympathized with the colonists in the American War of Independence, and who offered an engaging, sympathetic, and multifaceted subject for research and collecting.

In another well-honed anecdote, Lewis recalled viewing the Beverley Chew sale with Annie Burr in New York in 1924. He retreated crestfallen when told that the Walpole lots that interested him would fetch some \$4,000. But the same day, after Annie Burr had strolled uptown with her Scotties, he found at Scribner's different copies of the same rare items on offer for \$115. The die was cast.

What followed over the succeeding decades was the transformation of the novice into an internationally recognized figure, a scholar as well as a collector, an editor and organizer, and a stalwart of Yale's and countless other boards—and also the transformation of the Cowles House in Farmington into a shrine and temple of Walpolian studies. What Lewis assembled was the epitome of collecting in depth: by far the world's finest collection of books and drawings and prints concerning Walpole and Strawberry Hill, numerous unique items and pieces of real rarity, multiple copies of Strawberry Hill Press and other books written by Walpole, and a vast assemblage of supporting material on Walpole's times. In addition to the heroic recovery of much of Walpole's original correspondence, Lewis traced about half of Walpole's collection of books from Strawberry Hill and secured eighty percent of those for Farmington.

Lewis from the beginning showed that he would be more than a mere accumulator of material. In 1924 Tinker asked him to lecture to undergraduates at Yale for his Age of Johnson course, and then asked him to edit a selection of Walpole's letters suitable for that and similar courses: the result was *A Selection of the Letters of Horace Walpole*, of which an edition was published by Harper & Brothers in New York and by the Oxford University Press in 1926, handsomely produced and illustrated with an impressive array of manuscripts and drawings and prints that Lewis had already acquired. He also the following year produced a transcription and facsimile of a notebook of Walpole's that he had recently bought from the famous bookdealer Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach. This project revived an initiative of Walpole's, who had printed at Strawberry Hill two numbers of *Miscellaneous Antiquities*. Lewis was admonished by the Johnson and Austen scholar R.W. Chapman for the inaccuracies of his transcription ("Really, my dear Lewis, it won't do!") and found, like Walpole, that the market for engaging antiquarian trifles was very

4. Normalization of the Text  
 typescript notes, 1930s. LWL MSS  
 23, box 4, folder 9. Lewis insisted  
 that *The Yale Edition of Horace  
 Walpole's Correspondence* should  
 use a normalized text that would  
 be accessible to the reader; these  
 notes were intended to provide  
 consistency across the volumes.







5. Joseph Reed, Jr., *A View of Strawberry Hill*, 1970. Vignette in oil on ivory, 4 x 6 cm. Household object 2064, box 70. Inscribed “Reed 10/70 for WSL.” This image of Strawberry Hill was given to Lewis by the artist, an editor of one of the volumes of *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole’s Correspondence* and for many years a professor of English and of American studies at Wesleyan University.

limited. He nonetheless printed a further thirteen items from 1928 to 1940, three of them published commercially, the rest privately printed in small numbers as gifts for his growing circle of friends in the world of collecting and eighteenth-century studies. From such beginnings evolved his editorship of the Yale edition of Walpole’s correspondence (1937–83), whose forty-eight volumes were the great scholarly focus of his life and his finest achievement.<sup>3</sup> Lewis insisted that the edition include letters to as well as from Walpole, that the text be as accurate as possible, and that it be fully annotated, with a text that was normalized (modernizing the spelling and use of capital letters and punctuation) for twentieth-century readers (fig. 4). Normalization of the text was the issue that most concerned Lewis’s editorial Advisory Committee, being generally supported by the historians but opposed by literary scholars. Lewis’s concern for clarity, consistency, and an elegant and readable page convinced him of the desirability of normalization, though in doing so, he may perhaps have acted (in the words of his managing editor, Warren Hunting Smith) as “a brilliant amateur, unsullied by any graduate school or library course, untrained in research or scholarly editing.”<sup>4</sup> This was the one area where the edition does not reflect current scholarly practice. Lewis acted as general editor, working with a series of volume editors and assistants, a number of whom stayed on the project for many years. They were based in Sterling Memorial Library on campus in New Haven in an office known as the Walpole Factory, and it is clear that some of them viewed Lewis with considerable affection (fig. 5).

The key elements of Lewis’s collecting strategy were determination, organization, and charm. He introduced himself to the leading book-sellers of London, learned to negotiate his way through the auction houses, acquired the skills of researching provenance from experts such

as Seymour de Ricci, and applied himself to reassembling Walpole's library, the letters he had written, and countless materials on his circle and his age. Walpole's library (some eight thousand books) and the rest of his collection of paintings, prints, drawings, porcelain, armor, and furniture had been dispersed in the Strawberry Hill sale of 1842, one of the most publicized sales of the nineteenth century. But Strawberry Hill and its collection were extraordinarily well documented, first by Walpole in his library catalog of 1763 and in the account of the collection that is his *Description of Strawberry Hill*, and then in the auction sale catalog of 1842. This was compiled by the flamboyant auctioneer George Robins, who helpfully recorded room by room—and in the case of the library, shelf by shelf—the treasures in what he described with typical extravagance as “the most distinguished gem that has ever adorned the annals of auctions.” These documents were the essential tools for Lewis's quest.

He expanded his acquaintance among scholars in America and England and developed a supportive bibliophilic network who alerted him to material that might come on the market, and to the whereabouts of material in private hands. In his dedication to tracing and securing Walpole items Lewis showed rare skills and application. He compiled a set of black notebooks in which he listed Walpoliana he had traced (fig. 6). Where was it, and who held it? What were the chances that the owner might be persuaded to sell, or when might it eventually reach the market? Turning the pages of these books, one's initial impression is of the obsessional attention to detail in trying to identify any conceivable cache of Walpole articles, however obscure or remote; the second is of the frequency of pencil notes in Lewis's hand, laconically but triumphantly noting, “Now WSL.”

Lewis's successes with booksellers and auctions were a matter of application and money—though remarkably he managed not to significantly push up prices against himself. John Carter noted how this was secured by a combination of resolution and finesse and the ability to attract the goodwill of the book trade.<sup>5</sup> Lewis benefited from the low prices of the Depression (“the surviving collectors of the thirties look back to that time as a lost paradise”) and was certainly alert to opportunities, as when on the day in 1939 that war was declared he agreed with the London dealer Sabin to a price of \$500 for Walpole's copy of the mezzotint after

6. W.S. Lewis, *The Black Books*, 1930s–70s. One of four lever-arch, loose-leaf volumes in which Lewis recorded the owners of all the Walpoliana that he had traced, those that he acquired being marked “WSL.”

Folger Shakespeare Library  
Washington 3, D. C.

SH i.6 Thos Cole, a godly and fruteful sermon.  
1553. A.7.9.

The First examination of Anne Askew.n.d.,  
Champneys. Harvest is at hand. 1548.  
Marguerite d'Angouleme, godly medita-  
tions. 1549.

*Guilio*  
*St. Bonaventura* Guilio. Sermon on the Lord's supper, englished  
by Chaloner. 1579.

[Hakewill, Geo.] A Comparison between the  
dayes...1626.

House of peeresses: or, Female oratory, 2d edn  
1779

Two Bulls, 1674. 5 leaves, imperfect, 4to.  
not catalogued, but shelved as Excom-  
munication...Henry 8, by Pope Paul III.

Note by Harmsworth Library that the above were  
HW's.

Wm Fleetwood, Annalium Edward V...Elenchus,  
1579.

Rich'd Zouch. Descriptio Juris and Judicie  
Ecclesiastici. Oxford, 1636.  
(Both from Harmsworth coll.)

SH i.19 A. Fraunce. The Countess of Pembroke's  
Yvychurch. 1591. A.5.8

SH iii.64 Chettle's England's Mourning Garment  
for the death of Q.Elizabeth. F.9.38

SH iii.120 Blunden's Wits recreation. 1640.

SH iv.173 The Life of Sir Thos More, with MS  
notes by the Earl of Pembroke. 1642.

*WSL*  
*1957* (Historical & succinct account of the late  
riots at the Theatres of D.L. & C.G. 1763  
Theatre (Review of Mrs Crawford & Mrs Siddons in  
Geo. (the character of Belvidera. 1782-2 1782

3rd (Whittington's Feast, a new parody on  
(Alexander's Feast, 1776 WSL. 1782

*Woodfall* (Woodfall's Sir Thos Overbury. 1778

SH ? Harding's Illustrations of Shakespeare, 1789.

WSL noted 'HW's name written on a few fascicles

Reynolds of the three Ladies Waldegrave, for which Sabin had been asking two thousand guineas. But Lewis also developed and spread the concept that Walpoliana properly belonged at Farmington. In 1933 he had agreed to act as general editor for Yale of the new edition of Walpole's correspondence—sponsored by Yale, but funded by the Lewises (Annie Burr had Auchincloss money)—and the demands of the editorial process gave additional focus to the collection. All letters to and from Walpole that could be traced should be examined, at the very least photocopied with the owner's permission, and if at all possible secured for Farmington. By 1940 Lewis had decided that he would leave his collection to Yale, and it began to acquire a quasi-institutional status: still very much a private library, but also the engine for the scholarly activity of the Yale edition, the most comprehensive collection of Walpoliana in the world, dedicated to current scholarship, and with a secure institutional future.

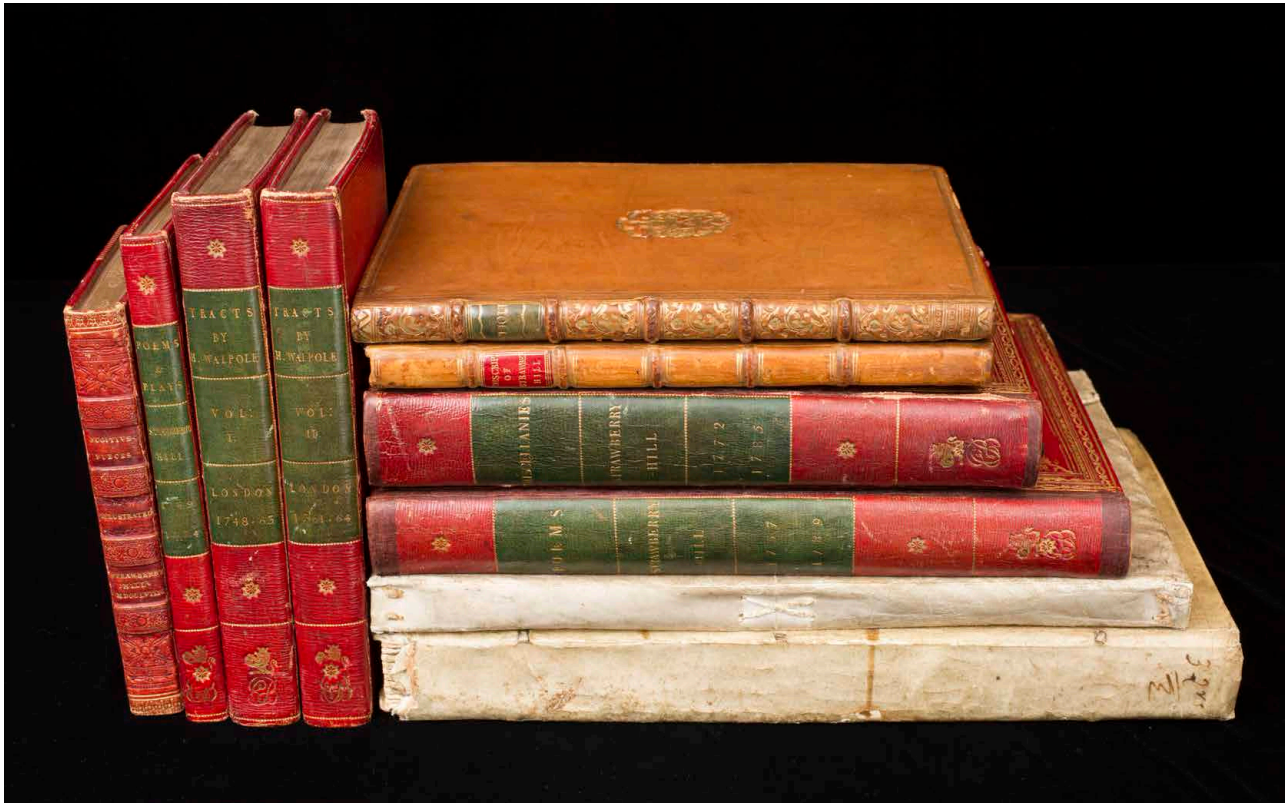
One of Lewis's achievements was how thoroughly he managed to impress the mission of Farmington on holders of Walpole material. If they would allow Mr. Lewis to relieve them of those unregarded letters that had lain undisturbed for decades in their muniment room, and accept a proper recompense that might (depending on their circumstances) be put away in the funds, or used to repair the roof—or in the case of the Dowager Marchioness of Crewe, repair the bathroom—they would be participating in a scholarly endeavor of real and permanent value.<sup>6</sup> The letters would be used to enable his editors to provide the best and most accurate text in the most comprehensive edition of one of the very greatest of English letter writers, and would in due course come under the care of Yale University, which would secure their availability to generations of future scholars.

This argument was employed not just on private collectors, but also on institutional owners. Lewis mentions twenty American and four British libraries that exchanged Walpole items for objects more closely related to their collections, or for the cash with which to acquire such objects—in the case of the Folger Shakespeare Library, some of the plays listed on the opening shown in fig. 6 for an eighteenth-century version of the Chandos portrait of Shakespeare.<sup>7</sup> To persuade such bodies to part with their holdings to a private collector, albeit an exceptional



one, was simply unheard of, but it is a tribute to Lewis's pertinacity and connections.

His dedication and application as a collector are shown by his response to the Waller sale, which had taken place in 1921. This was a collection of Walpoliana inherited by the Waller family from Walpole's niece Anne Damer, and it was the largest and most important sale of Walpole manuscripts ever held—frustratingly just three years before Lewis started collecting. Some 198 lots of Walpole items had been bought by about thirty buyers, mostly booksellers intent on selling their purchases: but at the end of his life Lewis could proudly record that 182 of the individual items sold had found their way to Farmington, and that he had photostats of thirty-two others, leaving only forty-one items unaccounted for. Perhaps the best illustration of his determination, though, is the saga of the *Theatre of George III*, a collection of contemporary plays compiled by Walpole and bound up in fifty-nine volumes, which had been sold most recently at Sotheby's in 1914 to Maggs Bros. Ltd. Maggs had broken them up and sold a few plays before selling the remains to Pickering & Chatto, which sold more. Lewis found what was left there eleven years later, by which time Pickering had in their cellar 110 plays that they thought belonged to the set, as well as the tattered remains of forty of the bindings, on the inside covers of which were Walpole's lists of each volume's contents. Lewis set himself the task of identifying which of Pickering's stock of disbound plays came from Walpole's volumes. In the case of plays not annotated by Walpole, he relied on traces of binding, the color of the staining of the plays' edges, and even the angle of the fore-edges when compared with Walpole's listing of contents: given the curved spine of the books, a play that had been bound at the beginning of a volume would have its fore-edge angled the opposite way to a play bound at the end. Lewis traced other plays to a New York bookshop and then obtained from Pickering a list of the sixty-four plays they had sold before he walked into their shop. He marked thirty-seven of the plays on that list as H for "Hopeless," as they had been sold to American libraries, principally Ann Arbor, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the University of Michigan. But in 1951 he could record that he had acquired by persuasion and exchange thirty-three of his thirty-seven "Hopeless" plays, along with many more not on Pickering's list.



7. The Waldegrave Collection.  
A small selection of the hoard of letters, manuscripts, and printed books that Lewis acquired from the Waldegrave family in 1948, after more than fifteen years of friendship.

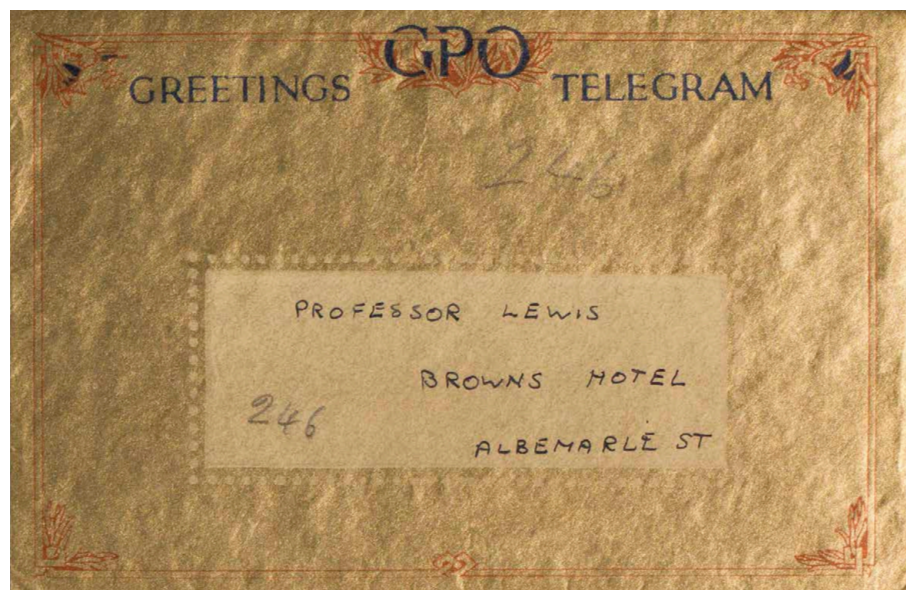
The other and essential weapon in the young Lewis's armory was his gaiety and charm. Annie Burr told him that at their first meeting at Oldgate she had thought his entrance very gay, and Tinker had admonished him in his sophomore year at Yale, "Don't ever lose your gaiety." John Carter opened his review of Lewis's *Collector's Progress* (1951) with the words "Mr. Wilmarth Lewis is an example of that very rare phenomenon, an unabashed fanatic with a lively sense of humour"; and to read that book with its self-deprecating and informal style is to understand just how engaging Lewis could be. He recounts his adventures, triumphs, and disasters with such enthusiasm and wry amusement that no great interest in Horace Walpole is necessary to enjoy the book, which displays a lightness of touch that is far less evident in his later writings.

That determined charm was employed most effectively on private owners of Walpole material, particularly those who had inherited it.

Lewis perfected the delicate pirouette needed to engage and entertain his quarries before convincing them that all parties would be most satisfied if their Walpole books or manuscripts were transferred to Farmington. The classic example here is the extended operation by which he acquired the large part of the extensive inherited Walpole collection of the Waldegrave family, including the contemporaneous transcripts of Walpole's letters to Sir Horace Mann (his greatest correspondence, of which the original letters are lost), commonplace books of Walpole's, numerous other letters and manuscripts, Strawberry Hill items of the greatest rarity, and books from Walpole's library (fig. 7). Lewis got to know Geoffrey, the future twelfth Earl Waldegrave, and his wife, Mary, in 1931, and they became good friends, exchanging occasional visits and maintaining a long correspondence. But there was never any question about Lewis's passionate interest in the family archive, both for his own collection and for what it could contribute to the great work of the Yale edition of Walpole's correspondence, and over the years the sense of obligation and of the inevitability of the trove crossing the Atlantic was slowly imposed. Only in 1948 was Lewis able at long last to secure the treasure, and looking back at his conduct after his death, Lady Waldegrave commented, "it would not be out of all reason to say 'This was banditry—this turning of the screw was pretty unscrupulous' and so indeed it was."<sup>8</sup> And yet, as she acknowledges, their friendship survived and was clearly greatly valued by them. But it is significant that despite being surely his greatest coup, Lewis never included it among the anecdotes of his collecting triumphs.

One of Lewis's great set pieces, free of such moral complications, was his encounter with Richard Bentley, descendant of Bentley the publishers, a splendidly eccentric Edwardian figure who met Lewis and his wife at Slough station in 1935—short, stout, bewhiskered, with a bright checked waistcoat and a bowler hat—and took them in a massive automobile to his 1890s pile at Upton. Lewis had already acquired from him Sir Horace Mann's letters to Walpole, having convinced him that Farmington was the proper repository for them, but had subsequently realized that Bentley might also own the letters to Walpole from William Mason (1725–1797), which Bentley had published in 1851. His host was eventually, after lunch and other distractions (which included revealing a wing of the





GREETINGS GPO TELEGRAM		
OFFICE OF ORIGIN	SLOUGH	SERIAL NUMBER 892.
OFFICE OF RECEIPT	PICCADILLY B.O	DATE
PROFESSOR LEWIS BROWNS HOTEL ALBEMARLE ST W I		
EUREKA MASON BENTLEY		



house fitted up as a ship, concealed behind a sliding door), prevailed on to consult a volume recording the various Bentley publications, which he handed Lewis to read. The entry for the Mason correspondence concluded with the note that the originals of Mason's letters to Walpole were "in the possession of Mr Richard Bentley of Upton, Slough, Bucks." As Lewis recounts:

As I read this last aloud, Mr Bentley fell over into the chair, his short legs sticking above the arm. He was breathing heavily.

"What a very pertinacious young man!" I heard him say.

"Have you given the letters away?" I asked.

"No."

"Have you sold them?"

"No."

"Then they must still be here!"

There was a pause. "Time for tea," said Mr Bentley firmly, struggling up out of the chair and taking the book from me.<sup>9</sup>

This was followed by a succession of breathless letters reporting from Upton as Bentley searched the various libraries there for the letters, concluding with a triumphant greetings telegram with a gold border in a gold envelope when the letters were at last tracked down and shortly after passed over to Lewis (fig. 8).

There were other instances where Lewis can be seen deploying his charm on hesitant owners, as when he broke the ice staying for the first time with Sir Wathen Waller by revealing that he had inadvertently packed two left shoes, one evening shoe, one golfing. His connections and ease in dealing with the English gentry certainly helped, as with the Vernons, who had at their house in Somerset the originals of Walpole's letters to Lady Ossory, perhaps Walpole's most sparkling correspondence. Lewis over a period of years had placed advertisements in the London *Times* in the hope of tracing Walpole's original letters for the Yale edition, using his London hotel in Mayfair as his correspondence address (fig. 9). The results were uneven, but such an advertisement did result in a major coup in 1935, when Mr. Vernon happened to see it on a long train journey when he had finished his copy of *The Times* and had nothing

8. Telegram and envelope sent from Richard Bentley to W.S. Lewis, 1935. LWL MSS 20, box 12, folder 12. The celebratory telegram announces his discovery of William Mason's original letters to Walpole.

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MORRIS.—  
otherwise JOAN MORRIS (d.  
wallis Gardens, Hastings, Sussex, died there  
ary 19, 1953 (estate about £4,500). The kin of the  
above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury  
Solicitor (B.V.), Storey's Gate, St. James's Park, London,  
S.W.1.

HORACE WALPOLE.—Mr. W. S. Lewis, Brown's  
Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, is anxious to discover the  
whereabouts of letters to and from Horace Walpole and  
books formerly in his library for use in the Yale Edition  
of Horace Walpole's Correspondence.

BOULTWOOD.—God's blessing and congratulations to  
Clare on the occasion of her 21st birthday, June 22nd,  
from Daddy, Rene, Dom Alban (Washington, D.C.),  
Monica, and Cecilia.

WILL you please give generously for your ALEX-  
ANDRA ROSE to-morrow. More than 200 charities  
benefit.

OLD ST. JOHN'S (Bexhill) Girls and Staff, please send  
subscriptions to E.B.H. Memorial to Miss Coates, 16,  
Charmouth Grove, Parkstone, Dorset.

CORONATION NIGHT.—Will anyone who attended a  
public ball in a marquee in Hyde Park on Coronation  
night and feels inspired to write a description of the occa-  
sion please communicate at once with Derek Verschoyle  
Ltd., Publishers, 13, Park Place, St. James's, S.W.1.

YOUNG BACHELOR unable afford holiday 1953 would  
accompany or serve gentleman/men any capacity  
anywhere 2-3 weeks in return for expenses.—BM/RVON,  
London, W.C.1.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTE

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of age, education  
personal referen  
known

9. Advertisement placed by Lewis  
in *The Times*, London, June 22,  
1953. It was from an earlier version  
of such an advertisement that  
Lewis secured the use of Walpole's  
original letters to Lady Ossory.

else to read. The fact that Lewis and his wife were staying at the very repu-  
table and traditional Brown's hotel emboldened Mr. Vernon to offer to  
send the letters to Brown's to inspect, an offer that Lewis wisely declined  
in favor of visiting the Vernons at Bishop's Lydeard. There, the discovery  
that the Lewises were staying overnight with mutual friends at Dunster  
Castle broke down any remaining barriers, with the result that the letters  
were handed over to Lewis for a year for photocopying and editing.

Such dedication and obsession could produce surprising results,  
as with the mobile canteen that he and Annie Burr donated for use in  
England in the Second World War, complete with plaque recording that  
it was given in memory of Horace Walpole (fig. 10). They also came at  
a price. The genial, approachable tone of *Collector's Progress* is in sharp  
contrast to his later and weightier autobiography, *One Man's Education*  
(1967). Some of the engaging informality is still there, and many of



IN MEMORY OF  
HORACE WALPOLE  
1717 — 1797  
GIVEN BY W.S.L. & A.B.L.  
U.S.A.

10. Mobile Kitchen for British War Relief Society (detail), 1941. Photograph. LWL MSS 20, box 17, folder 2. Presented by the Lewis's and used during the blitz in Manchester. The plaque commemorating Walpole is visible to the left of the serving hatch.

the same anecdotes appear, but this is a methodical and chronological account of his life, and oddly it is written in the third person. Odder still, he refers to himself by different names at different stages of his life—Wilmarth as a child, Lewie at Thacher, then Lefty (the nickname he acquired at Yale and always retained), and finally Lewis—creating a strange sense of detachment in his narrative. The essential egotism of the man is far more visible. The book also displays remarkable frankness about his troubled relationship with the past, in particular with his possessive mother, and the miscellaneous ailments to which he succumbed at times of stress. He acknowledges that he had identified with Walpole, and that “for thirty years and more he felt that anyone who criticized Walpole was criticizing him” (fig. 11).<sup>10</sup> Although his sense of detachment evolved over the years, he remained troubled by what he saw as the ambiguity of Walpole’s sexual identity, and what others have seen as Walpole’s clear homosexual orientation.

Lewis writes of the therapy he had undertaken in the 1920s, and how, when the handsome New Library that the architect William Adams Delano had designed for his house in Farmington was in 1928 completed and shelved with his Walpole books, he was so oppressed by the sense that Lewis and Farmington had been swallowed up in Walpole and Strawberry Hill that he could hardly bear to enter it, and returned to therapy. The Lewises never had children, and Lewis was well aware that for him and Annie Burr, “the house and its collections became something more than a habitation” (figs. 12–14). Although he had in 1947 been received into Farmington’s Congregational Church, he lapsed after Annie Burr’s death, and it is revealing that he notes how there was a sense in which he had substituted Yale for God, and when chairman of the Yale Library Associates had made the library its church.<sup>11</sup> His sense of divine guidance or serendipity in his collecting, the sixth sense that led him to uncover Walpole items in unexpected places, and the use of such phrases as “pieces of the True Cross” for items of recovered Walpoliana and “stigmata” for Walpole shelf marks in his books, suggest that Lewis had enrolled his Maker in his great collecting and scholarly adventure. The closing sentence of *Rescuing Horace Walpole* records his “hope—and belief—that some reader of this page will rescue a true piece in the vast mosaic for us and set all the bells of Walpoleshire ringing with joy and

11. W. S. Lewis at the Walpole exhibition at Trinity College, Hartford (detail), October 29, 1973. Photograph. LWL MSS 22, box 2, folder 27. Lewis is staring at his portrait of Walpole by Allan Ramsay, and their gazes across two centuries appear to be inextricably locked. Contrast with this the unnerving chemistry of Adrian Lamb’s capriccio of Lewis and Walpole (see p. 27); the painting was a gift to Lewis, who strongly disliked it.







12–14. W.S. Lewis and Annie Burr Lewis in the New Library, January 1959. Three photographs. LWL MSS 22, box 7, folder 8. These photographs were taken four months before Annie Burr died of cancer in May 1959.

gratitude as the Almighty Himself nods approval.” The fanaticism noted by John Carter is not to be ignored.

Also not to be ignored, and the product of the same drive as that fanaticism, was the extraordinary application of method in Lewis’s conduct of his great enterprise. In addition to his black notebooks recording the whereabouts of all known pieces of Walpoliana, there is at Farmington a complex web of hundreds of thousands of index cards, cross-referencing the material in the collection by every conceivable criteria. By 1967 Lewis could refer to 850,000 index cards, and at the end of his life noted that there were then sixty thousand cards for the library’s great collection of satirical prints alone, with up to forty-three cards to record the varied elements of each print. There are twelve large lever-arch files of diurnal, recording Walpole’s activities day by day, and myriad card indexes, one on the marginalia in Walpole’s books, one on purchasers of Walpoliana, one on books mentioned by him, one on





15. W. S. Lewis's Coordinator of Information badge, 1941. Office of Strategic Services. Household Object 2100, box 72

gifts of books made by him; and then a catalog listing all the different card index systems, more than a hundred of them—a cornucopia of card indexes. But the control of accessible information is displayed most clearly in the index to the Yale edition, perhaps 300,000 entries over three thousand pages in five volumes published in 1983 that have served the needs of scholars ever since.

Lewis's skills of ordering and retrieving information in a pre-computer age were harnessed when he agreed in 1941 to act as chief of the fledgling Central Information Division in what was to become the Office of Strategic Services (fig. 15). Although he worked there for only two years, it has been claimed that his intelligence work had significant impact on the way that information was controlled and distributed. Another product of Lewis's organizational skills was the Farmington Plan, a national scheme by which American libraries divided up between themselves responsibility for acquiring the books of foreign countries. At Yale, meanwhile, he formed

the Yale Library Associates and served on the Yale Corporation from 1938 to 1964; and to Yale he gave his library.

Although the death of Annie Burr had been a terrible blow, in his twenty years of widowhood he showed great resilience, continued his collecting, rejoiced in the progress of the Yale edition toward completion, maintained his friendships, and retained a sense of humor. This exhibition marks the fortieth anniversary of Lewis's death on 7 October 1979 and celebrates his achievements as scholar and collector, and the generosity of his bequest of his collections and house to Yale. The Lewis Walpole Library is now a thriving part of the Yale University Library, with a modern reading room and facilities, an active fellowship program and acquisitions budget, an ever-changing community of visiting scholars, and the fruits of Lewis's collecting in regular demand. Perhaps the bells of Walpoleshire are ringing after all.

## Notes

- 1 When preparing the revised, 1784 edition of his account of his house and collection, *A Description of the Villa of Mr. Horace Walpole, Youngest Son of Sir Robert Walpole Earl of Orford, at Strawberry-Hill near Twickenham, Middlesex. With an Inventory of the Furniture, Pictures, Curiosities, &c.*, Walpole drew up the list of Principal Curiosities, adding to it as further items were acquired. It was bound into the copy of the original edition of 1774 that he annotated when preparing the new edition (Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University, 49 2523: 121.12). See <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/digcoll/2800149>.
- 2 W.S. Lewis, *One Man's Education* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1967), 230, quoting *Aeneid*, I, lines 404–5.
- 3 *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, 48 vols., ed. W.S. Lewis (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1937–83). For a selection of Walpole's

letters, see *Horace Walpole Selected Letters*, ed. Stephen Clarke, from a selection by William Hadley (New York: Everyman's Library, 2017).

- 4 *One Man's Education*, 266–67; and Warren Hunting Smith, "Horace Walpole's Correspondence," *Yale University Library Gazette* 48, nos. 1–2 (October 1983): 23.

- 5 John Carter, "Wilmarth S. Lewis," review of Lewis's *Collector's Progress* (1951), reprinted in *Books and Book Collectors* (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1956), 54.

- 6 W.S. Lewis, *Rescuing Horace Walpole* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1978), 76.

- 7 *One Man's Education*, 316.

- 8 Mary Waldegrave, "'Lefty' Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis," *The Book Collector* 29 (Summer 1980): 247.

- 9 W.S. Lewis, *Collector's Progress* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1951), 204–5.

- 10 *One Man's Education*, 206.

- 11 *Ibid.*, 241, 236, and 304.



## Exhibition Checklist

All objects are from the collection of the  
Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University

### Wall 1

Nina Leen for *Life* Magazine  
*W. S. Lewis in the North Library at  
Farmington, September 1944*  
[front cover]

Photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 21, folder 3

- Adrian Lamb  
*Capriccio of Walpole and W. S. Lewis  
at Farmington, 1950*  
Oil on canvas, 49.1 x 61 cm  
LWL Ptg. 169

### Wall 2

Richard Bentley  
“Frontispiece” to Horace Walpole’s  
*Memoires of the Last Ten Years of the Reign  
of George the Second*, ca. 1752  
Pen and ink, 27.5 x 15.5 cm  
LWL MSS Vol. 152

Sir George Hayter, R.A.  
*Lady Louisa Stuart*, 1851  
Oil on canvas, 54 x 42.5 cm  
LWL Ptg. 106

W.S. Lewis at the Walpole exhibition at  
Trinity College, Hartford, October 29,  
1973 [fig. 11]  
Photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 2, folder 27

Richard Bentley  
Letter to W.S. Lewis, July 30, 1934  
LWL MSS 20, box 12, folder 12

Richard Bentley  
Booklet with photographs, 1933–35  
LWL MSS 20, box 12, folder 12

Richard Bentley  
Letter to W.S. Lewis, July 23, 1935  
LWL MSS 20, box 12, folder 12



Richard Bentley  
Letter to W.S. Lewis, July 31, 1935  
LWL MSS 20, box 12, folder 12

Richard Bentley  
Telegram to W.S. Lewis with gold  
envelope, 1935 [fig. 8]  
LWL MSS 20, box 12, folder 12

### Wall 3

William Adams Delano  
“Plan for the New Library,” August 1928  
Pencil, 81 x 72 cm  
LWL MSS 20, box 339

William Adams Delano  
Letter to W.S. Lewis, November 1, 1927  
LWL MSS 20, box 33, folder 9

W.F. Miller & Co., Hartford  
New Library, September 1955  
[back cover]

Photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 10, folder 15

W.F. Miller & Co., Hartford  
New Library, looking at window,  
September 1955  
Photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 10, folder 15

The Lewises with their car outside  
Cowles House, 1944 [fig. 1]  
Photograph

LWL MSS 22, box 23, folder 16

Annie Burr Lewis’s wedding dress, 1928  
Velvet

Annie Burr Lewis wedding portrait,  
1928  
Studio photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 23, folder 6

F.W. Hilles  
“Hail Wilmarth!” Tributes to Wilmarth  
Sheldon Lewis for his 80th Birthday,  
1975  
LWL MSS 20, box 175, folder 2

Thornton Wilder  
“Floriati.” Tributes to Wilmarth Sheldon  
Lewis for his 80th Birthday, 1975  
LWL MSS 20, box 175, folder 2

Maynard Mack  
“Small Ode.” Tributes to Wilmarth  
Sheldon Lewis for his 80th Birthday,  
1975  
LWL MSS 20, box 175, folder 2

Edwine Martz  
“When gothic storms.” Tributes to  
Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis for his 80th  
Birthday, 1975  
LWL MSS 20, box 175, folder 2

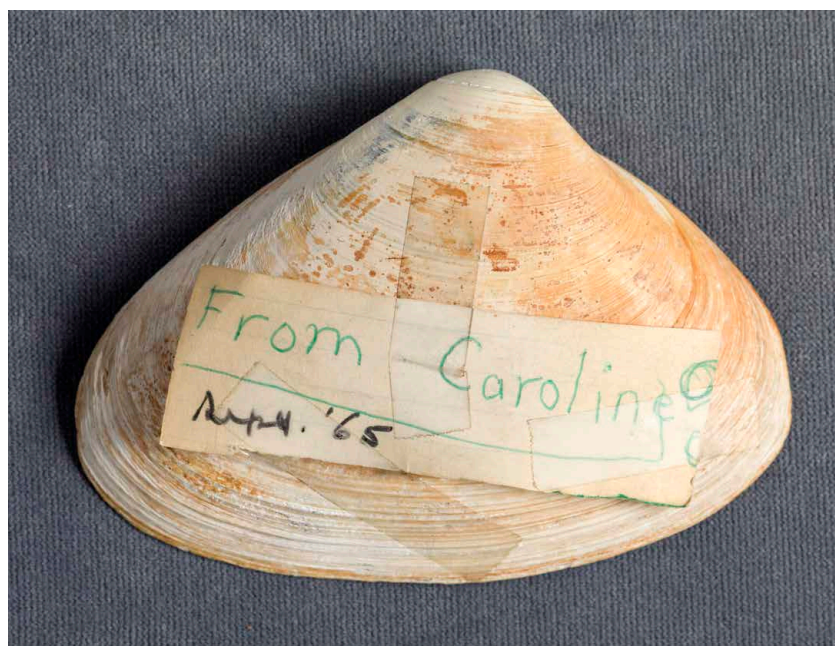
Fritz Liebert  
“The Magpie and his Brood,” 1975  
45 975 L62

Thomas Patch  
*Sterne and Death*, 1768  
Etching, 43 x 31 cm  
768.00.00.04+

### Case 1

W.S. Lewis as a child holding a shell  
at the beach, ca. 1900  
Photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 1, folder 3

- ▼ Seashell from Caroline,  
September 1965  
Gift from Caroline Bouvier Kennedy  
to W.S. Lewis  
Household object 2072, box 70



W.S. Lewis and Annie Burr Auchincloss  
at Newport, Rhode Island, 1927 [fig. 2]  
Photograph  
LWL MSS 22, box 7, folder 1

Guest Book, 1926–79  
LWL MSS 20, box 291

John Heneage Jesse  
*George Selwyn and His Contemporaries*,  
vol. 1. [fig. 3]  
London: Richard Bentley, 1843  
53 Se4J49

Lady Louisa Stuart  
Manuscript notes on John Heneage  
Jesse's *George Selwyn and His  
Contemporaries*, ca. 1843–44 [fig. 3]  
LWL MSS File 118

Messrs. Hodgson & Co.  
First Day's Sale, February 28, 1924,  
Lot 100, in *A Catalogue of Exceedingly  
Rare & Valuable Books from the Library  
of The Rt. Hon. C.G. Milnes Gaskell*

Messrs. Hodgson & Co.  
Cover, with manuscript note by W. S.  
Lewis, of *A Catalogue of Exceedingly Rare  
& Valuable Books from the Library of The  
Rt. Hon. C.G. Milnes Gaskell*, February  
1924

Horace Walpole  
Letter to John Pinkerton,  
August 18, 1785  
LWL MSS 1, box 35, folder 6

Horace Walpole  
Letter to John Pinkerton, July 31, 1789  
LWL MSS 1, box 35, folder 16

Horace Walpole  
Letter to John Pinkerton,  
August 14, 1789  
LWL MSS 1, box 35, folder 17

Horace Walpole  
Letter to John Pinkerton,  
December 26, 1791  
LWL MSS 1, box 35, folder 20

Horace Walpole  
Letter to John Pinkerton,  
September 25, 1793  
LWL MSS 1, box 35, folder 21

Horace Walpole  
Letter to John Pinkerton,  
January 25, 1795  
LWL MSS 1, box 35, folder 26

Joseph Reed, Jr.  
*A View of Strawberry Hill*, 1970 [fig. 5]  
Vignette in oil on ivory, 4 x 6 cm  
Household object 2064, box 70

Richard Bentley  
*Perspective of the Hall & Staircase at  
Strawberryhill*, ca. 1753  
Pen and ink and watercolor  
Folio 49 3585 f.30

W. S. Lewis  
4 notebooks (the “Black Books”) listing  
other owners of Walpoliana, 1930s–70s  
[fig. 6]  
Typescripts in binders

Allen T. Hazen  
*A Catalogue of Horace Walpole's Library*,  
 pp. 118–19  
 New Haven and London:  
 Yale University Press, 1969  
 41 969H Copy 2, vol. 2

## Case 2

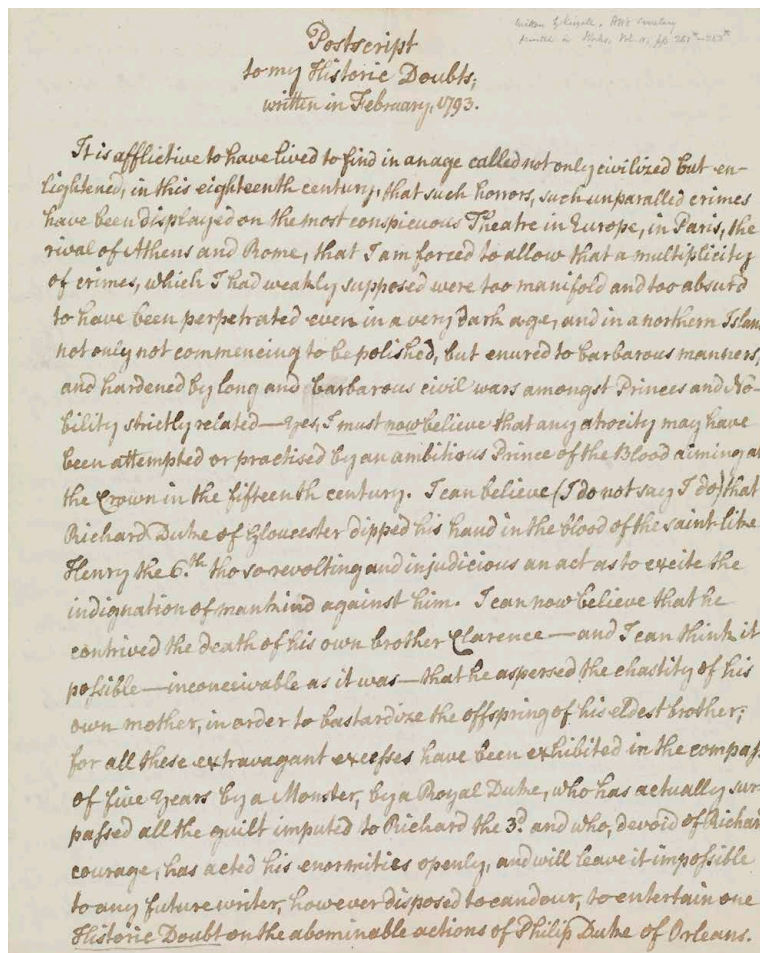
Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge  
 First Day, December 5, 1921,  
 in *Catalogue of Important Autograph  
 Letters and Historical Documents, the  
 Property of Sir Wathen Waller...*,  
 December 1921

➤ Horace Walpole  
 “Postscript to My Historic Doubts,”  
 February 1793  
 Transcribed by Thomas Kirgate  
 LWL MSS 1, box 41, folder 9

John Lord Hervey  
 Letter to Mrs. Clayton, July 31, 1733  
 Transcribed by Thomas Kirgate, with  
 manuscript note by Horace Walpole  
 In “Postscript to My Historic Doubts,”  
 February 1793, transcribed by Thomas  
 Kirgate  
 LWL MSS 1, box 43, folder 9

W.S. Lewis  
 Letter to Geoffrey, twelfth Earl  
 Waldegrave, August 5, 1937  
 LWL MSS 20, box 141, folder 3

A selection of books and manuscripts  
 from the Waldegrave Collection  
 [fig. 7]: Horace Walpole, *Fugitive Pieces  
 in Verse and Prose*, 1758 (33 4 Copy 16);  
 Horace Walpole, *A Description of the  
 Villa of Horace Walpole...*, Strawberry Hill,  
 1774–86 (33 22 Copy 5); *Miscellanies* by  
 Horace Walpole, Printed at Strawberry  
 Hill, 1772–85, ca. 1790 (335 T);  
*Miscellaneous Antiquities*, Strawberry  
 Hill, 1772 (49 2509); *Poems*, Printed  
 at Strawberry Hill, 1757–89 (335 R);  
*Tracts* by Horace Walpole, 1748–64,  
 2 vols. (24 6B); *Poems & Plays*, Printed  
 at Strawberry Hill, 1769–74 (335 S);



Horace Walpole, *A Commonplace Book of  
 Verses, Stories, Characters, Letters, etc., etc.*,  
 1763 (Quarto 49 2616 I Ms); Horace  
 Walpole, *A Commonplace Book of Verses,  
 Stories, Characters, Letters, etc., etc.*, 1763  
 (Quarto 49 2616 III Ms)

Francis Grose  
*View of Strawberry Hill*, 1787  
 Watercolor on wove paper,  
 26.5 x 41.4 cm  
 Folio 49 3678.15+ (Oversize)

W.S. Lewis's Coordinator of  
 Information badge, 1941 [fig. 15]  
 Office of Strategic Services  
 Household Object 2100, box 72

Mobile Kitchen for British War Relief  
 Society, 1941 [fig. 10]  
 Photograph  
 LWL MSS 20, box 17, folder 2

“In memory of” plaque for Mobile  
 Kitchen  
 Photograph  
 LWL MSS 20, box 17, folder 2

Album of photographs, 1948–58  
 LWL MSS 22, box 32

W.S. Lewis and Annie Burr Lewis  
 in the New Library, January 1959  
 [figs. 12–14]  
 3 photographs  
 LWL MSS 22, box 7, folder 8



# 837

To Author  
Please return this set of proofs to Yale  
University Press. Please answer all  
queries indicated on this set of proofs.

—GALLEY ONE— . . . . . Chandler

From Cole, Sunday 16 May 1762

Cole's copy, Add. MS. 33.1, ff. 222-3. The original is missing.

Cole prefixed the following note to the letter: 'In the course of my reading Mr Walpole's book lately published on *Painting in England*, I made a few observations which I sent to him in the following letter; and as I had not put together the account of Sir Horatio Palavicini; and as two or three other things in it were not entered in any of my volumes, particularly concerning the execution of King Charles I. I will e'en transcribe the whole as I sent it.'

Address: For the Honourable Horace Walpole, Esq., in Arlington Street, London.

Blecheley, May 16, 1762.

1. Bucks. The modern spelling is Blechley. In 1753, he [Cole] was presented by his early friend and Patron Henry Wills, Esq., to the Rectory of Blechley in Buckinghamshire; which he resigned, March 20, 1768, in favour of his patron's grandson' (A. 1. 69b).

Dear Sir,

**T**HE extreme pleasure and entertainment I have received from your two late volumes on *Painting in England*<sup>1</sup> call for my most

2. *Anecdotes of Painting in England; with some account of the principal artists; and incidental notes on other arts, collected by the late Mr. George Vertue, and now digested and published from his original MSS. By Mr. Horace Walpole* Strawberry Hill, 1762. The two first volumes were published February 15, 1762 (*Journal* 10).

grateful acknowledgements. Indeed it was a continual feast from one end to the other, and it is no small satisfaction to think that we are to be favoured with another volume before the entertainment is to be over.

After having said thus much, which truth and gratitude force from me, I must apologise for the present trouble and inform you that in the course of my reading your book I met with two or three errata, or false printings, which I hope you will excuse me for pointing out, if you have not done it already, which is more probable. With these I have put down two or three trifling observations of another sort, which perhaps might as well have been let alone. Yet, such as they are, I submit them to your candour, where I well know I am safe, and so shall put them down without further ceremony.

Vol. 1, p. 148. In the article of Petruccio Ubalidini,<sup>2</sup> one of his

3. (1527-1607), illuminator and scholar; first visited England in 1540, and resided there at intervals, employed by Henry VIII and Edward VI. His *Vite dei Santi* (London, 1606), was the first Italian book printed in England; re-ed.

books is there thus entitled: *Le Vite dei fatti di sei donne illustri*. Perhaps this may be a different book from one in my possession which is thus entitled at large, and is in quarto:

*Le Vite delle Donne illustri del Regno d'Inghilterra & del Regno di Scotia, & di quelle, che d'altri paesi ne i due detti Regni sono state maritate. [ . . . ] Scritte in lingua Italiana da Petruccio Ubalidino, Cittadino Fiorentino. Londra. Appresso Giovanni Volpio, 1591.*

If this is a different book from that which you have given us the title of, my observation is impertinent; as I was apt to suppose it might be the same. However, to make the best apology for it, whether right or wrong, if you have not the book already, I shall think myself much obliged if you will give it a place in your library, and at the same time will do myself the further pleasure of bringing it and staying a day or two with you at Strawberry Hill some time before the summer is concluded: a pleasure I should long ago have embraced, as you have been so obliging more than once to invite me; was it not for a

4. The dates of these invitations are not known.

fear of coming unopportunitly; and therefore shall take it as a very particular favour, if you would be pleased any time when you are most at leisure, to let me know it, as the distance between us<sup>3</sup> will

5. The distance between Blecheley and St. Albans, via Aylesbury and Uxbridge, was about 45 miles (cf. *foot* 2).

easily allow me to reach you in one day, and my time [is] always my own.

P. 160, vol. 1. You seem to mention Horatio Palavicini<sup>4</sup> as a person

6. Sir Horatio Palavicini (d. 1609), architect and financial agent, was born in Genoa, but took up residence in England and was knighted in 1587. Cole's account, which agrees substantially with that in *ibid.*, was adopted in part by HW in *Anecdotes* I, 1721 n. Cole wrote to Richard Gough 24 Dec. 1772: 'After Mr Walpole had published his *Anecdotes on Painting*, I sent him, in 1762, an account of the Palavicini family as an illustration to what he had said about Horace Palavicini. I will transcribe my account just as I sent it to him' (A. 1. 69b). Gough inserted Cole's notes, without acknowledgment, almost *verbatim* in his enlarged edition of *Camden's Britannia*, 3 vols. 1799, II, 136. He also used the account in his *Short Genealogical View of the Family of Oliver Cromwell*, 1789, Appendix VI, 41-3 (this work forms No. 31 of John Nichols's *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*).

concerned in the tapestry manufacture; and possibly he might be so. However, the constant tradition that prevails about him at the place where he lived, and where I was born<sup>5</sup>, is, that he was collector

7. Babraham, near Gog Magog Hills, Cambs. Cole refers to Babraham as 'my native parish, though I was born in Little Abington just by' (A. VIII, 382). See also *ibid.*, *passim*.

of the Pope's dues in England in Queen Mary's time, and on her death and sister's accession, he took the liberty of detaining his master's money and staying in a country where, at that time, such a piece of knavery and dishonesty would be sure to meet with the public applause; and not be looked upon in the light it deserved. Thus much is certain, that he was owner of the estate and house at Babraham<sup>6</sup> [sic], about five or six miles from Cambridge, where, in the hall,

8. See post. 'Mr. W. should have said that Babraham [sic] in Cambridgeshire was the first specimen of the pure Italian style, built by Sir H. Palavicini, Little Shelford, which he quotes, was built in imitation of it, by his son, Tobias Palavicini' (*Anecdotes*, ed. Ballouin, 1825, II, 160).

Handwritten notes on the left margin:

- Respectfully closed
- JP O [in the 1890s]
- Handwritten in the left margin: 'as set through book? it has been assumed that references will be supplied later'
- ecA
- MS. A. 1. 69b

### Case 3

◀ Galley proofs for *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, with Style Sheet booklet and Normalization of the Text notes [fig. 4], 1930s  
LWL MSS 23, box 11, folder 2, and box 4, folders 7 and 9

Letters from Horace Walpole to Horace Mann, March 1768  
In *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, vol. 23, p. 5  
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967  
22 937 Copy 3, vol. 23

➤ Horace Walpole  
Letter to Horace Mann, March 31, 1768  
"Transcripts of Letters from Walpole to Sir Horace Mann, 1741-8"  
LWL MSS Vol. 134, volume 3

Letter from Horace Walpole to William Cole, April 7, 1773  
In *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, vol. 1, pp. 304-5  
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937  
22 937 Copy 3, vol. 1

*A Catalogue of the Large and Capital Collection of Pictures, by the most admired Italian, French, Flemish and Dutch Masters...of James West, Esq, 1773*  
49 2050 v.1



little preferable to an old one, and because I thought it would be raising the quicksilver of your impatience unnecessarily. I do not think any honours will be bestowed yet. The Peerages are all postponed to an indefinite time — If you are in a violent hurry you may petition the Ghosts of your neighbours c Masaniello and the Gracchi. The Spirit of one of them walks here — nay, I saw it go by my window yesterday at noon in a hackney chair —

Friday.

I was interrupted yesterday. The Ghost is laid for a time in a red Sea of Port and Claret. This Spectre is the famous Wilkes. He appeared the moment the Parliament was dissolved. The Ministry despised him. He stood for the City of London, and was the last on the poll of seven candidates, none but the mob, and most of them without votes, favouring him. He then offered himself to the County of Middlesex. The Election came on last Monday. By five in the morning a very large body of Weavers, &c. took possession of Piccadilly, and the roads and turnpikes leading to Brentford, and would suffer nobody to pass without blue cockades, and papers inscribed N<sup>o</sup> 45, Wilkes and Liberty. They tore to pieces the coaches of Sir W. Beauchamp Proctor, and M<sup>r</sup>. Cooke, the other Candidates, tho the Latter was not there, but in bed with the Gout — and it was with difficulty that Sir William and M<sup>r</sup>. Cooke's Cousin got to Brentford. There however lest it should be declared a void Election Wilkes had the sense to keep every thing quiet. But about five, Wilkes being considerably a head of the other Two, his mob returned to Town and behaved outrageously. They stopped every carriage, scratched and spoiled several, with writing all over them N<sup>o</sup> 45, pelted, threw dirt and stones, and forced every body to hurra for Wilkes. I did but cross Piccadilly at eight in my coach with a French Monsieur



## Acknowledgments

This exhibition has throughout its preparation had the enthusiastic support of Nicole Bouché, Librarian and Executive Director of the Lewis Walpole Library, and her staff, for which I am very grateful. I would particularly like to thank Sandra Markham, who has catalogued the Lewis Archive and made it readily accessible online, Cynthia Roman, Susan Walker, Ellen Cordes, Kristen McDonald, and Scott Poglitsch. My especial thanks also to Rebecca Martz for designing and Lesley Baier for editing this catalogue, to Kerri Sancomb for exhibition design, Laura O'Brien Miller for conservation, and Peter Sabor for reading a draft of the catalogue essay.

### FRONT COVER

*W. S. Lewis in the North Library at Farmington*, September 1944. Photograph by Nina Leen for *Life* Magazine. The lantern was designed by Richard Bentley for the main staircase at Strawberry Hill. LWL MSS 22, box 21, folder 3

### BACK COVER

New Library, September 1955. Photograph by W.F. Miller & Co., Hartford. LWL MSS 22, box 10, folder 15

Produced in conjunction with an exhibition at the Lewis Walpole Library, on view from September 20, 2019, to January 24, 2020

Designed and set in ITC New Baskerville typefaces  
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Yale



