

FURTHER READING

Editions and selections of letters designed for the general reader go in and out of print. Older copies can frequently be located online at abebooks.com and alibris.com, as well as, of course, in libraries.

Many of the writers that feature in this book have left a vast corpus of correspondence, but the surviving letters of Dorothy Osborne, of Ignatius Sancho and of Eliza Fay each fill one modest volume and can be read in any convenient edition, including those specified in the Notes.

Among the subjects of the earlier chapters, the most significant contributors to English epistolary literature are the Pastons, the Lisles, John Chamberlain and James Howell. Highly recommended are the two volumes of *The Paston Letters* edited by John Warrington for Everyman's Library (London: Dent; New York: Dutton, 1956) and *The Lisle Letters: An Abridgement* edited by Muriel St. Clare Byrne and selected by Bridget Boland (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983). *The Chamberlain Letters* edited by Elizabeth McLure Thomson (London: Murray, 1965) is a manageable selection from the writer's wordy legacy. James Howell's *Epistolae Ho-Eliaanae*, once a popular work, has been reprinted by Forgotten Books of London and is listed online.

Oxford University Press has published valuable selections from the letters of Pope, Chesterfield, Johnson, Burns and Keats. These are *Letters of Alexander Pope*, edited by John Butts (1960); *Lord Chesterfield, Letters*, edited by David Roberts; *Selected Letters of Samuel Johnson* (1925), introduced by R. W. C[hapman]; *Selected Letters of Robert Burns*, edited by DeLancey Ferguson (1953); and John Keats, *Selected Letters*, edited by Robert Gittings, revised by John Mee (2002).

Much to be desired is a more substantial selection than we have from the letters of Horace Walpole, a volume comparable with *The Shorter Pepys* of Robert Latham. However, Walpole's *Selected Letters*, edited by William Hadley for Everyman's Library (London: Dent; New York: Dutton, 1926) covers a large part of the writer's life and interests, though the arrangement is unfortunately thematic, not chronological.

No selection of Coleridge's letters known to me does justice to the arresting descriptions he writes of his hikes and travels. However, the close on two hundred pages of his correspondence included in his *Select Poetry and Prose* edited by Stephen Potter (London: The Nonesuch Press, 1933) is well worth reading. For Byron, excellent choices are *The Letters of George Gordon 6th Lord Byron*, edited by R. G. Howarth, in Everyman's

Library (London: Dent; New York: Dutton, 1936) and, for unexpurgated texts, Lord Byron, *Selected Letters and Journals*, edited by Leslie A. Marchand (Cambridge, Mass.: the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press; London: John Murray, 1982).

There is no collected or scholarly edition of Mary Russell Mitford's letters, but R. Brimley Johnson's selection, *The Letters of Mary Russell Mitford* (New York: The Dial Press, 1925), was reprinted by Folcroft Library editions in 1977. In *Jane Welsh Carlyle: A New Selection of Her Letters* (London: Gollancz, 1950), Trudy Bliss usefully adopts a chronological order. Alan and Mary McQueen Simpson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), in *I Too Am Here: Selections from the Letters of Jane Welsh Carlyle* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), compensate for what is lost or disguised by the arrangement according to dominant subject matter with their fine introductions and notes. In the case of Mrs. Browning, Frederic G. Kenyon (no relation of her cousin John Kenyon) compiled an admirable collection, *The Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, which came out in 1897 in two volumes; these were reprinted between one pair of covers two years later.