

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-0-521-83218-2 — Correspondence Primarily on Sir Charles Grandison(1750–1754)

Samuel Richardson , Edited by Betty A. Schellenberg

Excerpt

[More Information](#)

RICHARDSON'S CORRESPONDENCE PRIMARILY
ON *SIR CHARLES GRANDISON* (1750–1754)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-0-521-83218-2 — Correspondence Primarily on Sir Charles Grandison (1750–1754)

Samuel Richardson, Edited by Betty A. Schellenberg

Excerpt

[More Information](#)

COLLEY CIBBER TO SR, TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 1750

Colley Cibber¹ to Richardson

Tuesday 16 January 1750

MS: New York Public Library, Berg 211090B A 288. Autograph letter sent.²

First printing: Barbauld, *Correspondence*, II, 171–2 (1804).

Address: To Mr. Richardson (in Cibber's hand).

Endorsement: Mr. Cibber Jan. 16. 1749/50 (in SR's hand).³

Jan 6. 1749/50.⁴

Sir,

Yesterday I saw our equal delight, Miss *Muse*,⁵ who has not only open'd her leaves to a full Blow of her Rose, but has taken *Boileau* to task for regretting his inclination to the Nine Ladies, who had so lavishly bestow'd their favours on him.⁶ In a word she has translated, improv'd, and swaddled him for his ungratefull Error. Her Mama was a witness of the new profession I made of my growing regard for her. I therefore Challenge you, before the whole family to put in your Claim, to the⁷ least smile of her, Eye, any day, or hour you chuse to appoint. I am rouz'd to this

¹ Colley Cibber (1671–1757), actor, theatre manager, and playwright; Poet Laureate appointed 1730, and author of *An Apology for the Life of Mr. Colley Cibber* (1740).

² The manuscript bears the remainder of its wax seal.

³ There is also the beginning of another endorsement, 'To D', in SR's hand.

⁴ Cibber provides conflicting dates for his letter, but since 6 January was a Saturday and 16 January a Tuesday, the later date has been used.

⁵ Probably Susanna Highmore (1725–1812), artist and poet, since SR refers elsewhere to Cibber as her 'other old lover' and as 'my brother elder'. See SR to Highmore, 2 August 1748 and 22 June 1750. Although there is no record of Highmore translating Boileau, she did write imitations of Italian poetry (Warren Mild, 'Susanna Highmore's Literary Reputation', *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 122 (1978), 381), and she discusses Boileau in a 1756 exchange with Elizabeth Carter (Gwen Hampshire (ed.), *Elizabeth Carter, 1717–1806: An Edition of Some Unpublished Letters* (Newark, NJ: University of Delaware Press, 2005), pp. 153–7).

⁶ Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux (1636–1711), French poet and neoclassical critic, whose works were popular both in French and in translation. This regret is probably that expressed in Boileau's second satire, lines 25–30: 'Et maudissant vingt fois le Démon qui m'inspire, / Je fais mille serments de ne jamais écrire. / Mais quand j'ai bien maudit & Muses & Phébus, / Je la vois qui paroît, quand je n'y pense plus; / Aussi-tôt, malgré moi, tout mon feu se rallume; / Je reprends sur le champ le papier & la plume' (*Œuvres poétiques de Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux* (Londres, 1730), p. 18).

⁷ 'the' is a superscript insertion.

JOHN READ TO SR, FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 1750

Defiance By your not having yet perform'd your promise of the transcript, I so long for.⁸ Pray when doe you intend to make my Patience amends, for being so long without it? After my salutations to the long string of your whole family, I tye myself of a fast knot to it, as Your sincere friend and humble Servant,

CCibber.

Tues Jan: 16th. 1749–50.

⁸ Probably a reference to transcriptions of the correspondence between SR and Dorothy, Lady Bradshaigh (bap. 1705, d. 1785), known to him at this point only as 'Belfour', but ultimately his most important literary correspondent. SR was circulating this exchange at least by late February (see below, Catherine Talbot to SR, <early March 1750>; see also SR to Frances Grainger, 28 February 1750).

John Read¹ to Richardson

Friday 2 February 1750

MS: FM XV, 2, f. 8o. In copyist's hand.

Endorsement: Mr. Reade (in SR's hand).

Febry. 2, 1749–50

Dear Sir,

I can no longer resist the Importunity of my young Friend,² who came to Town with the Expectation of seeing the Author of *Clarissa*, and is determined not to return disappointed: A Curiosity which has so much Merit in it, shou'd be gratified.

He is not one who will force himself into your good Opinion, or bind himself all at³ once by a firm Knot to you and your Family; but I am sure he has Qualities which by degrees must recommend him to your Friendship. Most Affectionately Your's,

John Reade.

¹ Probably John Read (d. 1760), a graduate of King's College, Cambridge, and clerk assistant to the House of Commons from 1747 until his death (T. C. Duncan Eaves and Ben D. Kimpel, 'Samuel Richardson and His Family Circle, III. Richardson's Will', *Notes & Queries* NS 11 (1964), 300–4). Read had written to SR in praise of *Clarissa* on 5 December 1748.

² David Graham, as indicated by SR to David Graham, 3 May 1750.

³ 'at all' is transposed in the manuscript.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-0-521-83218-2 — Correspondence Primarily on Sir Charles Grandison (1750–1754)

Samuel Richardson, Edited by Betty A. Schellenberg

Excerpt

[More Information](#)

SR TO PHILIP SKELTON, SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 1750

Richardson to Philip Skelton¹

Saturday 10 February 1750

Printed source: B, V, 198–200.

First printing: Barbauld, *Correspondence* (1804).

Feb. 10, 1750.

Your kind solicitude, my dear and worthy friend, for me and mine, deserves my earliest and most grateful returns.

Most heartily I thank you for your hints of the vegetable diet: I have reason to have a very great opinion of it myself.² I will propose it; and support the proposal with my weight. The instance you give me, in your little patient, charms me; as well for the sake of the young unknown, as for an example to my good girl.³

I have the pleasure to tell you, from an ingenious friend at Cambridge,⁴ that your book is in high reputation there. In other places, I have heard you found fault with for personal severity, especially on the Bishop of Winchester.⁵

People will have different sentiments, you know.

You have heard of (perhaps so) Dr. Middleton's Attack on Bishop Sherlock's Book of Prophecies.⁶ He seems determined neither to suffer

¹ Philip Skelton (1707–87), Church of Ireland clergyman and religious controversialist, for whom SR had been printing since the 1730s.

² SR was indeed very familiar with arguments for a vegetable diet through his printing for, and friendship with, Dr George Cheyne, whose 1733 *The English Malady* and other writings emphasized the link between intemperate diets and disease.

³ SR's third daughter, Anne (Nancy, 1737–1803), who as a child was in fragile health and who was especially ill in 1751–2. She appears to have been Skelton's favourite; he subsequently refers to her as 'his dear little Clarissa' (see below, Philip Skelton to SR, 28 December 1752), as does Thomas Wilson (see below, Thomas Wilson to SR, 29 July 1752). SR described her as possessing great sensibility, a great reader, and a fine needle-woman (see SR to Mary Watts, <2 January–17 July> 1755), which may explain the nickname.

⁴ Unidentified; perhaps David Graham (see above, John Read to SR, 2 February 1750).

⁵ Skelton's *Ophiomaches: or, Deism Revealed* (1748) includes in its attacks on deists Benjamin Hoadly, Bishop of Winchester (as Phiodexius), for reducing the duty of Christians to mere sincerity and for not having attacked the deists' use of his writings.

⁶ Conyers Middleton, clergyman and controversial writer (1683–1750), and Thomas Sherlock, Bishop of London (1677–1761). Middleton's *Examination of the Lord Bishop of London's Discourses concerning the use and intent of prophecy* (1750) had 'surprised the public' by attacking Sherlock's *Use and Intent of Prophecy*, published twenty-five years earlier, in 1725; SR here expresses the common contemporary interpretation that Middleton was motivated by the belief that Sherlock had impeded his preferment to the Mastership of the Charterhouse School in 1737 (Edward Carpenter, *Thomas Sherlock, 1678–1761* (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, for the Church Historical Society, 1936), pp. 305–10 (at p. 308).

SR TO CHARLES CHAUNCY, MONDAY <12 OR 19 FEBRUARY 1750>

the primitive fathers to rest in their graves, nor the father of the church to be quiet on the bench. It is supposed he is governed by resentment, that his great merits were not rewarded with a seat among them. I wish Mr. Skelton, who has a name with all sound and good men among us, would take him in hand, if he find room for it: Bishop Sherlock, I dare say, would think himself obliged to you; and what you should do, would be a fresh advertising of your book. How glad, could it be an introduction to bring you among us! We are, I doubt, a worse people than you in Ireland are; at least, have worse among us. And what more extended good might your preaching and your example do here!

I have just lost my dear and excellent-hearted friend, Mr. Hill, author of *Gideon*.⁷ I was present at some of his last scenes: my nerves can witness that I was. I am endeavouring to find opportunities to shew my regard to his memory, by my good offices to three excellent daughters, who, for their filial piety, merit all praise, and for their other merits, deserve to be the care of all who know them. I am, my dear, worthy, and reverend Friend, Most cordially yours, whilst

S. Richardson.

⁷ Aaron Hill (1685–1750), writer, literary mentor, and unsuccessful entrepreneur, died 8 February; *Gideon, or, The Patriot* had been published in 1749. As Christine Gerrard summarises it, 'It is clear that SR gave the Hill family very extensive help after Hill's death. All four of his children were in poor health during this period . . . All the letters of 1750 point to support, advice, visits to North End and Salisbury Court . . . SR helped the family prepare Hill's posthumous works of 1753 (edited nominally by [Hill's daughter] Urania)' (private correspondence 19.10.2010). A letter from Hill's brother to SR is typical of the family's expressions of gratitude to SR in this period: 'I am now . . . just able to return good and Worthy Mr. Richardson, my most humble Thanks for his great Friendship to my late dear, and never to be forgotten Brother; and for the Continuation of it likewise, to his disconsolate and unhappy Family' (Gilbert Hill to SR, 22 May 1750).

Richardson to Charles Chauncy[†]

Monday <12 or 19 February 1750>

MS: Huntington Library, HM 6893. Autograph letter sent.

[†] Charles Chauncy (or Chauncey) (1709–77), physician and collector. Chauncy had a head of Clarissa drawn in crayons, which he had loaned to SR. The dating of this letter is based on SR's effort to tempt Lady Bradshaigh, currently in London yet still unknown to him, into revealing her identity by coming to his house to see the drawing. On Monday 5 February 1750 SR wrote to Lady Bradshaigh that Chauncy might 'send for [the picture] in a few days'. Since the drawing is here returned, unseen by her, on a Monday morning, and since by 21 February SR and his 'Lancashire Lady' had met, the date of this note, accompanying the drawing, is Monday 12 February or Monday 19 February at the latest.

CATHERINE TALBOT TO SR, <EARLY MARCH 1750>

Dear Sir,

I am extremely obliged to you for the Loan of your *Clarissa*. I have had many Persons to look at it, and as many Admirers of it, as Visitors. On Friday I had Mrs. Delany, whose Pensil is greatly and justly admired, and Miss Talbot, and Mrs. Talbot her mother, to see it.² Very highly did they commend it, and wanted to know where to find Mr. Cotes;³ which I could not tell them, and was sorry I could not. Mrs. Delany said, She should have been glad to have copy'd the Head and Neck. I was in hopes my Lancashire Lady would have had an opportunity to see it; but she plays fast and loose with me so idly, that I have some Pleasure in considering the Opportunity she has lost, as a Punishment to her.

I hope soon, to have an Opportunity to return my personal Acknowledgements to you, Sir, for this and all other Favours; and am,
Your faithful and most obliged humble Servant

S. Richardson

Monday Morn.

I hope you will find it as safe and unhurt, as I received it.

² Mary Delany, née Granville (1700–88), artist and Bluestocking. Catherine Talbot (1721–70), author and Bluestocking, became a close associate of SR in the 1750s, lending detailed editorial advice on *Grandison*; she and her mother Mary Talbot (née Martin) were part of the household of Thomas Secker (1693–1768), Bishop of Oxford and later Archbishop of Canterbury, who was currently also rector of the parish of St James, Piccadilly, in London.

³ Francis Cotes (1726–70), a portrait painter who at this time worked entirely in pastels.

Catherine Talbot to Richardson

<early March 1750>¹

MS: FM XV, 2, f. 39. Copy in SR's hand.

¹ This is the only letter of Talbot to Richardson known to have survived (see below, SR to Elizabeth Carter, 12 June 1753 and note 4). This undated note is copied by SR onto the second page of an undated letter from Astraea and Minerva Hill. Eaves and Kimpel suggest a date of December 1750 because of the apparent New Year's greeting and the reference to February 1749/50 in SR's endorsement. However, Secker became dean of St Paul's at the beginning of December 1750, simultaneously resigning his rectorship of St James's, Piccadilly; since Talbot appears unaware of her imminent change of residence to the deanery of St Paul's, it is more likely that SR had communicated an up-to-date transcription of the Lady Bradshaigh correspondence, to which Talbot is responding shortly afterwards with a New Year's greeting based on the Julian calendar year's start of 25 March. Thus a probable date for the note is early March 1750. See above, Colley Cibber to SR, 16 January 1750, and see also SR to Frances Grainger, 28 February 1750, for other references to these transcriptions.

SR TO WILLIAM LOBB, TUESDAY 10 APRIL 1750

Endorsement: From Miss T—t, with the Return'd 4th Part of the Correspondence between Lady B. and S. R. (concluding with her Ladiship's Letter of Febr. 9. 1749/50 (in SR's hand).²

This excellent Book, and the incomparable Memoirs (which must by all means be made a Part of the new Edition, as they would surely be a very useful one) are returned with many, many Thanks from the Family so obligingly entrusted with them.³ Lady Sophia E. takes the same Opportunity of returning her Acknowledgements for the Favour done her in admitting her to a Sight of Mrs. Howe's and Mr. Hickman's Correspondence.⁴

It is much hoped that another Year Pickadilly will be found often to be in the Way to N. End.⁵ In the mean time Mr. Richardson has the best Wishes from his Friends there, for Health and all Happiness to himself and all his Family. They much wish also, that he may have Leisure, Spirits and Inclination to comply with the repeated Requests of his Agreeable Incognita, and shew the World such a Man as would neither have been unworthy of a Clarissa, nor unagreeable to a Miss Howe.

² 'Return'd' is a superscript insertion. 'Lady B.' is Lady Bradshaigh, the 'Agreeable Incognita' of Talbot's note. Lady Bradshaigh's two letters of 9 February 1750 were her last to SR as 'Incognita' or 'Belfour'.

³ The 'excellent Book' probably refers to Clarissa's *Meditations Collected from the Sacred Books*, which SR printed in a limited number and was distributing among friends at the New Year (see SR to Edward Young, 1 January 1750). SR footnotes 'Memoirs' as referring to 'Brief Lives of Sally Martin and Polly Horton'. The lives of Martin and Horton, two prostitutes of Mrs Sinclair's brothel, were inserted in the Conclusion of the 3rd and 4th editions of *Clarissa* of 1751.

⁴ Lady Anne Sophia Egerton (née de Grey, d. 1780); Lady Sophia was step-aunt, though younger in age, to Jemima, Marchioness Grey, Talbot's close friend. Her husband, John Egerton, was at this time dean of Hereford and chaplain-in-ordinary to George II, and later the bishop of Durham. The exchange of letters between Mr Hickman and Mrs Howe was first included in the 1751 editions.

⁵ North End was SR's country residence from 1738 to 1754; he wrote to Lady Bradshaigh in 1749 that he walked through St James's Park on his way there from Salisbury Court, where his shop and principal residence were located, once or twice weekly (SR to Lady Bradshaigh, late November 1749).

Richardson to William Lobb¹

Tuesday 10 April 1750

MS: Yale, Osborn, 19269 7. Autograph letter sent.

¹ William Lobb (1736–65), 14-year-old son of clergyman Samuel Lobb (1690–1760), who held the living of Farley (Farleigh), or Hungerford Farley, near Bath; William's younger brother Joseph (1743–1811) was SR's godson (G. Eland, *The Lobb Family from the Sixteenth Century* (printed for Y. D. A. Cory-Wright by Charles Batey at the University Press, Oxford, 1955), pp. 45–57).

SR TO WILLIAM LOBB, TUESDAY 10 APRIL 1750

London, April 10, 1750

Altho', my dear Youth, I wrote not a long Letter, I designed, that You should take my last² for a Letter: And then your Excuse is not a good one, that you wrote not to me sooner, expecting another from me.³ If you would have me always write long Letters, you must give me Opportunities⁴ to find fault with you. You would not have me be evermore repeating the same things, or things to the same purpose; as I must do in your Praise, were I to write particularly to every thing you write.²

I thank you for your good Wishes for me and mine. May the same be effectual for the Good of You, and of all you love and honour.

Your Approbation of Clarissa, and her History, gives me great Pleasure. You enter into the Spirit of the Characters in a manner that could not be expected but in *one* Youth of your Age. But let me know, if there be any thing objectible to Manners, or in any other respect, with your good Father, as well as with yourself.

I have heard, that Mrs. Allen, the good Mrs. Allen, was not permitted to read the 3 last Vols. I should be glad to be acquainted with the Truth, or otherwise, of my Information. But it must not be hinted, much less said, that this has been dropt by me.⁵

As to what you write about my *good Man*. – Pray let your Father give me some Sketches from the Knowledge he has of his own Heart. If I see Materials rise upon me, they may encourage. But to say the Truth, I am afraid Time of Life, Business, and, for these 6 Weeks past very⁶ severe Paroxysms of my Nervous⁷ Disorder, together with the Difficulty of drawing⁸ a good Man, that the Ladies will not despise, and the Gentlemen laugh at, will, and must, set me down where I am.

² 'my' is written over 'it'; 'last' is a superscript insertion.

³ This exchange appears not to have survived.

⁴ 'an' is deleted; 'Opportunity to' is altered to 'Opportunities'.

⁵ Elizabeth Allen (née Holder, d. 1766), second wife of Ralph Allen (bap. 1693, d. 1764), postal entrepreneur and philanthropist, based in Bath. Eaves and Kimpel misread the manuscript as referring to 'Mr.' Allen, attributing SR's inquiry to a suspicion that William Warburton, who had married Allen's niece, Gertrude Tucker, and resided with the Allens at Prior Park, was alienating Allen from him (193); However, SR to William Lobb, 1 November 1754 (see below), suggests that the concern was rather that Mrs Allen might be overly affected by Clarissa's death.

⁶ 'very' is a superscript insertion.

⁷ 'Nervous' may be written over another word, or may simply be rewritten.

⁸ 'making' is deleted.

SR TO WILLIAM LOBB, TUESDAY 10 APRIL 1750

Whatever you are destined to be, as to Vocation, may you⁹ be happy, and I have no doubt that you will, if you hold your good Resolutions. I have heretofore said, That it is, morally speaking, now in your Choice to be good or bad; to be happy or unhappy. A great thing to say, with your good Understanding, and great Proficiency in laudable Attainments. The next Seven Years of your Life, are to be the Ground-work of your future Felicity regarding both Worlds. – Look <toward>[xxxxx 1/2 line] and fear and tremble, as Occasions arise: [xxxxx 1/2 line] <Clar>issa says, To wish for Good, is half to de-[xxxxx 1/2 line] with a View to merit what they¹⁰ [xxxxx 1/2 line] make your Employments the Subjects [xxxxx 1/2 line, ending with <r>y] particular upon that Subject.¹¹

Pray, present my Respects to Dr. Barker.¹² Thank him from me, for his Approbation of the History of Clarissa. And tell him, that if he could convince me that the Doctrine he so kindly recommends to me, would be efficacious in my Case, I would¹³ soon conform to it: And he should be my great Apollo.¹⁴

My particular Respects to my Godson. I am glad he goes on so well in his Learning. Altho' he must not expect to be what his Brother was at his Age, nor what You are at Yours;¹⁵ Yet he must not be discouraged. He may excell in other Points, no less useful to Society. Your Father had not the Thought to have *two* Williams in his Family.

My Wife & my Girls, join with¹⁶ me in hearty and respectful Love, to Your Papa, Mamma, and Self, and to my Godson. Pray desire your Papa to chuse for him one of the fittest Books [Who knows what is

⁹ 'may you' is written over one or two erased words.

¹⁰ A short word is heavily deleted here.

¹¹ A rectangular portion of paper is missing here, obscuring the left half of 5 lines at the end of this paragraph. SR seems here to be alluding to the admonition of St Paul to 'work out your own salvation with fear and trembling' (Philippians 2:12), and is also paraphrasing *Clarissa*: 'To *hope* for better days, is half to *deserve* them: For could we have just ground for such a hope, if we did not resolve to deserve what that hope bids us aspire to?' (*Clarissa* (1748), II, 141).

¹² Probably Edmund Barker (b. 1720/21), physician and one-time member of the Ivy Lane Club, who is reported by Sir John Hawkins to have practised medicine in Trowbridge, near Bath, Wiltshire, for a two-year period at about this time. According to SR's letter to William Lobb, 3 November 1750 (see below), Barker at one point seems to have suggested that SR's continual writing was good for his nervous disorder.

¹³ 'would' appears to be written over another word, perhaps 'should'.

¹⁴ A reference to Apollo as the god of healing and medicine.

¹⁵ 'his brother' and 'you' both refer to William, as Joseph's only brother.

¹⁶ 'with' is a superscript insertion.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-0-521-83218-2 — Correspondence Primarily on Sir Charles Grandison (1750–1754)

Samuel Richardson, Edited by Betty A. Schellenberg

Excerpt

[More Information](#)

DAVID GRAHAM TO SR, SUNDAY 22 APRIL 1750

right and fit better than your Papa?] in Mr. Leake's Shop,¹⁷ and place it to my Account. In doing this, he will oblige me: And by the Book I shall be able to Judge of the young Gentleman's Proficiency [I forget how old he is?]

Adieu,¹⁸ my Dear Billy Lobb! – God bless you! – prays Your true Friend,

S. Richardson

¹⁷ James Leake, Sr (1686–1764), brother of SR's second wife, kept the leading Bath bookshop and circulating library.

¹⁸ 'Adieu' is doubly underlined.

David Graham¹ to Richardson

Sunday 22 April 1750

MS: FM XV, 2, ff. 81–4. In copyist's hand.

Endorsement: Mr. D. Graham, Cambridge (in SR's hand).²

King's College, April 22, 1750

Dear Sir,

I believe it is a circumstance peculiar to me, that I shou'd be obliged to begin a Correspondence, so earnestly desired on my part, and so obligingly condescended to on yours, with an Apology for an extreme rudeness and breach of promise: But so it is; and I feel the compunction of having deserved to forfeit a friendship, which the report of your character made me forward to request, and the experience of your humanity should have made me industrious to cultivate.

Yet when I consider that it was not levity or forgetfulness, which wou'd argue the slight impression your favours made on me, that occasion'd this delay; that I have often enterd on³ the inviting Task with pleasure, and quitted it with reluctance, for fear of preying on your time, already crouded with the most interesting concerns; I find something to palliate, tho' not to excuse my folly: The more, as even

¹ David Graham (d. 1764), currently a student at King's College, Cambridge, and later barrister, who had been introduced to SR by John Read (see above, John Read to SR, 2 February 1750; also see below, SR's postscript to Graham, 3 May 1750).

² The top of p. 5 of the manuscript letter is endorsed 'Contin. Mr. Graham' in SR's hand.

³ 'on' is a superscript insertion.