

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-08172-6 - The Letters of Mrs Elizabeth Montagu: With Some of the
Letters of Her Correspondents: Volume 4: Containing Her Letters from the
Age of Twenty-Three to Forty
Edited by Matthew Montagu
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The Letters of Mrs Elizabeth Montagu

This four-volume edition of the letters of Mrs Elizabeth Montagu (1718–1800), the ‘Queen of the Bluestockings’, was edited by her nephew and adopted son Matthew (1762–1831) and published in 1809–13. The daughter of wealthy parents, and well educated in history and languages, at the age of twenty-one she married Edward Montagu, a grandson of the earl of Sandwich whose income derived from northern estates and coal-mines, and began to establish a London salon attended by the intellectual cream of British society, including Johnson, Burke, Garrick, Hannah More and Hester Chapone. The letters (and some correspondence from her circle) are arranged chronologically: Volume 4 covers the period from 1755 to 1761, and Montagu’s correspondents include her sister and Mrs Elizabeth Carter, another member of the Bluestocking circle. The selection ends with her description of the coronation of George III in September 1761.

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