

## CONTENTS:

f. cis: blank flyleaf

1: Recent leaf, marked "Simpson" "244"; labelled "11763".

## WRITER

## RECIPIENT

1. Trenchard

Dr. Sr.

24 Nov, Abbots Leigh.

My wife has killed herself; circumstances of our marriage; Dr Chene.

NOTES: T. apparently married in 1709 (item 15); he had a wife who survived him (item 12).  
Dr Chene may be Dr George Cheyne, 1671-1743, of London and Bath, an expert on melancholy (see DNE)

f. 2: Recent transcript

3: Original (1p)

4: blank recent leaf.

2. T.G. [Thomas Gordon]  
[1721?] 1 Aug

Mr Trenchard.

My conversation with Lord \_\_\_\_: he attacked Cato's letters; my arguments; he implied the finest were yours not mine; he said private men did not know the causes of the Ministry's actions; he praised Addison; he implied he would find a post for me; libels; he called the Independent Whig wild; he advised me not to leave politics. His character. I cannot leave town this fortnight for the distribution of the Independent Whig.

NOTES: Cato's letters appeared 5 Nov 1720-27 July 1723; item 9, dated 1721, mentions this letter; therefore this letter should be 1721.  
Identification of Lord

ff 5-7: Transcript

8: blank recent leaf

9-10: Original (3p and address)

3. Trenchard

Dr Sr

[ca Aug 1720?] Saturday, Abbots Leigh

South Sea has at last collapsed in Bristol--this may save the liberties of England. How does the Independent Whig? Is Gibraltar gone? Sending you claret, and venison when does come in.

NOTES: The South Sea Bubble began to collapse in Aug 1720.

f 11: Transcript

12: Original (1p)

4. Trenchard

Sir William Simpson, Inner Temple

21 Sept, Bath

I think the Archbishop does not suspect me of the attack on him; the authorship claimed by the Dr.; Lord Molesworth. I have another paper to print before Parliament sits--Gordon will let you see it for your opinion of its safety. I am looking for a wife here, and have found an agreeable wench.

NOTES: The Archbishop is probably Wake; the date probably 1719 or later. DNE (Gordon) says T first took up with Gordon in 1719, encouraging an attack on Wake.

ff 13-14: Transcript

15-16: Original (3p and address; sealed)

COLLECTION NAME: Trenchard-Simpson Correspondence  
CONTENTS [cont]:

5. Trenchard  
c1718? 27 Sept, Abbotts Leigh
- Dr Sr (Simpson)  
I've bought the wine as you directed; some French brandy has been seized and I'll buy some through the officer who's my tenant; venison for you from Sir Nathaniell Meade. I'll drop the Shaftesbury affair; the club in town.

NOTES: See item 7, which concerns the same matters.

ff 17-18: Transcript  
19: Original (2p)

6. Trenchard  
c1721? 29 Sept, Abbotts Leigh
- Dr Sr  
Venison for you; my health; shall November in Bath and winter in London; Gordon is in Dorset. The Bishop of Bangor's preferment. The Independent Whig will be published when Parliament sits.

NOTES: Bishop Hoadly was nominated for Hereford on 21 Sept 1721 (Powicke)  
Parliament's next session began 19 Oct 1721.

f 20: Transcript  
21: Original (1p)

7. Trenchard  
1718 10 Oct, Abbotts Leigh
- Sir William Simpson, Paper Buildings, Inner Temple.  
Shall send up the wine; must wait for the brandy to be officially condemned; how is the venison? I shall not stand for Shaftesbury; I shall be chosen at Taunton if Lord Sunderland pleases; Mr Pincent will quit for a country post. I have a disinterested inclination to this Ministry; does my Lord wish my help?

NOTES: Sir William Pynsent, bt., 1681-1765, was MP for Taunton 1715-1722; he succeeded to the title in or before 1719 (Cokayne's Creations, 1904, 4:146). Trenchard was MP for Taunton 1722 to his death (Featson's Register, 1807, 1:154).

f 22-23: Transcript  
c24-25: Original wanting.]

8. Trenchard  
12. Gob, Abbotts Leigh
- Dear Sr (London)  
Returned from Taunton; difficulties of killing good venison. Too busy to write any more, and "heartily tired of scribbling before I left it off, however if any person...attacks Diogenes's letters...I shall attempt to defend them." I'd treat the subject and the Bishop harder than Hobbs does. My wishes for Mr Smith's success.

NOTES: A James Smyth was the other member for Taunton for both Pynsent and T.

f. 26: Transcript  
27: Original (1p)

## CONTENTS [cont]:

9. Trenchard  
[1721?] 25 Oct, Abbots Leigh
- Sir William Simpson, Inner Temple  
Norton, the proprietor of the London Post or Journal, writes Gordon that Toland brought him a paper from Lord Molesworth for him to publish under the name of Cato; he refused. I gather from Parker that I'm thought to have made up with the Ministry. Tobacco. Gordon was approached by men in power while the Committee was prosecuting him; after Parliament rose a certain Lord offered him a pension. The Bishop's preferment; Cato will appear whenever necessary. I'm better; I'll go to Bath and then to London. I enclose Gordon's letter about his interview [item 2?].

NOTES. Cato's letters began in Nov 1720; John Toland (see DNB) d. 11 Mar 1722; therefore this letter was written in 1721.  
The London Journal was founded in 1719 by Trenchard or Gordon; its editor on 12 Aug 1721 was Benjamin Norton Defoe; in Sept 1722 it was sold to the Government and refused to print any more of Cato's letters, for which Gordon then founded the British Journal; after Trenchard's death Gordon and the British Journal served Walpole (Hanson).

ff 28-29: Transcript  
30-31: Original (3p and address; sealed)

10. J.T. [Trenchard]  
[1721??] 8 Nov, Abbots Leigh
- Sir William Simpson, Inner Temple  
Cato will not appear unless necessary: present peace, prosperity, hope of a new Parliament. The Toland-Molesworth Cato. Gordon & I are concerned that the subscribers complain at receiving the book unbound: the bookseller and printer say the cost of binding (2/-) is usually borne by the subscriber; but Mr Moults books should be specially bound.

ff 32-33: Transcript  
34-35: Original (3p & address)

11. Trenchard.  
[1723??] 19 Nov, Abbots Leigh.
- Dr Sr  
Venison poor because of drought; I am very ill. Your venison is at the Three Cupps in Bread street where the Bristol packhorses up: they get in Friday night or Saturday morning. Collins' book on the proof of Christianity. Gordon here.

NOTES: Dated because illness agrees with onset described in item 12.

f 36: Transcript  
37: blank recent leaf  
38: Original (?p)

## CONTENTS (cont.):

12. Gordon  
c1723] 28 Dec (Sat), Leigh  
Sir William Simpson, Temple  
Detailed account of Trenchard's illness, treatment, and death. He wished Mr Walpole to keep his promise to me. His will: his heirs are his wife, myself, his sisters and their children. He advised me to apply to Mr Methuen. Dr Cheyne.
- 39-40: Transcript  
41-42: Original (3p & address)
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13. Molesworth, Robert, 1st Viscount, 1656-1725. To My dear freind [Simpson]  
1723 2 Nov, Brackenstown (Co. Dublin) Light-hearted letter about the infirmities of age "laid up for life in my villa as you are in your garret". I used to enjoy Sundays because of your company--I far prefer you to the music of Mrs Cuzzona or the Italian Comedians. Receipt against gravel. My son, a student in the Temple, bears this letter; pray direct his reading. Gordon's lost his honesty; Trenchard; South Sea Co
- 43-44: Original (3p, sealed)
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14. Collins, Anthony, 1676-1729.  
c1707 9 May, Huntercombe (?)  
Dear Sr  
Clark and others misinterpret Hobbes' Physickes; Clark's railing book and false arguments. Gravitation. Jumbled mathematicians. The Dr is your servant.
- NOTES: Collins, a disciple of Locke, began attacking Samuel Clarke's argument for the immortality of the soul in 1707. He produced a number of controversial works as a deist; he was attacked by Bentley and Swift. His Discourse on the grounds...of the Christian Religion (mentioned in item 11?) was published in 1724 (DNR).
- 45-46: Original (4p)  
47-48: Transcript wanting  
49: Recent leaf: "Mr Trenchards Letter. Death of his Wife."
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15. Rawlins, Thomas  
1709 6 July, Hereford (?)  
Sir  
Cider for you and the Dr. I am glad Trenchard is married. The Allies in Flanders are acting stupidly. I suppose a clandestine Treaty was made else we had as great advantage as H d y (?) over the B p. My service to Mr Trenchard, Mr Collins, the Dr., etc.
- 50: Original (1p)
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16. Halifax (Charles Montagu); Richard Onslow; William St. Quintin.  
George Mountagu, Auditor of the Receipt of Exchequer  
1715 6 May, Whitehall Treasury Chambers.  
Order to pay the debentures of Sir William Simpson who was appointed 5th Baron of the Exchequer on 20 Nov 1714.
- 50-51: Original (i.e. contemporary clerk's copy) (1p)