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Rev M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Croft's Correspondence  
N<sup>o</sup> 13 The above Gentlem<sup>n</sup> who died in 1777, was Chaplain  
to the Duke of Leeds, & was the Person who apply'd to M<sup>r</sup> Payne  
concerning the Publication of Newton's Poems  
See D<sup>r</sup> Woodward's Letters to G. C. N<sup>o</sup> 23 Pos to N<sup>o</sup> 29 P 108  
See also M<sup>r</sup> Croft's Letter to D<sup>r</sup> Woodward P. 108 & 109  
See the Doctor's Answers to M<sup>r</sup> Croft's Queries Page 110 to 112

Copy of a Letter from G. Catcott to To the Rev M<sup>r</sup>  
Thomas Croft Bury Street St James's London  
under Cover to his Grace the Duke of Leeds

Bath February 12<sup>th</sup> 1776

Sir

I am now with D<sup>r</sup> Woodward, who has communicated  
your Letter to me. (See this Book P. 109 to 112) I will send the MSS.  
and the oldest Copies as soon as possible directed to M<sup>r</sup>.  
Tyrwhitt as you say they are to be deposited in his Hands  
I beg he will deliver them to M<sup>r</sup> Payne. I desire you to  
inform me how to direct to M<sup>r</sup>. Tyrwhitt by return of the  
Post, and by that time I can get them properly pack'd up.  
I am truly sensible of the Honour done me. My humble  
Respects wait on you both. I am Sir  
your most oblig'd humble Serv<sup>nt</sup>  
Geo. Catcott

P.S. D<sup>r</sup> Woodward's Compliments, he has an inflammation  
in his Eyes which prevents his writing  
As to the Copy Money I mentioned 50 Guineas, but I leave  
the difference to you  
See the Ans<sup>r</sup> over Leaf

Panel (2) : Page 120

London February 16<sup>th</sup> 1776

Num<sup>o</sup> 2  
Dear Sir

I seize the first Moment to acknowledge your favour =  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> past received. your intention of sending the MSs. to  
Mr. Tyrwhitt has my entire approbation. We had a long  
Conference on the Subject this Morning, and were both grow-  
ing impatient at not hearing from our good Friend Dr. Woodward  
it grows me to hear the cause of his Silence, & I hope soon to  
have under his own hand a proof of his perfect Recovery.

You do not mention by what Conveyance you purpose sen-  
ding the MSs. but to find Mr. Tyrwhitt, they must be address'd  
to Tho: Tyrwhitt Esq<sup>r</sup> in Welbeck Street, near Cavendish Square  
London. Fifty pounds was the Sum I mentio'd to Payne as  
the Copy money expected. I am very sorry to have forgotten that  
they were Guineas. My Endeavours shall not be wanting to make  
them so; but I would not have you draw for more than pounds  
at least, till you are authoris'd by Payne's consent. In much  
hurry. I am, dear Sir

most sincerely your's  
Thomas Crofts

From G. C. in Ans<sup>r</sup> to the above

Num<sup>o</sup> 3

Bristol February 20<sup>th</sup> 1776

Dear Sir

In compliance with your Com<sup>and</sup>, I this Morning sent the  
MSs in a Box by Wiltshires Waggon directed to Tho: Tyrwhitt  
Esq<sup>r</sup> Welbeck Street near Cavendish Square London. The  
Waggon puts up at the white Horse Cellar Picadilly. On exam-  
ining the Contents, you will find a Quarto MS Book  
with an Appendix to my Introductions, and a Schedule of the  
Poems &c. exactly the same as your own. They are all trans

transcrib'd in one or other of the Books now sent

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As in your Letter to Dr Woodward (Vid. Pages 108 & 109) you desire to be inform'd of every procurable Evidence concerning the Originality of Nowley's MSS. I beg the Liberty of adding y<sup>e</sup> Name of Dr. Mills Dean of Exeter & President of the Antiquarian Society, to the honourable List already sent you by my very good Friend Dr. Woodward. This learned Gentleman, who is well acquainted with obsolete English, and perfect master of ancient Characters, & consequently as capable as any one of detecting a Forgery, had there been any, has twice thoroughly examin'd all the Originals on the Spot, and is fully satisfied they are authentic, as appears by several Letters he did me the honor of writing on that Subject.

I am sorry you have made such an Error with regard to the Sum to be paid for the MSS. I repeatedly mention'd <sup>50</sup> his Mas; and never intended parting with 'em for less. If Mr. Payne should make any Objections, I will not insist upon it, tho' I will know, and am perswaded he will be convinc'd upon perusing them, they are worth more than double that Sum.

If you think either my Introduction, or any of my Annotations, too prolix, you are at full Liberty to curtail, or make any alterations you please, but I beg they may not be wholly omitted.

I sincerely hope there will soon be an end of my anxious Solitude concerning the Fate of these valuable remains of Antiquity, and that I shall receive some recompence for the great Pains I have taken, in answering a great number of Letters, making Annotations &c &c, to prove them genuine; but if after all, my weak endeavours should prove ineffectual, I am perswaded the Evidences drawn up in so masterly a manner by my

very good Friend D<sup>r</sup> Woodward cannot fail to establish their Authenticity, even beyond the possibility of a doubt, and that they will very soon break thro' the Cloud which has so long hover'd upon 'em, and emerge from their Obscurity like the Phoenix, from its ashes, with the greater Splendor & Glory.

If the Request should appear reasonable, I shall be glad to be favour'd with an answer soon as possible, that I may be satisfied the M<sup>s</sup>. are arriv'd safe. Please to let me know when I am to draw for the money.

I shall conclude with expressing my wishes that your kind Endeavours of having them published, may prove successful, at all Events however, the trouble you have taken on this Occasion, will be gratefully remember'd by him who is with the greatest Respect Dear Sir

your most obedient  
 & much oblig'd humble Servant  
 George Catelet

P.S. The Leaves cut out of the bound Books did not contain any thing relating to Rowley, but were entirely fill'd with private Observations of my own.

With regard to Mr. Barrett, I am perswaded you will never be able to get either Originals or Copies out of his hands, and I am well assur'd, that if he had the least Suspicion of the intended Publication, he would be so far from lending his Assistance, that on the contrary, he would endeavor all in his power, to suppress it.

N.B. He has not got the Tragedy of Alla in his possession.

Mr. Crofts's line to the above, was either lost or mislaid.

To the Rev<sup>d</sup> The. Crafts

Bristol March 19. 1776

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Dear Sir

I have sent by favour of Mr Seward the identical Book from which D<sup>r</sup> Lory transcrib'd the Life of William Canynge. The four Lines preceding the Paragraph cited in your last Letter to D<sup>r</sup> Woodward, were cut out by myself, in consequence of a Suspicion I had of their not being a genuine Production of Rowley, Chatterton having never fully clear'd it to my satisfaction, that it was so; and I was unwilling to send it on that Account. However, I have transmitted<sup>it</sup> to you, and you may rely on the Veracity of this Assertion, when I tell you it is verbatim the same as D<sup>r</sup> Lory's. I beg leave to assure you, that you have now every thing of Rowley's that was in my Possession, together with all Chatterton's Transcripts relating to him, or Mr Canynge. If the Life of Canynge be authentic, it may serve to ascertain nearly the time when that Gentleman took Orders; and Mr. Barrett, I make no doubt, can if he please, inform you when he became Dean of Westbury; It may be proper to mention, that by some means or other, entirely unknown to me, this Account found its way to the Editors of the Town & Country Magazine, who published it in their work for Novemb<sup>r</sup>. 1775

I have also by the same Conveyance transmitted you Chatterton's Transcript of Jurgott's History of Bristol, with the addition of the Coins (the Originals of which are in Mr. Barrett's possession) found in and about that City.

My first Intention was to have cut out the Leaves containing the Life of Mr Canynge, & send 'em by themselves; but D<sup>r</sup> Woodward, when I was Bath, desired me to let you have the whole Book; tho' I can't see any real use it can be of to the Gentlemen concern'd in the intended publication, as it contains nothing relating either to Rowley or Mr Canynge, which you

had not before; therefore should wish to have it returne, tho  
first convenient Opportunity; but if on perusing it, they find  
they can reap any advantage from it, they may (as I have Dupli-  
cates) keep it if they please.

I should be glad to be inform'd when you think Nowley's  
works will be published, and whether you have seen the Dean  
of Exeter. I am with great Respect

your much oblig'd  
and obedient Servant

Geo. Catcott

P. I have also enclosed some Memorandums relating to  
Westbury College and Bishop Carpenter, (who lies interr'd in  
that Church) which may perhaps, be not altogether unnecessary  
the intended Publication

N<sup>B</sup> Sent enclosed in the preceding Letter, all the different Ac-  
counts in my possession, of Westbury College and Bishop Car-  
penter. Sent also Whattertons Fragment of Nowleys Sermon  
on the Divinity of the Holy Spirit.

N<sup>B</sup> The abovemention'd Fragment was printed in the Gentle-  
mans Magazine for Septemb<sup>r</sup> 1727 P. 413 & 414