

Diaries, Memoirs and Correspondence

Volumes of letters, diaries, and travel accounts contain a wealth of material relating to country houses and families, as well as social, cultural and political life. Even when at their most anecdotal these accounts often supply valuable first-hand glimpses into a historical moment.

The following is a small selection dating from the seventeenth century in chronological order. There is a useful survey of manuscript sources in Robin Gard ed., *The Observant Traveller, Diaries of travel in England, Wales and Scotland in the County Record Offices of England and Wales* (1989)

Celia Fiennes, *The Journeys*, ed. Christopher Morris (1947)

Sir John Percival and William Byrd II, *The English Travels*, ed. Mark R. Wenger (1989)

Sir John Vanbrugh, *The Letters*, ed. Geoffrey Webb (1928), the fourth volume of the *Complete Works*, ed. Bonamy Dobree

Nicholas Hawksmoor, *The Letters and Drawings...Relating to the Buiding of the Mausoleum at Castle Howard, 1726-1742*, ed. Geoffrey Webb, *The Walpole Society*, XIX (1931)

Alexander Pope, *Correspondence*, ed. George Sherburn, 5 vols (1956)

Emily Duchess of Leinster, *Correspondence*, ed. Brian Fitzgerald, 3 vols (1949-57)

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Complete Letters*, ed., Robert Halsband, 3 vols (1965-67)

Lady Mary Coke, *Letters ad Journals 1756-1774*, ed. J.A. Home, 4 vols (1889-96; rpt. 1970)

The Correspondence of Horace Walpole, ed. W.S. Lewis et al, 48 vols including index (1937-83)

England Displayed: being a new, complete, and accurate survey and description of the Kingdom of England and Principality of Wales ... By a Society of Gentlemen, 2 vols. (1769)

Arthur Young, *A Six Month Tour Through the North of England* (1770)

Horace Walpole, 'Journals of Visits to Country Seats', ed. Paget Toynbee, *Walpole Society*, XVI (1928)

Sir Richard Joseph Sullivan, *Observations Made During a Tour through Parts of England, Scotland and Wales. In a Series of Letters* (London, 1780); rpt. in W. Mavor, *The British Tourist*, 6 vols (1809)

The Diary of Joseph Farrington, 1793-1821, ed. Kenneth Garlick et al, 17 vols including index (1978-98)

The Torrington Diaries, Containing the Tours...of John Byng, 1781-1794, ed., C. Bruyn Andrews, 4 vols (1934-38)

Rev. W. MacRitchie, *Diary of a Tour through Great Britain in 1795*, ed. D. Macritchie (London, 1897)

John Henry Manners, Fifth Duke of Rutland, *Journal of Three Years' Travels through different parts of Great Britain in 1795, 1796, 1797* (London, 1805; rpt. 1813)

James Dallaway, *Anecdotes of the Arts in England*, Part 2, Sculpture (London, 1800)

J.T. Smith, *Nollekens and His Times* (1828)

John Britton and Edward Brayley, *The Beauties of England and Wales; or, delineations topographical, historical and descriptive of each county*, 18 vols. (London, 1801-1875), XVI (1812)

Charles Greville, *Memoirs, A Journal of the Reigns of George IV, William IV, and Queen Victoria*, ed. Henry Reeve, 8 vols (1888)

Thomas Frognall Dibdin, *A Bibliographical, Antiquarian, and Picturesque Tour in the Northern Counties of England and in Scotland*, 2 vols. (1838)

John Bernard Burke, *A Visitation of the Seats and Arms of the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Great Britain*, 2 vols. (London, 1852)

Gustav Friederich Waagen, *Works of Art and Artists in England*, 3 vols. (London, 1838)

Gustav Friederich Waagen, *Treasures of Art in Great Britain*, 3 vols. (London, 1854),

L. Jowitt and S.C. Hall, *The Stately Homes of England*, 2nd series (London, 1870), pp. 74-92.

F.O. Morris, *Picturesque Views of Seats*, 7 vols. [1880], vol. 1

James Lees-Milne

James Lees-Milne began his series of diaries in the 1940s, and the title for each volume comes from Coleridge's poem *Kubla Khan*. After his death in 1998 the remaining volumes were edited posthumously by his literary executor and biographer, Michael Bloch, whose *James Lees-Milne, The Life* was published in 2009.

Ancestral Voices, 1942-43 (1975)

Prophesying Peace, 1944-45 (1977)

Caves of Ice, 1946-47 (1983)

Midway on the Waves, 1948-49 (1985)

A Mingled Measure, 1953-72 (1994)

Ancient as the Hills, 1973-74 (1996)
Through Wood and Dale, 1975-78 (1998).
Deep Romantic Chasm, 1979-81 (2000)
Holy Dread, 1982-84 (2001)
Beneath a Waning Moon, 1983-85 (2003)
Ceaseless Turmoil, 1988-92 (2004)
The Milk of Paradise, 1993-97 (2005).

More recently the eminent architectural historian John Harris has published two volumes of memoirs.

No Voice From the Hall, Early Memories of a Country House Snooper (1998)

Echoing Voices, More Memories of a Country House Snooper (2002)