

Gatehouse Postal History

1792 – 17th January

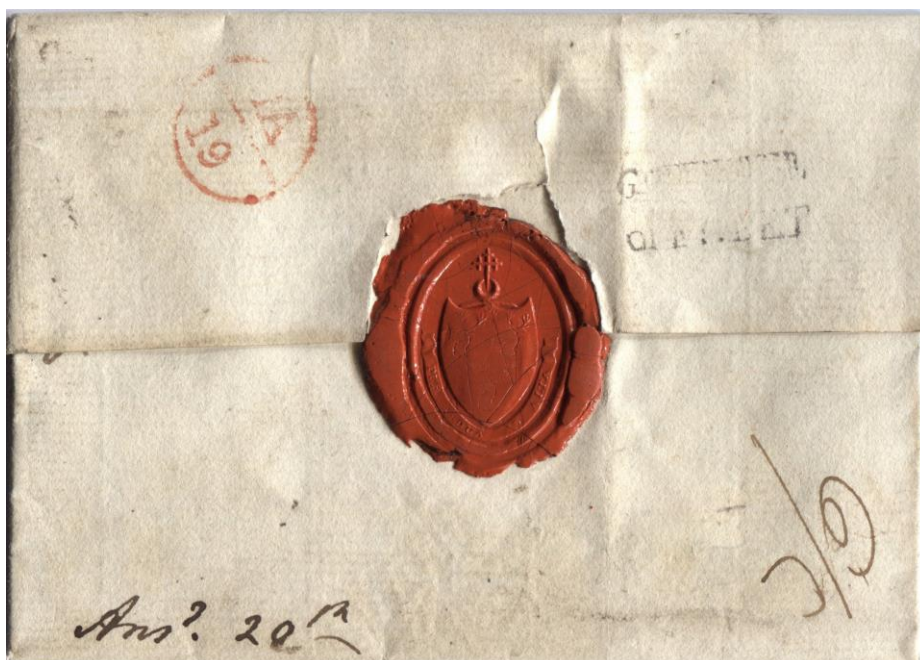
Johnston Hannay, Ardwall to James Lock, Edinburgh

Postal charge was 1s 3d.

Front



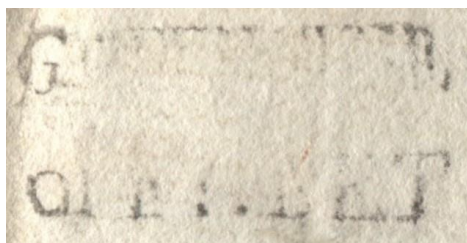
Back



Entire opened up



Hannay seal
"per ardua ad alta"



"Gatehouse of Fleet"
receipt of letter for
posting.



Edinburgh receipt
stamp 19 Jan

Ardenwall 17th Jan^y 1792

My Dear Sir

I was yesterday favour'd with yours of the 15th and herewith return you the letter it enclosed. There is no one living who approves less of Lady O's conduct than I do, or who would more readily endeavour to prevail with her to live in a manner more suitable to the circumstances she is reduced to, by her own, and her late husband's extravagance, but I have had sufficient experience to satisfy me that she is utterly incorrigible, and nothing short of extreme distress will ever incline her to think and act like a rational creature. — I see no possible fund from which she can propose to support herself in the House in Duke Street, and if John has in any degree encouraged her to engage in so extravagant an undertaking he is most egregiously in the wrong — but I cannot suffer myself to believe that he has — In the letter which I informed you I had received from her she said she had resolved to remain in London and that on considering every thing she was of opinion she might live cheaper there than in Edin^g, that she had not heard from Mr Lock but surely by that time ought to have received some money on acc^t of her dower which he had wrote to her was

was to commence from the 1st of last May now 7 months
and she had not received a shilling. In my answer I
told her I hoped the calculation she had made of the ex-
-pence at which she could live in London was properly
-founded, that her prospect of pecuniary relief from hence
was at present very remote, and in any event would be but
-very moderate. that the clear yearly rent of all the lands her
-husband died infeft in, and which only she had a claim
upon, was under £500, of which she could be entitled
to no more than one third part, and, that at present the
-whole of the rents were arrested by the creditors, and
not one shilling of the wages due to the servants upon
the farms at the time of Sr Sam^l's death yet paid. She
could not possibly misunderstand this, though probably
she will profess not to believe one word of it. John
had discharged the coach horses, he writes me, some months
ago, but she never stirs out without hiring a pair of
job ones on her own acct and declares very persua-
-sively she never will. The Specific must work wonders
indeed if it supply all her exigencies. I cannot think
-Ramsay altogether reasonable in persisting to hold fast every
penny of money that has come into his hands since Sr
-death belonging to the estate of our brother the Col^l, and
surely he was altogether unjustifiable in hesitating about
the £575. £220 of which he knew to be John's separate pro-

property, the remainder the foll^r. - The principle on which
the common fund is to be divided is a matter I am not as
yet quite able to satisfy myself about, and do not wish to be
writing much about what I do not clearly comprehend, the
agreement you draw up too as well as the explanation is
at present at Thistledale - The Solic^r's opinion will amuse Pr.
for a while - I hope you and I may meet before he proposes
you again on the subject - How the opinion may operate
on Pr's pliability I cannot judge, though I should hardly think
it will make him less so than he is at present - Miss B.
has taken the alarm confoundedly about his going abroad
and has been pressing me to go to town though she ought
to know there is scarcely one man alive has less influence
with him than myself - I hope you will write to John
to exert himself about the £940 &c. I too shall write
to him on the subject but a few words from you
will have a good effect, and your influence with
Pr. I believe to be greater than that of any other man of my
acquaintance. - I am astonished Pr. Ramsay has not yet
written to you respecting the leases &c. to be executed
by Ardwall - I depended on their being all completed
before I left this country, and really imagined they were
by this time in great forwardness - I hope you have
written to him as you proposed and called on him to exert
himself - tomorrow or next day I shall write to him what
I expected he had done, and what I have learnt from
you. - Pray let me hear from you - tell me the earliest
day in next month on which you think you can be at
York for I am most desirous of meeting you there and with
the sincerest Compl^{ts} to Mrs Lock & the young Ladies believe me ever
my dear Sir, very faithfully yours
Johnston Ramsay