

My Lord<sup>1</sup>

About a Month ago I desir'd John Nairn<sup>2</sup>  
to inform you, that, if you came to Town any time, and  
was to go out in Your Chaire alone, I shou'd gladly accom-  
pany you: Since which time, I heard of your Lordships  
being twice in Town, going out alone, & never giving me  
an Opportunity of attending you. Upon which, I fairly  
took the Pet, and desir'd the Admiral to tell you so. However,  
as I find the Pet a very troublesome Companion, I am  
very desirous to shake it off, and perswade myself, that  
Mr Nairn had forgot to deliver my Message,  
& that there will be nothing contrary to the strictest Decor-  
ums, if I gratify my Inclination in passing some Days  
with your Lordship this Autumn. Any day, therefor, from  
Saturday next to any indefinite Time will serve my Purpose,  
as I shall be always in Town, & have no Occupations that  
depend upon days or Seasons. I hear the Duke of Argyle<sup>3</sup>  
is expected in a few days: I know not if your Lordship  
pays him a Visit on his annual Appearance: But if  
you do, that will be a very proper time for my attending  
you. I am My Lord

Your Lordships

4th Sept. P. S. Most obedient Servant  
I can travel either in David Hume  
a Chaise or on Horseback

注1 正確には日付は分からない。「最初の方の限界点」 *Terminus a quo*: ジョージ・マレー (George Murray) が少将 (Rear-Admiral) になったのは 1756 年。「最後の方の限界点」 *Terminus ad quem*: ヒュームが自分の馬車を購入したのは 1763 年 5 月 (『ヒューム書簡集』第 1 巻、381 頁)。ヒュームは「数日間あるいは数季間生業とする仕事がありません」ので、私〔モスナー〕は敢えて言えば、彼が『イングランドの歴史』 *History of England* を完成した 1761 年か 1762 年のいずれかだと思う。

2 推測するに、エディンバラに居住しているジョン・ネールン (John Nairn) である。彼に対してヒュームは、1765 年、ジェームズ・コートにある自分の「家」を貸すつもりであった (『ヒューム書簡集』第 1 巻、517 頁、527 頁)。

3 アーガイル公爵 4 世ジョン (John, fourth Duke of Argyle)。