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# **The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl Of Orford**

In Five Volumes

**Walpole, Horace**

**London, 1798**

Postscript to the Second Edition

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## P O S T S C R I P T

To the Second Edition, published in 1786.

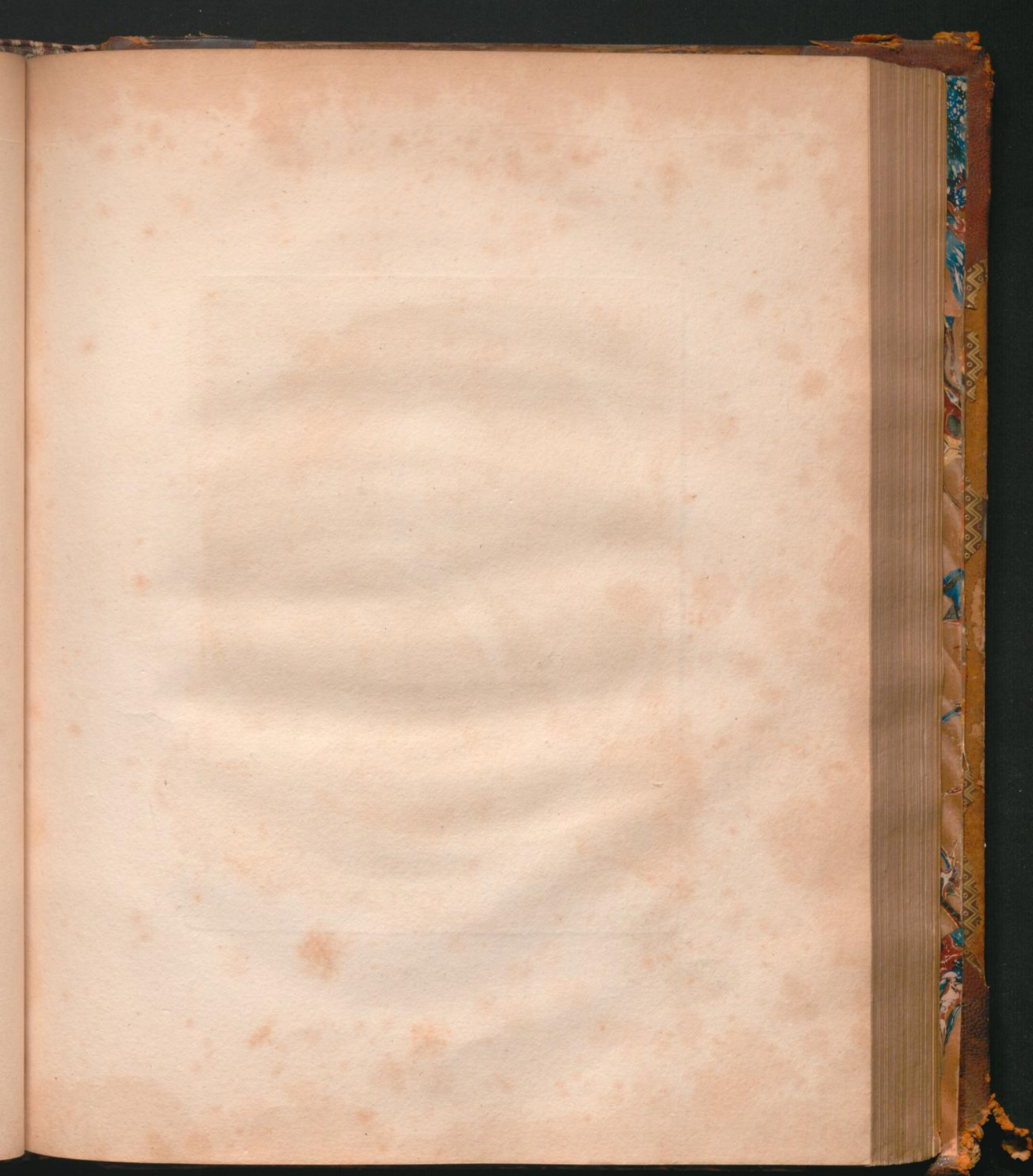
THIS volume, the Editor was sensible at its compilation, was the most imperfect part of Vertue's and his own accounts of The History and Progress of the Arts in England. It would not be difficult at present to give a much more complete deduction of the Graphic art in its different branches. But not only the indolence that attends age, and frequent illnesses, have indisposed the Author from enlarging his plan; more pardonable reasons determined him to make very few additions to this new edition; nor should he have thought of republishing the work, unless solicited by Mr. Doddsley. The indulgence of the public ought to imprint respect, not presumption; and instead of trespassing anew on that lenity, the Author has long feared he should be reproached, that

Detinuit nostras numerosus Horatius aures;

a quotation he should not dare to apply to himself, if adjectives in *osus*, as *famosus*, &c. were not most commonly used by Latian authors in a culpatory sense; and thus *numerosus* only means *too voluminous*. Another reason for not having enlarged the preceding work was, that it would interfere with the plan laid down of terminating the history of the arts at the conclusion of the last reign. In fact, a brighter æra has dawned on the manufacture of prints. They are become almost the favourite objects of collectors, and in some degree deserve that favour, and are certainly paid as if they did. Engraved landscapes have in point of delicacy reached unexampled beauty. A new species has also been created; I mean aqua-tinta—besides prints in various colours.

Perhaps it would be worth while to melt down this volume, and new-cast it, dividing the work into the several branches of wood-cuts, engravings, etchings, mezzotints, and aqua-tints. A compiler might be assisted by some new publications, as the Essays on Prints, Strutt's Dictionary of Engravers, and a recent History of the Art of Engraving in Mezzotinto, printed at Winchester, wherein are mentioned foreign notices on the arts.

Were I of authority sufficient to name my successor, or could prevail on him to condescend to accept an office which he could execute with more taste and ability; from whose hands could the public receive so much information and pleasure as from the author of *The Essay on Prints*, and from the *Tours, &c.*? And when was the public ever instructed by the pen and pencil at once, with equal excellence in the style of both, but by Mr. Gilpin?





*Richardson pinx.*

*J. Chambers sculp.*

GEORGE VERTUE, Engraver,  
Ætat. L. Ann. MDCCXXXVIII.