



### Apphia Peach, George Lord Lyttelton, and 'The Correspondents':

An Annotated Edition of a Forgotten Gem (1775)

By Melvyn New

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**A solidly conceived and executed scholarly edition of *The Correspondents: An Original Novel (1775)*; a best imitation of Sterne that captures his unique blend of sensibility and sensuality**

This book is an annotated edition of *The Correspondents: An Original Novel (1775)*, a work, as the introduction argues, derived from *A Sentimental Journey*, and one of the best of the many later efforts to capture Sterne's unique blend of sensibility and sensuality. The introduction will make the case for its authorship being an actual exchange of love letters between George Lord Lyttelton (1709–1773) and Apphia Peach Lyttelton (1743–1840), his daughter-in-law, 30 years younger than her father-in-law at the time of the exchange. In our inability to understand precisely what happened between the two is the genius of their imitation of Sterne. It is an ambiguity that results from the conscious reshaping of the original letters into a narrative, probably by Apphia Peach in the 2 years between Lyttelton's death and its publication.

#### Key selling points

- A text recovering a long forgotten woman writer, Apphia Peach Lyttelton
- The best imitation of Sterne's blend of sensibility and sensuality paralleling *Sorrows of Werther* published in Germany the year before (1774)
- A good *short* addition to courses in eighteenth-century literature, a model of literary tension and ambiguity for formalists, of sense and sensibility for readers of Austen
- A useful revival of George Lord Lyttelton, one of the most popular of writers to the very end of the century, but no longer read in the twenty-first century

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Melvyn New, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Florida, has been publishing on eighteenth-century literature since 1969. He was the editor of the University of Florida Works of Laurence Sterne in nine volumes, 1978–2014.

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