

321. From Samuel Johnson, 29 December 1774

Dec. 29, 1774

Sir

I am very much obliged by your willingness to present my book to his Majesty.¹ I have no courage to offer it myself, yet I cannot forebare to wish that He may see it, because it endeavours to describe a part of his Subjects, seldom visited and little known, and his Benevolence will not despise the meanest of his people.

I have sent you a book,² to which you are very justly entitled, and beg that it may be admitted to stand in your library, however little it may add to its elegance or dignity.

I am

Sir your most humble servant

Sam. Johnson.

Dec. 29 1774

 Hunter-Baillie, vol. 1, fol. 53.

1. The book that Johnson wished presented to the King was *A Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland* (London, 1775).
2. *A Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland*. The copy is still in the Hunterian Library. At the end of December, Samuel Johnson wrote to Mrs Thrale:

Madam,

You must not tell anyone but Mr. Thrale that the King fell to reading the book as soon as he got it, when anything struck him, he read aloud to the Queen, and the Queen could not stay to get the King's book but borrowed Dr. Hunters (*The Letters of Samuel Johnson: With Mrs. Thrale's Genuine Letters to Him*, ed. R. W. Chapman, 3 vols (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1952)).
