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I.

Hume's letter to the well-known physician and sometime President of the *Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians*, Sir Alexander Dick (formerly Cunningham) (1703-1785),¹ belongs to a series of interesting letters written by philosophers and historians of the Scottish Enlightenment to be found in the autograph-collection of the German chemist and historian of science Ludwig Darmstaedter (1846-1927). Although a catalogue has been published which lists the items of his collection in 1909, some of its autographs have not been noticed by scholars.²

The only hitherto known letter from Hume to Dick was written in August 1760.³ However, Hume mentions Dick once in a letter of 1762.⁴ Although the letter of 1771 listed below does not contribute in any specific way to our knowledge of their relationship, it might be of general interest to students of Hume.

II.

Staatsbibliothek Preußischer Kulturbesitz Berlin (West)

Signature: Sammlung Darmstaedter, 2a 1748 (1)

[Address:] To Sir Alexander Dick Bar^t

Dear Sir

This will be deliverd to you by M^r Panton,⁵ who goes off the End of this Week, to New York. I have us'd the Freedom of introducing him to you, both as he is a young Man of Merit, and as I thought it probable you might take the Oppertunity of writing to your Friend, M^r Smith, by so good a hand. If you do, I shoud beg of you to recommend the young Gentlemen to his Acquaintance; and you may safely mention him as a Man of Letters and a Man of Character. He is to settle in New York, and it is impossible but he must get acquainted with M^r Smith; but a Recommendation from so good an Authority as Yours, wou'd serve to

[crossed out: probably] forward their good Correspondence, and connect them much sooner with each other. I am Dear Sir

Your most obedient and most humble
 Servant

Edinburgh
 18 of March 1771

David Hume

Philipps-Universität Marburg, F.R.G.

1. For details of his life and work see Leslie Stephen, ed., *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. 15 (London, 1888), 14a-14b.
2. Ludwig Darmstaedter, *Verzeichnis der Autographensammlung* (Berlin, 1909), esp. 167. The collection includes the very first letter Hume wrote in March 1755 to Andrew Strahan, his printer. See my "And Time does Justice to All the World': Ein unveröffentlichter Brief von David Hume an William Strahan," *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, forthcoming. Two further letters of Adam Smith to Thomas Cadell are to be published in *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*.
3. See R. Klibansky and E. C. Mossner, eds., *New letters of David Hume* (Oxford, 1954; reprint, New York, 1983), 58-64.
4. See *New Letters* (above, n. 3), 68.
5. I have not been able to verify the identity of this person nor of the Mr. Smith mentioned below.