

In original
collection but
out during
filming

Wm. 1798

[? 1805] AA

The Earl of Moira
to
The Prince of Wales
July 15.

Friday Night
July 15

When your Royal Highness
deigned to appropriate me to yourself by
the proud appellation of your friend, I felt
all the claim which it gave to you upon
me: but, with the glowing consciousness of
the sort of return which such a distinction
demanded, I dare to think that my heart
has merited the title; tho' much of its devotion

towards you may have been concealed under
that due respect which your utmost kindness
has never ceased to shew for me for an in-
-stant. My determination, therefore, must be
decided immediately by your wish. The Duke
has told me that your Royal Highness in-
-gives by waiting upon the Princess, would
be construed into a support of her conduct
as opposed to yours. Once such an idea can
present itself to you, it becomes the duty of
my attachment to adopt it & to carry the

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apprehension still farther than you yourself
have done. I believe, Sir, that even you
could not now prevail upon me to obey the
invitation. Let me hope to be honored with
an audience from your Royal Highness be-
tween Twelve & One tomorrow, that I may
propose the terms of excuse which I shall
make to the Princess, and which, in my
humble judgement, should be offered with
the most entire truth & frankness. On various
and not correspond with the sentiment which

I ought to hold towards you. I view the King
as my Sovereign, & his Family as the Royal
Family, with all the hereditary steadiness of a
Race that prided itself on its faithful sup-
-port of the Throne. Towards the King, there is
superadded a personal gratitude which I think
could be found a more rigid bond than the decla-
-ratory professions which every other use.
But your claim, Sir, reaches beyond this in-
-animate sensation, and, after the selection which
you have dignified to make of me, you ought
to find the chords of my heart in unison with
every string that vibrated in yours. I am ever
your

Your Royal Highness's most Obedient Servant
Moira