EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES

The letters in this edition have been ordered by chronology, starting with the earliest extant letter in 1641 and concluding with the letter Ranelagh wrote six months before her death in 1691. This is because Ranelagh lived through several political and social crises and experiencing Ranelagh's growth and responses to these crises chronologically helps showcase how her medical knowledge and political and religious matter evolved over time. However, throughout her writing life, Ranelagh corresponds with and/or mentions a wide range of family members and close friends frequently, and some readers may be interested in navigating this correspondence relationship by relationship. Appendix 1 is a list of these people, alongside a short biographical note, and a list of the letters in which this person acts as sender/recipient or is mentioned. This appendix aids this interpersonal navigation of this edition, while thematic navigation is aided by the index.

The intention of this edition is to present a semi-diplomatic text that is accessible to modern readers while remaining as faithful to the original manuscripts as possible. I understand that modernizing spelling and punctuation can ensure that texts are more accessible for modern readers. However, as has been argued by Helen Newsome, Roger Kuin, and others, diplomatic editions, while a greater challenge to the reader, 'are essential to gain a fuller and more nuanced understanding of the characters, voices and lives of early modern women'.[54] For this reason, the following transcription policy has been implemented. First, I preserve the original spelling. Lady Ranelagh does not seem to have any particular spelling quirks, although she does tend to put an 'e' before 'ing' and use 'ie' instead of 'y', which was not uncommon in this period. She also often phonetically spells people's names (Claringdon, Kinalmecey, Burleington), but once again this was not an uncommon practice. Similarly, in letters written to Ranelagh original spelling is retained, except in instances where the only extant version of a letter is a printed copy which does not retain

[54] Helen Newsome, "'[An] Old Battle Constantly Re-Fought": Why Language Matters When Editing Early Modern Women's Letters: A Case Study of the Holograph Letters of Margaret Tudor, Queen of Scots (1489–1541)', *Women's Writing* 30:4 (2023), 337–352, 337.

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spelling. In these instances, it has been clearly noted that a print copy has been transcribed.

Second, I retain the original punctuation. Ranelagh is not consistent with her use of punctuation. Sometimes she uses full stops (periods) to designate the end of a sentence. However, she also uses commas in place of periods and semicolons in place of commas. In some instances, the ink can be faded, resulting in difficulty distinguishing between Ranelagh's use of a comma or semicolon. In these cases, I have done my best to differentiate between them according to Ranelagh's usual practice. In some letters she utilizes line-ends in place of punctuation marks: in these cases, I add a period to indicate the punctuation. Otherwise, original lineation has not been preserved. When a word in the original is split across two lines, it is brought together silently (for example: farth =est becomes farthest and endure =ing becomes endureing).[55] While the vast majority of the letters in this edition are a block of continuous text, there are instances where the author indicates a new 'paragraph' with a line break. I attempt to duplicate this aspect of the presentation where possible. Similar patterns exist in the letters written to Ranelagh, so once again this same policy has been enacted unless the printed versions consulted standardize the punctuation.

I also retain the original capitalization, which is often used to add emphasis. For example, Ranelagh often capitalizes when she refers to a member of her family she is close to ('Deare Deare Brother', 'Dearest Sister', and 'Deare Scruple' are a few examples). She almost always uses an upper-case 'C' when it appears at the beginning of a word ('Children'; 'Condition'): in these cases I employ the upper-case 'C' to distinguish from the lower-case 'c' that appears in the middle or at the end of words. Throughout, Ranelagh frequently uses the long 's' (ſ) instead of the upper-case 'S' when it appears at the beginning of the word ('Seruant'). In these instances, I adopt the lower-case form. However, when it comes to letters written to Ranelagh or letters copied by a scribe, I have not been able to discern a pattern, and so that upper-case 'S' has been retained. Another frequent occurrence is the appearance of the upper-case 'C' and 'S' in the middle of a word: these have been silently changed to a lower-case 'c' and 's'. I retain all authors' use of u and v graphs ('recouery' or 'Vnion') or I and J graphs ('Inioy' or 'iourney').

Words that are often used and commonly abbreviated are expanded and the expansion is highlighted in italics: L:, Lo, or L^{p} becomes L*ord* or L*ordship*; La: becomes L*ady* or L*adyship*; bro: becomes

[55] See **letter 191**.

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bro*ther*. I also lower superscriptions, expand the abbreviations, and remove the period Ranelagh uses to signify a contraction, once again highlighting the expansion in italics: w^{ch} becomes w*hic*h, w^{t} becomes w*ha*t, wth becomes w*it*h, y^{e} becomes *the*, y^{n} becomes *the*n or *tha*n depending on context, y^{t} becomes *tha*t, yo^{r}, or y^{r} becomes y*ou*r, S^{r} becomes S*i*r, and Ma:^{tie} becomes Ma*jes*tie. In the majority of letters the '-ment' at the end of words such as 'agreement', 'Settlement', and 'parliament' is also abbreviated to 'm^{nt}', and these contractions have been expanded accordingly. For monetary terms, the 'li' after the amount has been replaced with £ before the amount. Ranelagh uses different kinds of abbreviations for months of the year: 'Sep' or '7^{ber}'. In the first instance, 'Sep' becomes 'Sep*tember*' and in the second instance '7^{ber}' becomes *Septem*ber. Similarly, 'Ianu', 'Febr', 'Apr', 'Aug', 'Oct', 'Nov', and 'Dec' are expanded. The same can be said for the other months, which are represented by numerals: '8^{ber}' becomes '*Octo*ber', '9^{ber}' becomes '*Novem*ber, and '10^{ber}' becomes '*Decem*ber'. Much of the Hartlib material in this edition are copy letters written out by Hartlib's scribes and corrected by Hartlib. I have silently accepted Hartlib's corrections as it is difficult to discern when Hartlib was editing or correcting errors introduced by his scribe.

The 'New Style' calendar has been used throughout this edition, meaning 1 January rather than 25 March is taken to be the start of the new year. However, a full conversion to the Gregorian calendar, which would involve adding ten days to the English dates, has not been implemented. When it comes to international letters in the Hartlib Papers I have retained both English and Continental dates, as has been practice in previous scholarship. Thus, some letters have dates, which are as presented as follows: '17/27 October 1652'. When only one date is supplied, the English New Style calendar is implied.

Several of the letters in this edition show signs of rewriting. In these cases, deletions are indicated by a strikethrough (i.e. strikethough), and superscript additions and marginal additions are signalled by the use of caret symbols (^ … ^) at either end of the added text. These have also been used to indicate the change of one letter into another (i.e. l^b^etter). An illegible word is indicated by […], and tears in the manuscript that obliterate text is indicated by [MS torn]. Words or letters in square brackets [] have been added by me.

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