Editorial Conventions

The editorial approach is conservative. The intention is to offer a readable text that is, at the same time, and for scholarly reasons, very close to the original.[275]

Cassandra's spellings have been retained, although most unambiguous abbreviations have been expanded except when it is a familiar form. Mr (Master) and Mrs (Mistress) have been retained as written, although Cassandra will at times spell out Master. In the Account, where Cassandra uses y^e, y^m, y^n and y^t, they have been changed to 'the', 'them', 'then', and 'that' and where she uses an ampersand, &, which she almost invariably uses rather than 'and', I have spelled out 'and' in an effort to ease readability of her text. She also often uses 'off' for 'of' and vice versa. 'Then' is sometimes used for 'than,' mostly in the letters themselves, and this edition will not use *sic* in those cases. Cassandra capitalized a great many words. In this edition most have been changed to correspond to modern practice; exceptions are those words referring to family members (e.g. Uncle, Sister), regional locations (Town, City), dignities (Knight, Major, Aldermen) and rooms or buildings (New House, Wollaton Hall, Library, Gallery). Rather than use full stops, Cassandra regularly used dashes to complete her sentences. In all such cases, the dashes have been changed to points (or omitted in the case of tabular matter). The use of commas is inconsistent, and they have been eliminated or inserted or changed to full stops where the sense of the passage would suggest it. Where necessary all words at the beginning of sentences have been silently capitalized. Cassandra's use of apostrophes, colons and semi-colons has been retained. Any other differences from the original are detailed in the footnotes.

The use of carets (^…^) in the text indicates words that are interlined in the original, although for Cassandra's Account, Volume I, specifically, brief notices of insertions, damage, missing words and other purely textual issues are listed in endnotes Cassandra uses a consistent abbreviation for pounds, which is best approximated by using the Latin abbreviation 'li'.

[275]For guidelines on editing 16th- and 17th-century letters, see Giles E. Dawson, 'Problems in editing sixteenth- and seventeenth-century letters', in Dale B.J. Randall (ed.), *Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Proceedings of the Southeastern Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies (1974)* (Durham, NC, 1976), 87–103.

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Additional materials from Cassandra's notes currently housed at the Huntington Library are inserted either into the main text or into the footnotes, whenever they add information that is not in Cassandra's final, fair Account. These passages are shown in italic and, when placed in the text itself, in square brackets. Additions in square brackets are indicated as coming from the Huntington Library, Stowe Temple Brydges Collection (STB). There are whole letters in italic from the collection of Lord Middleton and from the British Library, in the appendix above, and interpolated in the edited text. In all instances in the transcriptions from the Montague Wood letters (Mi, C 29, see pp. 251–253 below), ellipses in square brackets signal that the word is illegible, otherwise […] indicates an editorial omission. Square brackets are also used within the text to indicate a modern spelling of a word, a questionable reading, an explanation, or a mistake on Cassandra's part. Since the new year began on 25 March of the English calendar, dates that occur between 1 January and 25 March are, to the extent possible, indicated by the previous and current years, e.g. 1546/7.

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