EDITORIAL APPROACH AND TECHNIQUES

This new edition spans the entire Henry Cromwell collection in the three Lansdowne volumes and covers all 536 seventeenth-century items contained within them. The overwhelming majority of the letters are transcribed in full and the entire texts are reproduced here. In a small number of cases the contents are briefly noted; they are not calendared. This applies mainly to minor letters of recommendation, courtesy, or religious exhortation; letters which merely repeat the contents of an earlier letter by that author; some of the more minor letters dealing with disputes over private business affairs or land allocated in Ireland; and the miscellaneous items of non-correspondence. Thus, in this edition, items are either reproduced in full or they are briefly noted; no letter is partly transcribed and partly noted and no letter is calendared. The overwhelming majority of the items, either dated or closely datable, have been arranged in a single chronological sequence, while the few items that cannot be assigned a fairly narrow date range have been placed at the end, followed by the handful of miscellaneous items. Throughout, the aim has been to produce a readable and easily accessible edition of the correspondence, while broadly adhering to the principles and practices recommended in R. F. Hunnisett, *Editing Records for Publication* (London, 1977).

The heading to each item, opening with the item number, is a modern addition. The author's name, both forename (where known) and surname, have been given in a consistent and unabbreviated form. Unless an addressee's name is also given in the heading, the item was addressed to Henry Cromwell. Where the writer's provenance was stated at the head or foot of the letter or in the contemporary endorsement, this has been noted in the heading, generally using modern and consistent spelling of place names, although, if the original spelling was unusual or creates some doubt, it is given in that form in the heading and modern identification is attempted in an appended footnote. In a few cases, especially rather small towns and villages in Ireland, the county name has then been added in squared brackets to help readers identify the location. However, provenances have not been given in the modern headings where

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none was specified either at the head or foot of the letter or in the endorsement, even if the contents of the letter make it perfectly clear that it was written from, say, London or Dublin. The dates are taken from the letters themselves, again either from the letter head or from the contemporary endorsement. Where it is apparent that those contemporary dates are incorrect, or where incomplete or absent dates can be completed or corrected from the contents of the letter, the additional or amended dates have been entered within square brackets. Dates are generally Old Style, though with the year taken to begin on 1 January; however, in the case of a small number of letters written from the continent, either both Old Style and New Style dates have been entered by the writer or it is now unclear which dating style the writer was adopting. The heading closes by giving the volume and folio number of the letter as currently arranged by the British Library.

Where the contents of a letter have been noted and summarized rather than transcribed, that summary is set in italics, to distinguish it clearly from transcribed material. In the texts of the transcribed letters, the original spelling has been retained; but standard abbreviations, where (though only where) indicated in the original, have been silently expanded, the use of 'u' and 'v' and 'i' and 'j' has been regularized according to modern usage, and the 'con'/'cion' suffix has consistently been amended to the modern 'tion' form. Punctuation and capitalization have been modernized and the use of capitals kept to a minimum. In the case of possessives, an apostrophe has been added, but no new 's' has been inserted where not present in the original. The original paragraph structure has generally been retained, even where out of kilter with modern usage, but occasionally enormously long paragraphs have been silently divided by a new paragraph break to aid the reader. In the main, deleted words and passages, even where still perfectly legible, have been silently omitted; however, where they have significantly changed or apparently garbled the original meaning, they have been noted within angle brackets, thus '< >'; in the small number of draft out-letters written by Henry Cromwell, the deleted material has always been included, again indicated by placing that material within angle brackets. Square brackets have only been employed in the text in conjunction with ellipses, while rounded brackets have been used to show parentheses in the original. Underlinings in the original have also been retained and shown as such, though it is, of course, impossible to be certain whether such markings were made by the writer, the original recipient, or a later reader. Apart from those letters which are summarized, all the text has been transcribed here and an attempt has been made to give a reading for every (undeleted) word, even those that are poorly formed or have been heavily amended: if the reading of a word is

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uncertain, this has been indicated through an appended footnote. Where the paper has been damaged and some of the original text has apparently been lost, this has been shown as '[. . .]' in the main text, and in most cases an appended footnote indicates the extent of the damage or tries to supply the missing letters, word, or words. Occasional slips of the pen, omissions, and repetitions by the writers have been indicated, and corrections and additions suggested through footnotes.

As well as clarifying textual issues, the footnotes seek to provide sufficient factual context and information to allow clear comprehension of the individuals and issues being discussed. Full and quite detailed information is provided about people, places, and events in or relevant to English and Irish developments over this period; the small number of letters written from abroad, especially by diplomatic agents and others, and passages concerned with foreign developments not directly or immediately relevant to the domestic English and Irish focus of this correspondence, have been annotated more lightly. Where letters in this collection are closely linked to other surviving correspondence or associated papers now found in Abbott, *TSP*, Dunlop, *CSPI*, and the *Clarke Papers*, cross-reference to this material has been made via footnotes. (For full details of these works, see the list of abbreviations on p. ix.)

Many of the footnotes provide biographical information about the writers and about other figures to whom reference is made within the correspondence, and a short biographical sketch will generally be found at an individual's first appearance, although some obscure or minor characters receive no supporting biography. The biographical information contained in the footnotes is drawn in the main from the works listed below. These works are generally not individually acknowledged in the biographical footnotes, although any additional sources drawn upon or referred to are referenced at that point.

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H.C.G. Matthew and B. Harrison (eds), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 60 vols (Oxford, 2004);

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