ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This volume has been many years in preparation and accordingly numerous debts of gratitude have been incurred along the way. Three such debts should be warmly and gratefully acknowledged at the outset, for without them this project could not have proceeded. Firstly, the Henry Cromwell correspondence transcribed and annotated here is contained in three volumes of the Lansdowne Collection held by the Department of Manuscripts of the British Library and I am most grateful to the British Library in general, and to the Head of Administration of Western Manuscripts in particular, for granting permission for this material to be published. The correspondence formed the basis of a Master of Letters thesis by Clyve Jones, awarded by the University of Lancaster in 1969 and comprising in large part an annotated transcript of the majority of the letters. Having decided not to prepare a scholarly edition for publication himself, Dr Jones strongly supported my own proposal to work on the material afresh and to prepare an edition for publication. Thus, secondly, I am enormously grateful to Dr Jones not only for his approval and endorsement of my taking on this project – without it, I could not and would not have taken the idea any further, as he had undertaken detailed work on the manuscript well ahead of me – but also for his unfailing help and encouragement throughout its lengthy gestation. Thirdly, I am enormously grateful to a trio of senior academics for the encouragement, help, and support that they offered at the outset, as I framed a formal publication proposal and embarked upon the work: to the late Professor Austin Woolrych, who had himself worked on the correspondence and had supervised Dr Jones's Masters thesis; to Professor Ivan Roots, who supervised my own doctoral thesis on Protectoral central government and who has remained a valued friend and mentor ever since; and to Professor Blair Worden, who was the pre-1700 literary director for the Royal Historical Society at the time that my proposal was submitted and accepted and as serious work began.

In the years since, a large number of institutions and individuals have offered further invaluable help and assistance, including the staffs of the British Library, the Institute of Historical Research, the Public Record Office/the National Archives, the National Library of Wales, the John Rylands Library, Manchester Central Library, the libraries of the universities of Swansea, Chester, Liverpool, and Manchester, the Cromwell Museum, and Huntingdon Record Office. I am most grateful to

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116307002771 Published online by Cambridge University Press

the University of Chester for granting me two periods of research leave in recent years, which have been devoted, in part, to furthering this project, and to all my colleagues in the Department of History and Archaeology at Chester for their support and encouragement, especially Professor Graeme White and John Doran, who assisted in the translation of the Latin phrases that pepper the correspondence, and Dr Keith McLay, who is also currently working on the transcription and annotation of an early modern source and with whom I have exchanged ideas on the minutiae of the process. As well as the periods of institutional research leave, in 2003–2004 I was awarded a further four months' leave to complete the principal research and writing, provided and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under the AHRC Research Leave Scheme. I am most grateful to the AHRC for supporting the project in this way and warmly acknowledge the role of the AHRC in facilitating its progress and completion. I am most grateful to the History of Parliament Trust, and particularly to Dr Stephen Roberts, section editor for 1640–1660, for letting me see a small number of MPs' biographies ahead of publication; wherever I have drawn upon that, as yet unpublished, material, a footnote records, acknowledges, and gives full reference to it. I am indebted, too, to Dr Patrick Little, who has in recent years also been working on this collection from both an Irish and an English perspective and who has very kindly shared his thoughts on points of detail and of dating of several letters, and to Dr Ian Archer, currently the pre-1700 literary director for the Royal Historical Society, who has helped enormously in the final stages of this large, lengthy, and complex project.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116307002771 Published online by Cambridge University Press