

Generations of readers have found Pepys' diaries one of the best ways to vicariously experience the tumultuous world of seventeenth-century London, the time of the Restoration, the Plague, and the Great Fire. Pepys observed and recorded in vivid detail the great public events and the small private activities of this fascinating decade. As naval administrator in the court of Charles II, he was intimate with some of the most powerful figures of his day. But his favorite role was as a man of pleasure, and in London he found all the diversions he needed: music, women, taverns, good food, and above all, the constant stimulus of new experience.

*The Shorter Pepys* recreates this adventure for readers daunted by the complete multi-volume set of diaries. Containing about one-third of the original, the abridgement is full enough to give not just the essence but the detail of Pepys' daily life, his inimitable and immediately engaging style, and his insights into the politics and culture of his age.

Robert Latham's introduction gives an invaluable background to the writing of the diary and to Pepys' life and times. The book is completed by a chronicle of Pepys' life, his family tree, and an annotated list of the principal people in the diary.

*The Shorter Pepys* will bring new readers the exceptional pleasure of this remarkable document, and old readers will be grateful that they need no longer face the dilemma of which of the nine volumes to take to bed at night.