

Preface

been followed faithfully in the belief that this gives an idiosyncratic look to the page without presenting any serious difficulty to the reader. His habit of writing headings to certain entries and titles of books etc. in a longhand larger than usual is represented in the text by the use of italics. His abbreviations of titles of rank ('Captain' etc.) have been regularised in a modern style. As for punctuation, the manuscript has very little because of the danger of confusion with the symbols of the shorthand. Pepys uses full stops (representing them by a triangle of dots or a tick) to mark off phrases as well as sentences. They have been printed as full points or as dashes, according to their use. His brackets (always round) have been retained; his colons (used as marks of abbreviation) have in nearly all cases been replaced by full points. The hyphens are mostly editorial though in a few cases they stand for Pepys's own (which he represented by double lines). Pepys had no strict rules in his longhand for apostrophes used to denote possession. He might or might not insert them; and very occasionally he wrote out the pronoun: e.g. 'Mr Pepys his meaning' (p. 679). Here they are printed in all instances where Pepys employs them, and in the shorthand they are inserted editorially in modern style. The paragraphing is necessarily editorial since the reduction of the text has altered the design of Pepys's own paragraphs.

At certain points short passages of editorial explanation are added. For the rest the commentary has been kept to a minimum in order to make room for a maximum of Pepys. The Index has been designed to serve not only the normal purposes of an index but also to a limited extent as a substitute for footnotes. There the reader will find at selected points such items of information (taken from the full edition) as can be conveyed in brief headnotes to the entries. A few footnotes are appended to the text where there are difficulties for the reader which cannot be resolved by this method. A Glossary is provided at p. 1029, and asterisks within the text direct the reader's attention to it at points where changes in the meanings of words since Pepys's day might lead to misunderstanding.⁵