

## EDITORIAL NOTE

The text has been transcribed from the original manuscript in the Canning collection in the Leeds District Archives, Chapeltown Road, Sheepscar, Leeds. The manuscript takes the form of sheets of paper of about 12½" by 7½" containing the text on both sides which were subsequently arranged and bound in date order, with the exception of the entries for 14–18 February 1794 which are inserted between 31 January and 2 February 1794. The journal has been known to specialists for some considerable time. The first historian to make extensive use of it, often in the form of long quotations, was Dorothy Marshall in her chapters on Canning's career between 1793–95 in *The Rise of George Canning* published in 1938. In addition, Professor Aspinall published short extracts of general political interest in two articles for the *New English Review* under the title 'George Canning as a Back Bencher' in 1946. However Marshall and Aspinall together published only a fifth of the journal which has meant that its full import as both a vivid record of parliamentary politics in the 1790s and a revealing portrait of Canning has been unavailable to the general reader. It is this lacuna that this edition is designed to remedy.

With regard to editorial policy, the main problem was that although Canning's handwriting is exceptionally clear and consistent, he rarely paragraphed entries for individual days and employed a form of grammar and abbreviation that could on occasion confuse the modern reader. Paragraphs have therefore been introduced and punctuation and capitalization have been modernised, although in the case of paragraphing and punctuation, this has been done in such a way as to retain as much of the pace of the original narrative as possible. In the case of Canning's abbreviations, these have been expanded where there might be any doubt as to their meaning.

In annotating the text the following rules have been applied: titled persons have generally not been given dates of birth and death or any career outline unless such information is essential to a full understanding of the text; non-titled persons have been given dates of birth and death where this was possible, together with any parliamentary seats or offices held during the period of the journal; a person identified in these ways once is not so identified again, unless such information amplifies the meaning of the text. With regard to Canning's numerous relations, the evidence that establishes their place in family trees can be found in the Canning and Patrick genealogies.