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*Parliament, Politics and Elections,
1604–1648*

This volume reproduces a wide range of parliamentary documents from the seventeenth century. It presents Parliament as an ‘institutional event’ which generated great interest both within the gates of the Palace of Westminster and in the country at large. The volume includes an introductory survey on parliamentary source material as well as the unpublished notes and diaries of the 1604–10 Parliament by Sir Edward Mountagu, Sir Robert Cotton and Sir George Manners. Following these diaries, tabulated committee attendance lists reveal the apathetic attitude of MPs and the chaotic nature of the nascent bureaucracy. The translation of two letters from the Spanish Ambassador, Gondomar, to the Infanta details the personal nature of James I’s kingship and highlights much detail about Jacobean politics and the 1621 Parliament. The Kent election for the Short Parliament and the controversy which surrounded it (then and now) is highlighted by the publication of Sir Edward Dering’s notebook. Finally, the inclusion of 117 letters between Hull and its MPs in the mid-1640s reveals a fascinating interaction between centre and locality and illustrates the localist nature of Hull politics.

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