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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations for Archives, Libraries, and Works of Reference -- Introduction -- An Account of England in the Year 1667-68 -- Intrigues at the Court of England -- The Bodyguard of the King, the Duke, and the General -- Standing Regiments -- The Naval Forces -- Status of the English Court -- On the Nobility of England in General -- The Lower House, or House of Commons -- The City of London -- The Realms of Ireland and Scotland -- Possessions of the English Crown Inside and Outside Europe -- Celebrated Men of Letters in England -- The More Distinguished People at the University of Cambridge -- Professors at the University of Oxford -- English Poets <sup>24</sup> -- Index of Some Exceptional Books by English Authors <sup>33</sup> -- The More Famous Artists of

Sommario/riassunto

In the late 1660s the English court received a visitor from Florence—Lorenzo Magalotti, an intelligent, sensitive writer and diplomat with a passion for observation and description. Magalotti had come from a state governed by an absolute grand duke to a kingdom engaged in a fierce struggle for political liberty, and from a society in which the sexual behaviour of women was closely controlled by law and custom, to one of unexampled licentiousness among the upper classes. This cultural shock produced fascinating portraits by Magalotti of Charles II and his court, accounts of their amorous intrigues, and perceptive if sometimes biased observations on politics. There is also substantially accurate account of the armed forces of the kingdom, and a good deal about its intellectual and artistic life. W.E. Knowles Middleton has provided a clear and elegant translation of this document, along with an informative introduction and supplementary notes.

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