

Preface and Acknowledgements

It is chastening but necessary to begin by confessing that this volume began life as a seminar series organised by us under the banner of the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Glasgow in 1997–8. From the first it was the intention to proceed to publication, and it must be made clear that the passing of a decade before that stage has been reached is in no way the responsibility of the six friends and colleagues whose contributions will be found herein. We are deeply indebted to them for their faith and patience, both of which we have sorely tried. Editor MacGregor would also wish to record his indebtedness to Editor Broun on the same grounds. Here at least has been one instance where the stereotype of Teutonic efficiency subverted by Celtic ennui would seem to fit the facts.

Of the chapters which follow, some now bear little resemblance to their original prototypes. Others have altered less or hardly at all, but footnotes update the reader on relevant scholarship which has appeared in the interim. It is the editors' belief that all the contributions remain equally valid, and that as a collective they have a contribution to make to their common theme. Potential publishers proved harder to persuade, another factor which occasioned delay. Hence the decision to publish this volume as an e-book, and as a limited print run produced in-house.

Aside from our fellow authors, we would like to thank Professor Edward J Cowan, Norma MacLeod, Dr Don Spaeth, and especially Christelle Le Riguer for invaluable assistance with the production of the e-book. The Faculty of Arts and Department of History of the University of Glasgow have kindly provided the financial support which met the printing costs. We dedicate this book to the single biggest influence upon us both as scholars, Dr John Bannerman, the pre-eminent historian of Gaelic Scotland.

