

DEDICATION

THE EDITORS dedicate the Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels to the memory of three men without whose vision and confidence the undertaking would have been impossible:

Archie Turnbull, David Daiches, Kenneth Alexander

First among them is Archie Turnbull who in 1983, as Secretary to Edinburgh University Press, suggested an edition of the novels of Walter Scott: his idea was to put modern editorial practice at the service of Scotland's greatest novelist, and to publish the resulting edition in a form and at a price which would attract the ordinary reader. His proposal won the immediate support of Professor David Daiches, who on returning to Edinburgh, the city of his upbringing, had begun a very active pseudo-retirement. Together they persuaded Edinburgh University's Press Committee to investigate the scholarly resources available to undertake such a venture, as well as the potential support from the Scottish universities and Scottish business. The third of those whom this Dedication remembers is Sir Kenneth Alexander, then Principal of the University of Stirling, who was invited to chair the committee that would carry forward the first modern edition of Scott.

Archie Turnbull, himself learned in the history of Scottish writing and printing, saw his role as delivering scholarship of the highest quality to an informed public. The Edinburgh Edition was the biggest project to have been undertaken by the Press, and its inception and design was our irrepressible publisher's greatest achievement. David Daiches was the most formidably learned and generous of Scotland's literary scholars. His eloquence, and his intellectual and social geniality, persuaded all of the need for the Scott edition, and he made his erudition available to all its editors. Kenneth Alexander, a cultural nationalist, a man of learning and humanity, and a shrewd man of business, put his legendary negotiating skills to full use in providing the backing essential to achieving a great scholarly enterprise.

All three men died in the early years of the twenty-first century, shortly before the completion of this new magnum opus.

David Hewitt
J. H. Alexander, P. D. Garside, Claire Lamont
Alison Lumsden, G. A. M. Wood

