

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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In addition to the universities, the project could not have prospered without the help of the sponsors cited below. Their generosity has met the direct costs of the initial research and of the preparation of the text of the novels appearing in this edition.

BANK OF SCOTLAND

The collapse of the great Edinburgh publisher Archibald Constable in January 1826 entailed the ruin of Sir Walter Scott who found himself responsible for his own private debts, for the debts of the printing business of James Ballantyne and Co. in which he was co-partner, and for the bank advances to Archibald Constable which had been guaranteed by the printing business. Scott's largest creditors were Sir William Forbes and Co., bankers, and the Bank of Scotland. On the advice of Sir William Forbes himself, the creditors did not sequester his property, but agreed to the creation of a trust to which he committed his future literary earnings, and which ultimately repaid the debts of over £120,000 for which he was legally liable.

In the same year the Government proposed to curtail the rights of the Scottish banks to issue their own notes; Scott wrote the 'Letters of Malachi Malagrowth' in their defence, arguing that the measure was neither in the interests of the banks nor of Scotland. The 'Letters' were so successful that the Government was forced to withdraw its proposal and to this day the Scottish Banks issue their own notes.

A portrait of Sir Walter appears on all current bank notes of the Bank of Scotland because Scott was a champion of Scottish banking, and because he was an illustrious and honourable customer not just of the Bank of Scotland itself, but also of three other banks now incorporated within it—the British Linen Bank, Sir William Forbes and Co., and Ramsays, Bonars and Company.

Bank of Scotland's support of the EEWN continues its long and fruitful involvement with the affairs of Walter Scott.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY AND THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH BOARD

Between 1992 and 1998 the EEWN was greatly assisted by the British Academy through the award of a series of research grants which provided most of the support required for employing a research fellow, without whom steady progress could not have been maintained. In 2000 the AHRB awarded the EEWN a major grant which ensured the completion of the Edition. To both of these bodies, the British Academy and the Arts and Humanities Research Board, the Advisory Board and the editors express their thanks.

OTHER BENEFACTORS

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Without the generous assistance of the National Library of Scotland it would not have been possible to have undertaken the editing of Scott's novels, and the Scott Advisory Board and the editors cannot overstate the extent to which they are indebted to the Trustees and the staff.

THE TALISMAN

The manuscript of The Talisman is owned by the State Historical Museum in Moscow, which agreed to its deposit for a year in the National Library of Scotland, without which outstanding generosity this volume could not have been produced. The proofs of the novel are in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, which provided a hospitable and warm location for study in a particularly cold winter. A large proportion of the other manuscript material consulted and used in the preparation of this edition is in the National Library of Scotland. The editors are extremely grateful to all of these institutions for the access they have willingly given to these materials. To these should be added the Library of the University of Edinburgh, whose staff have been consistently helpful both in locating material. The Librarian of the Advocates' Library responded willingly to requests for access to some volumes from the Abbotsford Library that related to this edition. The staff of all these institutions gave of their knowledge and skills unstintingly, and without this the production of this edition would have been impossible.

Editing Scott demands scholarship beyond the command of any one

individual. All along the way, John Ellis has received help and advice from a number of scholars and colleagues, which kept him on the right path. Alison Lumsden and David Hewitt shared a collation of the manuscript, and engaged in several productive sessions of discussion of difficult readings. Peter Garside expertly and good-humouredly guided the production of the Emendation List. Tom Craik provided scrupulous information on Shakespearean and other quotations; Roy Pinkerton likewise identified classical and Biblical references; and Carole Hillenbrand devoted much time to answering questions and solving problems on Islamic matters. To these must be added the late Sylvère Monod with whom there were stimulating and productive exchanges of information while he was preparing his translation of the novel into French. In the final stages of the creation of the volume, David Hewitt and J. H. Alexander found many of the more obscure sources (which had eluded the editor himself), thus enabling the volume to be more comprehensive and reliable than it would otherwise have been. Finally and most importantly, as in the companion novel, it has been the editor-in-chief whose constant vigilance and good humour have maintained the consistency and coherence of the finished volume.

Our proof-readers, Ian Clark and Gillian Hughes, have been more than proof-readers: they are scholars whose comments correct and enrich the work of the editors. Our editorial assistants, Rachel McGregor and Ainsley McIntosh, have done much to ensure the consistency and reliability of the editorial matter. Finally, the EEWN compositor, Harry McIntosh, has been heroic in processing the complex material that constitutes the end-matter in record time. I thank them all.