

Acknowledgements

My interest in George Strachan derived from my doctoral dissertation on the Scots Colleges abroad. The brief entry in the register of the Pontifical Scots College in Rome sent me on a programme of research into what, to me, is his fascinating life story. Much of my initial research drew on the material gained in the Vatican Archives (ASV), Vatican Library (BAV) and the Jesuit Archives in Rome (ARSI). This soon led to researching Strachan's *album amicorum* and Della Valle's journals, for which I drew on the services of my good friends in the Special Collections of Aberdeen University Library. I am in debt to all of the staff of these archives for their help. Also, I thank my colleagues in the Research Institute for Irish and Scottish Studies in the University of Aberdeen for the support and encouragement they gave me, as I researched areas beyond my normal field of study, and my friend Colin Chapman for his help in correcting the final text. Lastly my family, particularly my ever tolerant wife, deserves a special thank you for putting up with my obsession with George Strachan over several years.