

PREFACE

The preparation of this book has taken twenty-five years, during which time I have incurred obligations far beyond what I can acknowledge adequately. Collecting the photographs, on which all our work has been based, was a joint venture by all the members of the Regesta committee. Without this collaboration, in which I personally played a comparatively small part, the task could never have been completed. We received a great deal of practical help at that stage from the late Professor W. Croft Dickinson, and from Professor E. L. G. Stones, who successively acted as general advisers to the committee. Since moving to England, I have been dependent on friends in Scotland to answer questions and check points which I could not verify myself; especially on Dr Ian Rae of the National Library, and Dr Athol Murray of the Scottish Record Office. Both have taken great trouble to clear up problems which they could well have expected a researcher to solve for himself; as well as keeping me informed about the many movements of documents that have occurred since I originally saw them. David and Mairi Robinson have given me hospitality on numerous occasions, making my visits to Scotland even more pleasurable than they would otherwise have been. Dr Grant Simpson and Professor A. A. M. Duncan have always been ready to discuss problems and difficulties; and both have read drafts of the introduction. I have gained much from their comments and suspect that where I have remained obdurate, the loss is mine. Professor G. W. S. Barrow, Professor E. L. G. Stones and Mrs Jeanne Stones have all read the proofs, and not only detected errors that I had missed, but suggested numerous improvements. Professor Barrow has also identified many place-names that defeated me. The staff of Edinburgh University Press, and in particular Miss P. K. Duncan and Mr A. R. Woods, have been meticulous and considerate to a wayward editor; and Mr A. R. Turnbull, the Secretary, has throughout been patient and encouraging. To him the whole project, and not just my volume, owes a very great deal.

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A project of this kind depends on the co-operation of owners of documents and the custodians of their records; and this has been very generously given, often at the cost of considerable inconvenience. The committee of the Regesta Regum Scottorum thanks the following

owners, some alas now deceased, or their agents, for access to, and permission to print the texts of documents in their muniments: the duke of Argyll, the duke of Atholl, Lady Edith Broun-Lindsay of Colstoun, the duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, Sir James Burnet of Leys, the marquess of Bute, Sir William G. Gordon Cumming of Altyre, Lt Col. W. W. S. Cuninghame of Caprington, F. Fergusson of Baledmund Esq., H. Forbes-Irvine of Drum Esq., Sir Ian Forbes-Leith of Fyvie, the duke of Hamilton, Col. G. H. Hay of Duns, the earl of Home, the trustees of the late earl of Kinnoull, the earl of Mansfield, F. Maxwell-Stuart of Traquair Esq., the earl of Moray, the duke of Roxburghe, the countess of Sutherland, the earl of Strathmore, and the earl of Wemyss. Access and permission covering records of pre-1975 burghs and cities were granted by the town clerks, as they then were, of Aberdeen, Brechin, Dundee, Edinburgh, Elgin, Inverness, Montrose, and Perth; and for materials in Glasgow University archives, by the Archivist.

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The following owners of documents, deposited in libraries or national collections, have kindly given permission for the publication of transcripts from their muniments: the earl of Ancaster, Viscount Arbuthnott, Lady Anne Bentinck, Messrs Bonar Mackenzie w.s., the duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lt Col. J. A. Burns of Cumbernauld, Viscount Cowdray, Col. A. Cranstoun of that Ilk, the earl of Crawford and Balcarres, the earl of Dalhousie, Lord Forbes, R. Steuart Fotheringham Esq., Lt Commander G. A. Hamilton, the manager of King James VI Hospital, Perth, the earl of Leven, Messrs Lindsays w.s., the marquess of Lothian, M. Nightingale of Cromarty Esq., Sir Ronald Lindsay of Dowhill, the earl of Seafeld, the secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and the earl of Stair. On behalf of local authorities, whose muniments are, or were when we saw them, deposited in the Scottish Record Office, permission has been granted by the Archivist of the Central Regional Council, the Director of Administration of Dunfermline District Council, the Chief Executive of North-East Fife District Council, and the Director of Administration of Kyle and Carrick District Council. Texts from the St Andrews charters appear by permission of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland and of the Keeper of Muniments of St Andrews University, acting for North-East

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Throughout the long period in which this book has been in preparation, my family have had much to endure. Their acceptance of my pre-occupations and their concern for the work has been a very real support. My greatest debt is to my wife, to whom this volume is dedicated.

BRUCE WEBSTER

University of Kent at Canterbury, 1982

