

Acknowledgements

It would not have been possible to carry out this research without the financial assistance of the Student Awards Agency for Scotland, the Arts and Humanities Research Board (as was), and the Faculty of Arts of Stirling University. St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, gave me two fellowships, each of one month's duration, in order to stay and conduct research there, for which I would like to thank the Warden and the Trustees. The Institute of Historical Research awarded me a Scouloudi History Research Fellowship for 2003–4, which was of inestimable assistance in the final stages.

The staff of the following libraries cannot be thanked enough: Stirling University Library, the National Library of Scotland, the Mitchell Library, St Deiniol's Library, the British Library, London University Library, Edinburgh University Library, Glasgow University Library, Newcastle University Library, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and Cambridge University Library. I must offer particular acknowledgement to Gordon Willis at Stirling University Library, for arranging for me to take out, on long-term loan, Gardiner's *History* on top of my standard borrowing allowance. The staff of that library do an excellent job, often in the face of difficult circumstances. Two other libraries should also receive special mention. Glasgow's Mitchell Library is perhaps Britain's finest public institution, as wonderful and unique as the city itself. St Deiniol's Library is Britain's best-kept academic secret, offering a combined working and social environment unparalleled in my experience. My fondest thanks go to the Librarian, Patsy Williams (and her assistant librarians of the past decade), Greg Morris, Karen Parry, and the Warden, Peter Francis. In addition to these libraries, I must also thank the staff of the relevant archives, special collections and manuscripts divisions of the following institutions: King's College, Cambridge; City University, London; King's College London; University College London; University of London Library; All Souls' College, Oxford; Christ Church, Oxford; Jesus College, Oxford; Merton College, Oxford; the University of Reading; the University of Calgary; the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA; and the University of Pennsylvania. Many thanks also to the Warden and Fellows of Merton College, Oxford, for permission to reproduce the portrait photograph (MCPh/A13/4) on the cover.

A number of individuals have helped with specific elements of my research, and I would like to thank the following for taking the time to respond to my various requests for information, suggested reading, and their thoughts on my ideas: Daniel Breazeale, John Drakakis, David Fahey, Tim Grass, David Killingray, Timothy Lang, John Morrill, Myron Noonkester and Adrian Streete. Fiona Chalamanda helped me with translating some

German passages, Stephen Penn with some Latin. Just because the material that Joe Bray helped me with has been excised (for reasons of space and balance only) does not mean that I do not appreciate his help – quite the opposite. Conversations with Jonathan Wild have been particularly inspirational and formative for my developing ideas. Helen Dingwall, Jane Garnett and Richard Whiting offered judicious comments on early drafts of this book, for which I am grateful. Finally, the two anonymous readers appointed by the RHS and Arthur Burns as editorial advisor offered extremely helpful comments and a great deal of support; without them, rather obviously, this book would never have come to fruition.

Early versions of parts of this book were given as papers on a number of occasions. In addition to offering my gratitude to those present who offered comments and questions, I would like to offer particular thanks to Peter Yeandle for the invitation to speak at Histfest VII, Lancaster, in the summer of 2003 and to James Knowles for the invitation to speak at the Caroline Drama Symposium organised by him on behalf of the Scottish Institute for Northern Renaissance Studies, held at Stirling in April 2004. The members of the Modern British History Seminar of the Institute of Historical Research have been an inspiration, and offered keen, yet kind, criticism when I spoke to them in February 2004. I must also express my heartfelt gratitude to those who have spoken at or attended the History of Ideas seminar series that it was my pleasure to co-ordinate at Stirling.

David Bebbington guided my early development as a researcher with more tolerance, critical acumen and liberal learning than anyone has any right to expect. For ten years I was, off and on, a student of the history department at Stirling University, and built up a series of debts – in particular to Jim Smyth, Emma Macleod, Bob McKean, George Peden and Mike Rapport, and, of course, to the office staff: Linda Bradley, Margaret Hendry and Annabelle Hopkins. The inhabitants of B19 were highly supportive; Neil Forsyth, Alison Kennedy and Ross Christie had their ears bent more than most. The environment at St Deiniol's is highly conducive to work, but the friendship of Anne Isba and Neslihan Senoçak has ensured that my visits have been extremely pleasurable as well as productive. Roland Quinault has been more helpful than he probably realises. Without the support of my parents, Ro and Allan Drowley, this book would never have been completed. I cannot even begin to give due recognition to the ways in which Bethan Benwell has supported me throughout this process. Nancy-May Matthews, one of a number of members of my family who have shared my fascination with the past, offered financial help with the building up of my personal Gardiner library. Unfortunately she passed away during the period in which the manuscript was being prepared and will never see the result; for this reason, I dedicate the book to her memory.

Mark Nixon
April 2010