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In memory of my father,
Charlie W. Meigs
1917–1996

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Note on Usage

There have always been a number of ways to render Gaelic names into English, and there is still no single standardized form. Rather than somewhat arbitrarily altering the spelling of names I have tried throughout to use the form preferred by the individual, both historical personages and modern historians. Where no such preference is indicated, I have simply used the most recognizable form of given names and surnames, taking into account the modern preferred usage of omitting the apostrophe in names beginning with 'O.' Similarly I have made no attempt to modernize original spellings in primary sources, but I have tried to provide modern place-names in brackets wherever possible. On translations I have generally used the phrasing given by the editor or translator of a text, occasionally noting when a translation is inaccurate or seems ambiguous. In foreign language references in which a translator is not identified in the notes, it is to be assumed that the translations are mine. Gaelic-speakers may note that where I have used Gaelic terms in the text (for example, *aes dána*) I have used a simplified generic spelling to avoid confusing non-Gaelic speakers with spelling changes produced by cases, declensions, aspiration, and so forth. On these sorts of issues, no solution is ideal, but in the interest of general readership, I have chosen to sacrifice linguistic purity for what I hope is greater clarity.