

THE FACES OF ORKNEY
Stones, Skalds and Saints

THE FACES OF ORKNEY

Stones, Skalds and Saints

Edited by
Doreen J. Waugh

Associate Editor
Alison Finlay

Scottish Society for Northern Studies
2003

Published in Scotland by:

The Scottish Society for Northern Studies
c/o Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies
University of Edinburgh
27 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LD

The printing of this book is made possible by a gift to the University of
Cambridge in memory of Dorothea Coke, Skjaeret, 1951

ISBN 0-9535226-1-X

Copyright © 2003, Scottish Society for Northern Studies
and individual contributors

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a
retrieval system or transmitted in any form, in any quantity or by any means
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the
prior written permission of the Society and appropriate contributors. Multiple
copying of any of the contents of the publication is always illegal.

Cover photograph of the church at Orphir, Orkney
by Gunnie Moberg

Text set throughout in Times New Roman

Printed by:
Shetland Litho
Gremista
Lerwick
Shetland ZE1 0PX

CONTENTS

Preface	
Doreen J. Waugh	i
Poems	
Christine De Luca	1
Runic Tradition in Orkney: From Orphir to the Belsair Guest House	
Michael P. Barnes	4
Arnórr, Earls' Propagandist?	
On the Techniques and Social Functions of Skaldic Eulogy	
Diana Whaley	18
George Mackay Brown: Poet and Story Teller	
Archie Bevan	33
St Magnus: An Exploration of his Sainthood	
William P. L. Thomson	46
Earldom and Kingdom: Orkney in the Realm of Norway 1195-1379	
Steinar Imsen	65
Cathedral, Palace and Castle: The Strongholds of Kirkwall	
Peter Anderson	81
Samuel Laing of Papdale, Orkney: A Kelp-laird's Political Ambitions, 1824-1834	
R. P. Fereday	94
Famine and Victuals on the Graemeshall Estate	
Sheena Wenham	108
Some Thoughts on the Importance of 'Things'	
Anne Brundle	124
The Vikings in Orkney	
James Graham-Campbell	128
Curiouser and Curiouser: Mysteries of Tuquoy and Scar	
Olwyn Owen	138
A Tale of Two Chapels	
John Hunter	161
Bed Rock, Ice Age and Holocene Environment in Orkney	
John Brown	175

CONTRIBUTORS

PETER ANDERSON is Deputy Keeper, National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh.

MICHAEL P. BARNES is Professor of Scandinavian Studies, Department of Scandinavian Studies, University College London.

ARCHIE BEVAN is a friend and literary executor of the late George Mackay Brown, and former Deputy Rector of Stromness Academy, Orkney.

JOHN BROWN is a geologist based in Stromness, and Councillor with Orkney Islands Council, Orkney.

ANNE BRUNDLE is Museum Curator, Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall, Orkney.

CHRISTINE DE LUCA is a Shetland poet, writing both in Shetland dialect and English.

R. P. FEREDAY is an Orkney historian and former Principal Teacher of History, Kirkwall Grammar School, Orkney.

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL is Professor of Medieval Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

JOHN HUNTER is Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

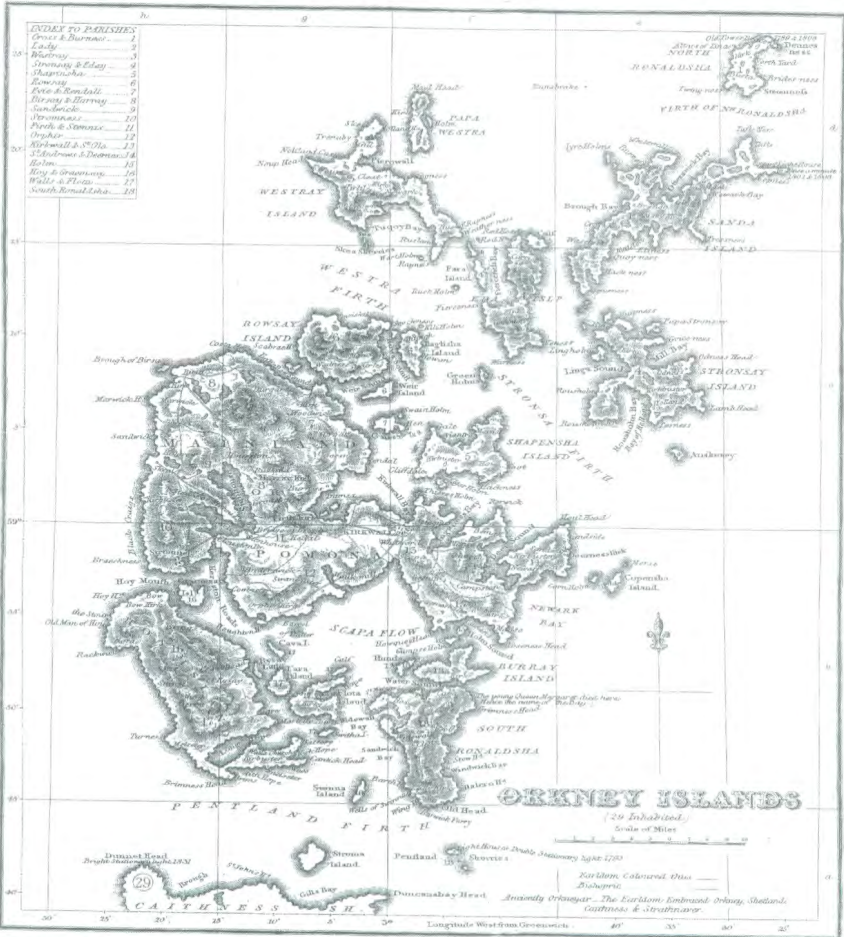
STEINAR IMSEN is Professor of Late Medieval and Early Modern History, Department of History, Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Trondheim.

OLWYN OWEN is Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland, Edinburgh.

WILLIAM P. L. THOMSON is an Orkney historian and former Rector of Kirkwall Grammar School, Orkney.

SHEENA WENHAM is an Orkney historian, living in Orphir, Orkney.

DIANA WHALEY is Reader in Medieval Studies, Department of English Literature and Linguistic Studies, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



Revised by Colin Clark, Dundee, Edin., Aberdeen, Scotland, 1992

Edinburgh, Dublin, by J. & C. Black, 27, North Bridge, 1st May 1887

ISBN 1 85041 110