

PREFACE

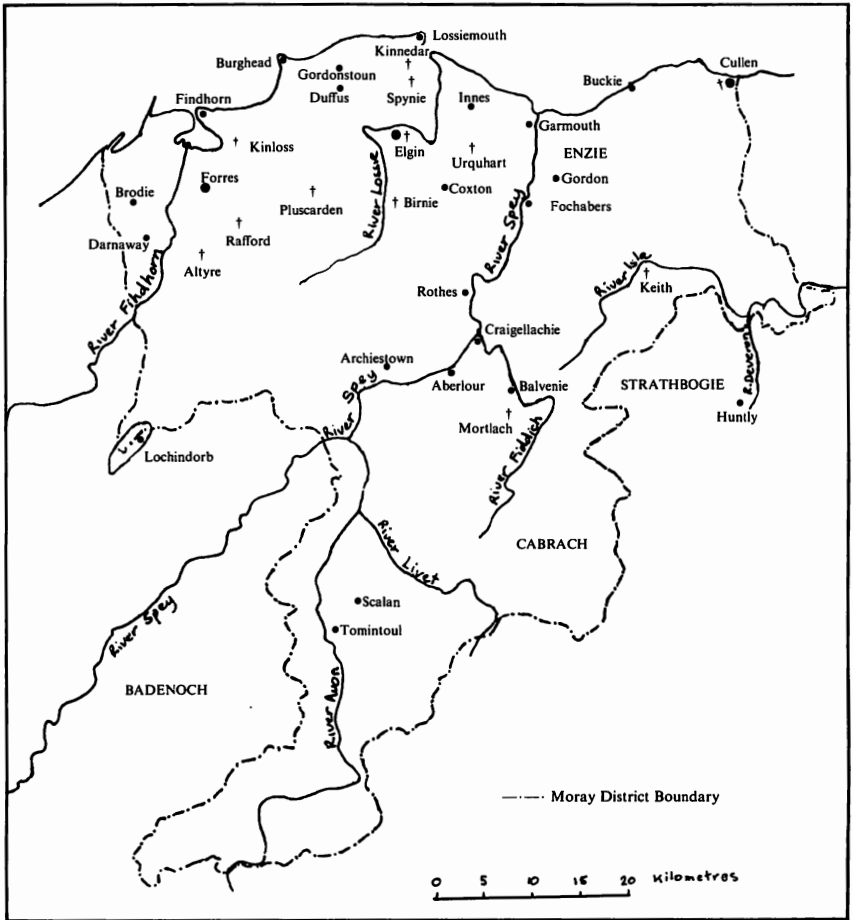
Moray: Province and People, like the earlier volumes in this series noted on the back cover, stems from an Annual Conference of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies: the Moray Conference held at the Ramnee Hotel, Forres in April 1987. The title of the volume partly reflects also that of its immediate predecessor, *Galloway: Land and Lordship*, and Lachlan Shaw's celebrated *History of the Province of Moray*, first published in 1775. The bounds of Moray have varied widely over the years and according to context: Dark Age Province, Medieval Earldom, Diocese, Sheriffdom, County and District have all borne the same unadorned designation but have differed in area. The editor imposed no three-line whip, but most contributors have concentrated on the modern District of Moray, which includes the historic heart of Moray in all its guises.

In keeping with the traditions of the Society the contributions range over a number of disciplines. There are papers on geology, archaeology, architecture, dendrochronology and place-name studies; but the bulk of the writing is historical, and includes particular studies of two of the most celebrated figures in the history of Moray — MacBeth and the “Wolf of Badenoch”. The Scandinavian element surfaces in a number of contributions, as befits the objects of the Society, even if the association of Sueno's Stone with a king or warrior of that name has to be rejected.

As editor I should like to thank all the contributors for their co-operation and patience, and particularly — if this does not seem invidious — those who did not speak at the Conference but who later agreed to contribute to the volume: Barri Jones who was prevented from attending the Conference by a road accident; Ted Cowan and Sandy Grant who agreed to write on MacBeth and the Wolf respectively; and Geoff Stell and Mike Baillie who volunteered on Darnaway. My thanks are due also to Lisa White, Sheila MacMillan and Elaine Yuill for much assistance with typing and word processing, to Ian Keillar, to my wife Sue, and to BPCC-AUP. All of them made my task a great deal easier.

Finally the Society is indebted to Historic Scotland, to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, and to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich for permission to reproduce the illustrations detailed in the text.

David Sellar
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MORAY showing principal places mentioned in text. (See also appendix to Keillar "Men in Moray".)