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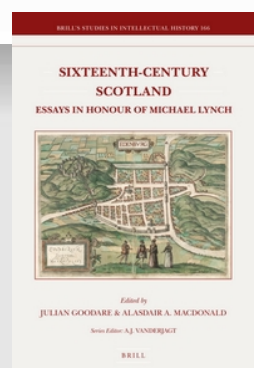
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The Noble And The Bastard: The Earl Of Argyll And The Law Of Divorce In Reformation Scotland



Author: [Jane E. A. Dawson](#)

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Overview

Chapter Summary

This chapter discusses the acrimonious divorce of the fifth earl of Argyll. The breakdown of Argyll's marriage to Jane Stewart, queen of Scots, led to an act of parliament allowing divorce for desertion; the church protested against the act, but establishing elements of Scotland's divorce laws, the Argyll case illustrates broader issues within Reformation Scotland: the boundaries between the civil and ecclesiastical spheres following the 'uproar for religion' in 1560. Here, three court cases and their legal ramifications; the social implications for the respective kingroups and for Scottish noble society; human relationships between the couple themselves - the noble and the bastard. The convoluted way in which Argyll's divorce, with its combination of ecclesiastical and civil processes, was carried over into the 1573 act.

Keywords: 1573 act; earl of Argyll; ecclesiastical jurisdiction; Jane Stewart; Mary queen of Scots; Reformation Scotland; Scottish noble society



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