

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	ix
1 THE CONDITIONS OF LITERARY COMPOSITION IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND W. F. Bolton	1
2 THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD J. E. Cross	29
3 EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE G. T. Shepherd	81
4 ALLITERATIVE POETRY IN THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CENTURIES D. J. Williams	119
5 CHAUCER	
(i) <i>Chaucer's Life</i> W. F. Bolton	169
(ii) <i>The Minor Poems and the Prose</i> S. S. Hussey	172
(iii) <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> D. S. Brewer	204
(iv) <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> D. A. Pearsall	237
6 LATER POETRY: THE POPULAR TRADITION Rosemary Woolf	267
7 LATER POETRY: THE COURTLY TRADITION Douglas Gray	313
8 LATE MEDIEVAL PROSE N. F. Blake	369
BIBLIOGRAPHY	401
TABLE OF DATES	423
INDEX	429