

Contents

	PAGE
Preface to the First Edition	v
Note to Second Edition	vi
List of Abbreviations	viii

PART I. THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD (TO 1100)

CHAPTER

I. Folk, State, and Speech	3
II. Anglo-Latin Writings	12
III. The Old Tradition: Poetic Form	20
IV. The Old Tradition: Popular Poetry	32
V. The Old Tradition: Courtly Poetry	45
VI. Religious Poetry: Cædmon and His School	60
VII. Religious Poetry: Cynewulf and His School	70
VIII. Religious Poetry: Poems on Various Themes	78
IX. Secular Poetry	88
X. Literary Prose	96

PART II. THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD (1100-1500)

I. General Characteristics of the Period	109
II. The Survival of the Native Tradition (1100-1250)	117
III. The Ancrene Riwe	127
IV. Anglo-Norman Literature	135
V. Early Latin Writers	143
VI. Wit and Wisdom	152
VII. For Their Soul's Need	158
VIII. The Arthurian Legend to Layamon	165
IX. The Romance: I	173
X. The Romance: II	185
XI. The Omnibus of Religion	200
XII. The Lyric	208
XIII. Richard Rolle and Other Mystics	225
XIV. The Alliterative Revival	232
XV. Piers Plowman and Other Alliterative Poems	240
XVI. Chaucer: I	249
XVII. Chaucer: II	258
XVIII. Other Contemporaries of Chaucer	264
XIX. The Beginnings of the Drama	273
XX. Ebb Tide	288
XXI. Looking Forward	300

Bibliographical Supplement	[3-15]
Index	i