CHAUCER: THE POET AS STORYTELLER

Also by Derek Brewer

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHAUCER

CHAUCER

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Derek Brewer

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To Eric Stanley

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Preface

This is a companion volume to *Tradition and Innovation in Chaucer* (Macmillan, 1982) and is again a collection of widely scattered essays, some not previously published. Those previously published are reprinted with minimal alteration in the order of publication. My dominant interest in these essays is in the kind of poetry Chaucer was writing, arising out of the nature of poetry designed as narrative, within particular traditions which I try to establish.

Interest in form does not exclude interest in content. In the end they are the same. They operate within certain assumptions. The assumptions governing the reading and writing of poetry, and of literature in general, have changed radically, especially since the seventeenth century. These essays are also attempts to rediscover and, if necessary, to re-interpret the assumptions, and consequently the effects, which we may now not recognise as operative in Chaucer's poetry.

DEREK BREWER

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