

# Contents



*Preface ix*

## *Part 1 TO THE CONQUEST*

- I The Romano-Celtic Prelude 1
- II The Anglo-Saxons and their Distribution (450–850) 33
- III The Conversion of the Anglo-Saxon Peoples 61
- IV Alfred the Great and the Viking-Saxon Condominium (850–900) 93
- V The Danish Ascendancy (900–1050) 120
- VI The Norman Conquest (1050–1100) 146
- VII Some Aspects of Old English Grammar 168
- VIII Old English Poetry and its Prosody 195

## *Part 2 TO THE INTRODUCTION OF PRINTING*

- IX Transition 227
- X Feudalism and Life in Society 254
- XI Dialect, Literature and Language 280
- XII Experiments in Verse 311
- XIII The Reigns of Edward III and Richard II 330
- XIV Prose from Mandeville to Malory and Medieval Drama 353
- XV The Close of the Middle Ages 382
- XVI The Significance of the Fifteenth Century 418

*Bibliography 439*

*Index 453*