

Contents

Preface		i
Abbreviations		3
Bibliography		5
Introduction		9
Piers Plowman		25
Prologue	The Fair Field Full of Folk	27
Passus I	Holy Church	42
II	The Marriage of Lady Meed	54
III	Lady Meed at Westminster	66
IV	The Fall of Lady Meed	88
V	The Author's Apologia and the Sermon of Reason	97
VI	The Confession of the Sins	109
VII	The Shriving of the Folk; Piers Plowman's Guide to Truth	129
VIII	The Ploughing of the Half-Acre	146
IX	The Pardon sent from Truth	161
X	The Search for Dowel: the Discourse of the Friars, Thought and Wit	178
XI	Learning and Salvation: the Discourse of Study, Clergy and Rechelesnesse	194
XII	The Debate about Salvation continued: Discourse of Rechelesnesse on Humility and Patient Poverty	210
XIII	Rechelesnesse Concludes: the Mirror of Middle-Earth	223
XIV	Imaginatif	234
XV	The Feast of Patience and the Meeting with Activa Vita	246
XVI	Patience and Liberum Arbitrium	261
XVII	Liberum Arbitrium on Charity and the Church	278
XVIII	The Tree of Charity and the Meeting with Faith	293
XIX	Hope and the Good Samaritan	306
XX	The Crucifixion and the Harrowing of Hell	319
XXI	The Founding of Holy Church	342
XXII	The Coming of Antichrist	362
Alphabetical Reference-List		377
Glossary		386