

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ix
INTRODUCTION	I
NOTE ON THE TEXT	42
1 WILLIAM CAXTON on Skelton, c. 1490	43
2 ERASMUS on Skelton, 'that incomparable light and ornament of British letters', c. 1499	43
3 ALEXANDER BARCLAY on 'Philip Sparrow', 1509	46
4 'The Great Chronicle of London' on Skelton and his contemporaries, c. 1510	46
5 HENRY BRADSHAW on Skelton and other superior poets, c. 1513	47
6 WILLIAM LILY on Skelton: 'neither learned, nor a poet', c. 1519	48
7 ROBERT WHITTINTON in praise of Skelton, the 'learned poet', 1519	49
8 JOHN BALE on the life of Skelton, 1557	54
9 WILLIAM BULLEIN on Skelton's satires on Wolsey, 1564	55
10 THOMAS CHURCHYARD in praise of Skelton, 1568	56
11 JOHN GRANGE on Skelton's 'ragged ryme', 1577	59
12 WILLIAM WEBBE on Skelton: 'a pleasant conceyted fellowe', 1586	60
13 GEORGE PUTTENHAM on Skelton's metre, 1589	60
14 GABRIEL HARVEY on Skelton, the 'madbrayned knave', c. 1573-80, 1592	62
15 ARTHUR DENT on Skelton's immoral works, c. 1590	63
16 MICHAEL DRAYTON in praise of Skelton, c. 1600, 1606, 1619	64
17 'Pimlyco, or Runne Red-Cappe' in praise of 'Elynor Rumming', 1609	66
18 NICHOLAS BRETON on Skelton's 'ruffling rimes', 1612	68
19 HUMPHREY KING on Skelton and other 'merry men', 1613	68
20 WILLIAM BROWNE on Skelton, 1614	69
21 HENRY PEACHAM on Skelton's unmerited reputation, 1622	69
22 'A Banquet of Jestes' on the neglect of Skelton, 1639	70
23 JAMES HOWELL on the neglect of Skelton, 1655	70
24 THOMAS FULLER's biography of Skelton, 1662	71
25 EDWARD PHILLIPS on Skelton's current obscurity, 1675	73

26	An eighteenth-century critic in praise of 'Elynor Rummyng', 1718	74
27	ALEXANDER POPE on 'beastly Skelton', 1737	75
28	ELIZABETH COOPER in praise of Skelton, 1737	76
29	SAMUEL JOHNSON on Skelton, 1755	77
30	THOMAS WARTON on Skelton, 1778	78
31	PHILIP NEVE on Skelton: 'a rude and scurrilous rhymer', 1789	83
32	ROBERT SOUTHEY on Skelton's genius, 1814	84
33	WILLIAM GIFFORD in praise of Skelton, 1816	86
34	THOMAS CAMPBELL on Skelton's buffoonery, 1819	86
35	EZEKIEL SANFORD on Skelton's life and works, 1819	87
36	The 'Retrospective Review' in praise of Skelton, 1822	89
37	WILLIAM WORDSWORTH on Skelton: 'a demon in point of genius', 1823, 1833	89
38	SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE on 'Philip Sparrow', 1827, 1836	91
39	HENRY HALLAM on Skelton: 'certainly not a poet', 1837	92
40	ISAAC D'ISRAELI on Skelton's genius, 1840	93
41	ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING in praise of Skelton, 1842	99
42	AGNES STRICKLAND on Skelton: 'this ribald and ill-living wretch', 1842	100
43	The 'Quarterly Review' on Dyce's edition of Skelton, 1844	101
44	HIPPOLYTE TAINÉ on Skelton the 'clown', 1863	122
45	'Dublin University Magazine' on Skelton, 1866	123
46	JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL on Skelton and 'Philip Sparrow', 1875, 1889	147
47	JOHN CHURTON COLLINS on Skelton, 1880	148
48	RICHARD HUGHES on Skelton, 1924	149
49	EDMUND BLUNDEN on Skelton's 400th anniversary, 1929	154
50	HUMBERT WOLFE on Skelton's innovation, 1929	163
51	ROBERT GRAVES on Henderson's edition of Skelton, 1931	167
52	W. H. AUDEN on Skelton 'the entertainer', 1935	176
53	G. S. FRASER on Skelton, 1936	186
54	E. M. FORSTER on Skelton, 1950	195
55	C. S. LEWIS on Skelton, 'the really gifted amateur', 1954	207
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	217
	INDEX	219