



The Sources of Chaucer's Poetics

Amanda Holton

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Focusing on four aspects of Chaucer's poetics—use of narrative, speech, rhetoric, and figurative language—this is the first book-length study to identify Chaucer's distinctive poetic strategies by making specific comparisons with known textual sources. The author provides a combination of analysis of both poetic stylistics and sources, reading *The Legend of Good Women* and five of *The Canterbury Tales* (*The Knight's Tale*, *The Man of Law's Tale*, *The Physician's Tale*, *The Monk's Tale*, and *The Manciple's Tale*) against their textual sources, including Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and *Heroides*, Boccaccio's *Teseida*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, *Le Roman de la Rose*, and histories by Nicholas Trevet and Guido delle Colonne. Holton provides a picture of Chaucer's habits as a writer, showing that he was consistent in asserting his own techniques against the pressure of his sources and in keeping control over words and their meaning.

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