

**CHAPTERS ON THE
METRIC OF THE
CHAUCERIAN TRADITION**

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Chapters on the Metric of the Chaucerian Tradition by Albert H. Licklider

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ALBERT H. LICKLIDER

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CHAUCERIAN TRADITION**

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CHAUCERIAN TRADITION

BY
ALBERT H. LICKLIDER

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ERRATA

- P. 4 (and once or twice elsewhere, due to careless manuscript). For *octosyllable* read *octosyllable*.
- P. 6. For *synecsis* read *synecsis*.
- P. 34. For *Blaunche* 465, 466, read 265, 266.
- Pp. 35, 36. For *Houae* read *Houa*.
- P. 38. For *pronetic* read *phonetic*.
- P. 42. Read *Which I mistrusted not. Forward therefore Here!*
- P. 51, l. 25. For *you* read *you*.
- P. 72. Read *I beseech your Graces both to pardon me.* Ed. III, t. I. 84.
- P. 85, last line. For *my* read *my*.
- P. 100. Read *Over my grave in come demé Fame.*
- P. 101, l. 22. For *remains* read *remain*.
- P. 134, l. 5. For *in* read *in*.
- P. 165, l. 2. For *outweigh* read *outweighs*.
- P. 200, l. 18. Accent *sómn^xle*.



PREFACE.

It is not without misgivings that I make public this contribution to the study of English metric. Work in that field is beset with pitfalls of many kinds, and nowhere is the ground more treacherous than in that stretch of barren territory bounded by Chaucer and Wyatt. What I have done, however, I have done with the keenest sense of the futility of dogmatism, but with deep conviction of the soundness of the views I advance.

This study is the outgrowth of a paper read before the English Seminary of the Johns Hopkins University during the month of December, 1905. That paper treated of the versification of Sir Thomas Wyatt, and it was my original intention to confine the research to that one body of verse. As the work developed, however, the necessity for satisfactory knowledge of the antecedents of Wyatt's versification became more and more urgent, and a preliminary chapter was planned to satisfy the demand. That chapter has grown to the proportions of a dissertation, and the original theme of study has been relegated to a single chapter.

The first chapter is a brief statement of current opinion, not intended to be exhaustive, nor more than an adequate starting-point for the succeeding chapters.

The second chapter is an attempt to explain and to justify the extraordinary syllabic freedom of the Chaucerians by pointing out the comparatively unnoticed peculiarities of Chaucer's own line; by emphasizing the fact that the free line of the Tradition is an exaggeration of Chaucer's method rather than a break-down into doggerel or tumbling verse. In this chapter I have used freely Bright's theory of resolved stresses. Direct attack has been explained on a psychological basis, and the famous C-type of the decasyllable has been eliminated.

The third chapter elaborates the theory of secondary accent