

WRITING THE NORTH OF ENGLAND IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Writing the North of England in the Middle Ages offers a literary history of the North–South divide, examining the complexities of the relationship – imaginative, material, and political – between North and South in a wide range of texts. Through sustained analysis of the North–South divide as it emerges in the literature of medieval England, this study illustrates the convoluted dynamic of desire and derision of the North by the rest of the country. Joseph Taylor dissects England’s problematic sense of nationhood as one which must be negotiated and renegotiated from within, rather than beyond, national borders. Providing fresh readings of texts such as Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, the fifteenth-century Robin Hood ballads, and the Towneley plays, this book argues for the North’s vital contribution to processes of imagining nation in the Middle Ages and shows that that regionalism is both contained within and constitutive of its apparent opposite, nationalism.

JOSEPH TAYLOR is Associate Professor of English at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he teaches courses in medieval literature and history of the English language. He is the co-editor (with Randy P. Schiff) of *The Politics of Ecology: Land, Life and Law in Medieval Britain* (2016).

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Regionalism and Nationalism in Medieval English Literature

JOSEPH TAYLOR
University of Alabama in Huntsville



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For Laura
'Something in the way she knows,
And all I have to do is think of her.'

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