

# THE EVOLUTION OF VERSE STRUCTURE IN OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH POETRY

*From the Earliest Alliterative Poems to Iambic Pentameter*

GEOFFREY RUSSOM

*Brown University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

## *Contents*

<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>page</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x	
1 General Principles of Poetic Form	1	
2 Indo-European and Germanic Meters	35	
3 Old English Meter in the Era of <i>Beowulf</i>	54	
4 From Late Old English Meter to Middle English Meter	89	
5 Middle English Type A1 and the Hypermetrical B-Verse	134	
6 Type A1 in the A-Verse	176	
7 Types B and C	190	
8 Survival and Extinction in Types A2, Da, and E	208	
9 Type Db and the Hypermetrical A-Verse	233	
10 The Birth of English Iambic Meter	259	
II General Summary	272	
<i>Notes</i>	278	
<i>Glossary</i>	304	
<i>Bibliography</i>	310	
<i>Index</i>	317	