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Edited by
Robert Penn Warren
& Albert Erskine

SIX CENTURIES OF GREAT POETRY



from Chaucer to Yeats

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The great English poetic tradition, which began more than a thousand years ago in a language having only little resemblance to that of our day, has had its share of glory in the epic and dramatic forms. But the bearers of that tradition have most consistently been England's lyric poets.

The lyric greatness that we inherit has come down to us through Chaucer and hundreds of later poets, and in varying poetic styles: Shakespeare's wise music, Donne's controlled violence, Marvell's profundity and wit, the Romantics' passionate view of man and woman and Nature, the twentieth century's confused searching.

But the tradition remains lyric, and it remains great; and the work of the men who made it is in this book.

About the editors . . .

ROBERT PENN WARREN, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, is the author of *All the King's Men*, *Band of Angels*, and many other works of fiction, poetry, and literary criticism. He is currently Professor of Playwriting at Yale University, where he also teaches in the Department of English.

ALBERT ERSKINE is managing editor at Random House, New York. He was formerly on the staff of *The Southern Review* and was associated with the Louisiana State University Press.