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Sommario/riassunto

To understand the characteristics of present-day English language and culture we must have some understanding of the earlier stages of language use. Bells Chiming from the Past investigates the early development of English and covers different aspects of English medieval studies, from traditional philological concerns, to the most recent perspectives of modern linguistics applied to early English texts. Most of the papers are based on empirical research in English Historical Linguistics, and will contribute substantially to our theoretical and descriptive understanding of English varieties, both written and spoken. The book focuses on the relationship and interaction of language and culture during the Middle English period. Some of the articles are clearly linguistically-oriented, but most could be included under a wider philological perspective since they study both language and the cultural milieu in which linguistic events took place. Bells Chiming from the Past is aimed at an international readership and makes a desirable addition to the field of Historical Linguistics, featuring as it does contributions from an array of well-known professionals from different academic and scientific institutions.