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John Skelton and Poetic Authority: Defining the Liberty to Speak. By Jane Griffiths. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2006. xii + 213 pp. 56 [pounds sterling]. isbn: 978-0-19-927360-7.

Recent studies of the enigmatic early Tudor poet John Skelton have emphasized the search for patronage as the primary motivating force behind many or most of the poet's works. In this important and significant new book Jane Griffiths demonstrates convincingly that Skelton's own search for literary authority shaped his written output to an equal or even greater extent than his need for patronage. Searching for legitimating authority that could empower his satirical and didactic agenda, Skelton shifted his interest across his career among the titles of Orator Regius and Poet Laureate as well as the role of vates, or divine spokesman. At the same time, Skelton found ingenious ways to ground his poetic voice...

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katherine duncan-jones malcolm godden hermione lee a. d. nuttal fiona stafford paul strohm This page intentionally left blank John
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