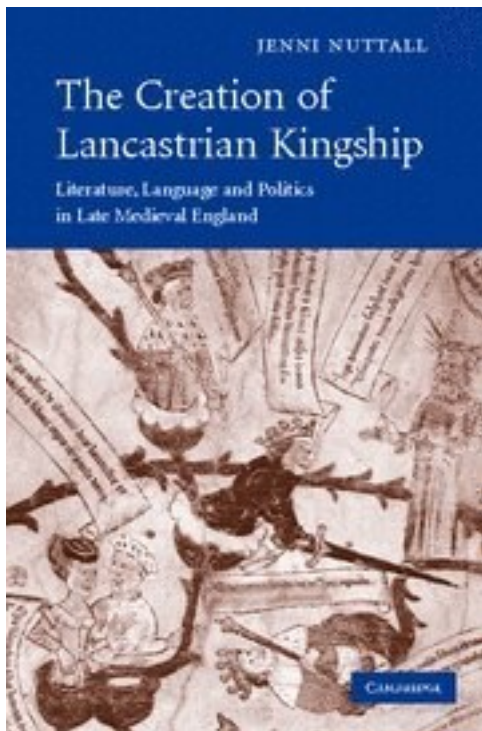


The Creation of Lancastrian Kingship



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The deposition of Richard II and its justification by Henry IV; namely that he was unfit to rule and had 'voluntarily' abdicated, sparked considerable political debate as to the nature of kingship. Political language was thus placed far more into the sphere of non-royal citizens and starts to permeate both political works and literature more generally. This study looks at the literature of early Lancastrian England, including such poets as Hoccleve, Gower, and the anonymous authors of *Richard the Redeless* and *Mum and the Sothsegger*, examining these trends. It finds that these poets seem all to have been closely connected to the new regime, mostly as civil servants, and that both they and their readership were intimately concerned with the policies and priorities of

the Crown, something which shines through in their increasingly politically aware works.

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