

3.53-1

Piers Plowman

Encyclopedia Britannica, 1956

William Langland - the supposed English poet, generally regarded as the single author of the 14th Century poem Piers the Plowman.

The traditional view, accepted by W. W. Skeat and Jusserand, that a single author (Langland) was responsible for the whole poem, in all its versions, has been disputed.

J. M. Manly, of Chicago, says it is the work of five different men. He recognizes A as the real poet. He denies any real existence to Langland. His view has obtained increasing acceptance among scholars.

cf. Camb. Hist. of Eng. Lit., Vol. II

See 3.21-3b "Historical, and Evaluative Criticism" by Mario Praz