PREFACE

This is the long-awaited prequel to Chris Given-Wilson's *Chronicles of the Revolution, 1397–1400*. Richard II's reign has rightly been called 'the perfect special subject' and it is hoped that this volume will join that book in providing students with the guidance they need in approaching this fascinating period, and its rich documentation, for the first time. I am very conscious that this collection is focused narrowly on the politics of the reign, and is not a complete portrait of the period. In particular, I am painfully aware of the almost total exclusion of any reference to church history. In crown–church relations there was important anti-papal legislation, while this was an exciting time for religious controversy and popular religion. The lack of coverage of the lollard movement is something I much regret, and can only plead a shortage of space, in mitigation.

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