



THE NEW CHAUCER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37.2 (Fall 2015)

newchaucersociety.org

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members

By now, I hope that most of you will have received your copies of *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 37. It's an exciting volume. It contains the Presidential Lecture from the 2014 Reykjavik Congress, by then-President Alastair Minnis, "Fragmentations of Medieval Religion: Thomas More, Chaucer, and the Volcano Lover"; the Biennial Chaucer Lecture by James Simpson, "Not Yet: Chaucer and Anagogy," and important articles by Lawrence Warner, "Scribes, Misattributed: Hoccleve and Pinkhurst"; Rebecca Davis, "Fugitive Poetics in Chaucer's *House of Fame*"; Sarah Stanbury, "The Place of the Bedchamber in Chaucer's *Book of the Duchess*"; Ben Parsons, "Beaten for a Book: Domestic and Pedagogic Violence in *The Wife of Bath's Prologue*"; Alan Ambrisco, "'Now y lowve God': The Process of Conversion in *Sir Gowther*"; Kara Gaston, "The Poetics of Time Management from the *Metamorphoses* to *Il Filocolo* and *The Franklin's Tale*"; and Sebastian Sobecki, "'The wrytyng of this tretys:' Margery Kempe's Son and the Authorship of her *Book*." It's good to see *SAC* leading the field in reporting new archival and literary research in Chaucer studies.

There are **two pieces of information that may require your action**: one, which is time-sensitive (you have until January 15), concerns nominations for Trustees from members; the other concerns the endowment. Information about both is below.

NCS and High-School Teachers: Outreach

If you teach Chaucer at an institute of higher education or at a high school, then the chances are that you first encountered Chaucer at high school, and that you have an enthusiastic and informed teacher to thank for that experience. When I was 11, our English teacher read us the *General Prologue* to *The Canterbury Tales* in simplified Middle English, and asked us to write a portrait in the style of Chaucer. Imitation is course a great way not only of grappling with the linguistic peculiarities of a text but also of understanding how it works as a piece of imaginative writing. That same English teacher chose as one of our English A-Level (the UK national examination for 16-18 year-olds) texts an abridged version of *Troilus and Criseyde*, in Middle English. My startled realization that Chaucer could be amusing even when the subject matter was serious ("Uncle," quod she, "youre maistresse is nat here!") had me hooked forever.

Those of us that teach Chaucer at the university level depend on the continued teaching of

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Chaucer at high school and secondary school level. University students that have read Chaucer at high school are more likely to sign up for university courses that include Chaucer, and that familiarity with Chaucer helps university teachers in their task. In any case, we need all high school students to read Chaucer in order to appreciate the range of premodern literature. NCS has for a long time supported secondary school teachers. The Society has, for example, always offered teachers a reduced membership rate: \$25, as opposed to the regular \$55. Now Lynn Staley, one of our Trustees, has established a committee to build bridges between the Society and secondary-school / high-school teachers, and they have been working hard to ensure a closer relationship between teachers and the Society, and a greater presence for high school teachers at the next Congress.

The Committee is: Lynn Staley, Chair (lstaley@colgate.edu), Kara Crawford (crawfordk@bishops.com), Susanna Fein (sfein@kent.edu), John Fyler (John.Fyler@tufts.edu), John Longo (jlongo@css.org), David Raybin (draybin@eiu.edu), and Sarah Stanbury (sstanbur@holycross.edu). Kara Crawford (Bishop's School, La Jolla), is a TEAMS curricular award winner and also sits on the Medieval Academy of America K-12 Outreach Committee.

The Committee is concerned that NCS widen our membership to include more high school teachers as active participants. While most of our members have traditionally been college teachers and graduate students, we are eager to include those that teach Chaucer and medieval literature in high schools. Membership in NCS provides a unique opportunity for teachers at all levels to learn from one another, share best practices, and generally promote the study of Chaucer in our curricula and our classrooms. You are warmly encouraged to contact any member of the committee to find out how you can be part of the NCS outreach.

In addition to a membership drive, NCS also announces a pre-conference day on 10 July, 2016, which will be devoted to high school teachers and teaching. We believe this first day will provide an engaging forum where teachers can meet one another, meet other members of the NCS, and share teaching ideas and concerns. The day's program will include conversations with leading Chaucer scholars, lunch, two afternoon roundtables, and a wine hour with the Trustees, sponsored by the NCS. After this first day, everyone will be a part of the regular sessions and conversations of the NCS meeting, which will also include many sessions devoted to teaching.

London

Arrangements for the next Biennial Congress of the Society, to be held in London from 10-15 July 2016 are well advanced. The program has been announced, and can be accessed at <http://newchaucersociety.org/pages/entry/2016-congress> (click on the right hand link, under the print of Aldgate, to download the PDF). Registration will open in late December. Details of the accommodation on the Queen Mary campus during the Congress are still being finalized. This on-site accommodation will represent very good value, and will be at better rates than most local bed and breakfast accommodation, as well as being much more convenient. Members should also be advised that, subject to availability, they should be able to stay a day or two in this on-site accommodation on either side of the Congress.

The NCS Endowment

The Society's endowment currently stands at \$513,166.71, which is healthy but relatively static compared to this time last year. While the endowment has grown steadily over the years, it has also suffered some downturns over the past six months because of market fluctuations. We rely on the endowment to produce a 5% surplus of \$25,000 each year, based on a principal of

\$500,000, in order to fund the annual NCS Postdoctoral Fellow. I am confident that we will achieve that target within the next six months, although it would be good to see the endowment on a steady upward trajectory. An appeal for the endowment from the President, Susan Crane, follows these announcements.

The NCS Postdoctoral Fellow

Our inaugural NCS Postdoctoral Fellow (2015-6), Holly James-Maddocks, began her fellowship by presenting a paper in October at the Yale Medieval Colloquium, where she discussed the motivation, method, and aims for her project “The Illuminators of the Middle English Poetic Tradition.” Since then, she has been taking advantage of her temporary American residency by visiting some of the major manuscript holdings in the US. In between surveying 15th-century illumination, Holly is mostly to be found writing lists: lists charting the intersections between producers of vernacular literary manuscripts and the wider book trade; more lists accounting for the distribution of illumination across time and space depending on the author in question. During the spring semester, Holly will present a “preliminary findings” paper for the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University, and teach a graduate course on textual criticism, codicology, and palaeography. Holly’s essay “The Illuminators of the Hooked-g Scribes: East Anglian and

Metropolitan Collaboration in the Production of Some Copies of Middle English Literature, c.1460–c. 1490,” will appear in *The Chaucer Review* 51.2 (2016) in April 2016.

Obituaries

NCS announces with deep regret the deaths in 2015 of two members of the Society: Norman Hinton and Robert Stein. Obituaries for both appear in this issue of the Newsletter, by Alan Baragona (for Norman Hinton), and Christopher Baswell, Sandra Pierson Prior, Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, and Louise Yelin (for Robert Stein).

I am delighted to announce that NCS’s Administrative Assistant Jessica Rezunyk has just been awarded her PhD from Washington University in St Louis. Her dissertation title is *Science and Nature in the Medieval Ecological Imagination*. Congratulations, Dr Rezunyk!

I wish all our members, wherever you are in the world, a pleasant winter or summer, and (where appropriate) a very joyful holiday season and a very happy New Year.

Ruth

VOTING FOR NEXT PRESIDENT AND NEW TRUSTEES

In Spring 2016, Society members will elect a new President and four new Trustees, replacing President Susan Crane and Trustees Ardis Butterfield, Tom Hahn, Lynn Staley, and Sarah Stanbury when their terms of office end in 2016. As stipulated in the Constitution, the Trustees propose names for the general election of the next President, and a Nominating Committee will produce a slate of eight names for the four Trustee vacancies. Drawing on names already proposed by the membership, Susan Crane has appointed this year’s Nominating Committee: David Matthews (Chair, Manchester), Orietta Da Rold (Cambridge), Elliot Kendall (Exeter), Bobby Meyer-Lee (Indiana-South Bend), and Karla Taylor (Michigan).

The Constitution also provides for Trustee ballot nominations by written petition from at least eight current NCS members. **If members wish to propose a candidate for election to Trustee, please collect eight emails from NCS members endorsing the nominee and send all eight emails, complete with their address headers, pasted up as a single email to the Executive Director, Ruth Evans, at chaucer@slu.edu. The deadline for nominating by this method is January 15, 2016.** Members nominated for Trustee by petition in this way will appear on the election ballot along with the eight names proposed by the Nominating Committee.

The subsequent general election will choose four new Trustees with terms 2016-2020, and a President for the term 2016-2018. Online voting will take place by email to all members in February.

FROM THE NCS FINANCE COMMITTEE

We encourage members to donate to the NCS endowment fund. Our endowment was built on a founding legacy from Donald Howard and has grown substantially through member donations. In most years, the Society's operating budget (income from sales, dues, and congresses) has a surplus that can be transferred to the endowment accounts. This year, with declining investment returns worldwide, and our use of endowment interest income now beginning, we hope to protect the fund's principal with a special appeal for donations.

The NCS endowment has two purposes. First, the endowment's principal is our insurance against potential misfortunes, such as not finding host universities, at some future time, to support the operations of Studies in the Age of Chaucer and the Society's main office. Over the last 20 years, our several sponsoring universities have provided the equivalent of \$50,000 to \$90,000 per year in office space, equipment, supplies, web support, and graduate student stipends. If the Society were not to find such generous institutional sponsors at some time in the future, the endowment's principal could fill the financial gap for a few years.

The second purpose of the endowment is generating interest income every year in support of the next generation's medievalists. Currently, we contribute \$25,000 per year from the endowment's income to the New Chaucer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship, cosponsored with St. Louis University. This is a three-year arrangement now entering its second year. An additional 5% of the endowment's total value goes to the Donald Howard Travel Scholarships in congress years, to support graduate students and recent PhDs who are attending the Biennial Congress. This travel support has always come out of the operating budget, not as withdrawals from the endowment, but this reduces the amount transferred from the operating budget to the endowment each year.

Your donation can help! Your contribution to the Endowment will not go toward daily operating expenses but rather toward support of our long-term causes: the stability of the Society's future, the NCS Postdoc, and the Donald Howard Travel Scholarships. *Donations can be made by logging in at the NCS website, clicking the Dues and Donations tab, and adding a donation or combination of donations to your Cart. Donations can be made along with dues payments, or independently of dues payments.*

NCS LONDON 2016: UPDATE

The main venue for NCS in July 2016 will be the leafy and beautiful campus of Queen Mary, University of London, located at Mile End (site of Richard II's meeting with the rebels of 1381). Queen Mary is easily accessible to central London via tube (Central Line, District Line, Hammersmith & City Line) and bus. There will be rooms for all who request them in the on-campus dorms. An afternoon is set aside for excursions, which will depart from Queen Mary's campus at Charterhouse Square, near the Barbican. These will include, for instance, walking tours of medieval London and of the Charterhouse itself, and a trip to Eltham Palace. The site of the final reception and Biennial Chaucer Lecture by Stephanie Trigg will be The Brewery, even closer to the Barbican, a beautifully restored eighteenth-century brewery. We are also planning a trip to Canterbury on the Friday after the conference.

The Congress will meet from Monday 11 July to Friday 15 July. The Postgraduate Workshop and Teachers' Workshop will take place on Sunday 10 July. Booking for the Congress is due to open in late December 2015, and early booking is advised.

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT M. STEIN (1943-2015)

Robert M. Stein died April 24, 2015, after a four-year battle with cancer, during which he continued to engage in his life and his work with characteristic joy and determination. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and their daughter, Emma.

As a scholar, Bob Stein managed to be both a medievalists' medievalist and also someone whose work engaged in the broadest and deepest way with what we do when we represent our realities to ourselves. He was passionately concerned with the relations between social transformations and changes in modes of representation—examining, as he put it, the ways in which “representational practices, too, are actors in the real world.” He brought to this demanding intellectual agenda his formidable linguistic and textual skills, which allowed him to move across medieval literatures, languages, and historiography in new and original ways. We have especially valued Bob's remarkable ability to articulate disciplinary paradigms and shifts, to place medieval studies in the cultural contexts of both the Middle Ages and our modern concerns with them, to keep seeing what is happening, and what matters. He used his considerable theoretical knowledge, together with his fierce intellect, in order to think deeply about all the major thinkers of the Western tradition, most of whom he knew thoroughly in their original languages. His ability to “place” representations intellectually, historically, politically and culturally was preternaturally sharp as a result.

Such abilities are precious enough in any field: for the period in which Bob specialized, the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, it is of particular value. Bob's masterwork, *Reality Fictions* (2006), expertly pinpoints the emergence of major Western literary genres amidst twelfth-century instability of power, authority, and territoriality, changes in the relations of public and private life, and the emergence of particular forms of subjectivity. It is also a book with much to say to a modern world, where the spaces for political complicity or resistance are mobile and changing.

Original and powerful in the urgency of its brilliant new readings as this book is, it is still only a part, not simply a summa, of Bob's constantly evolving and ranging scholarly practice. He wrote with similar elegance and force when illuminating little known medieval works or when discussing canonical authors such as Chaucer or Marie de France: as for example, in the essays “The Conquest of *Femenye*: Desire, Power, and Narrative in Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*,” and “Desire, Social Reproduction, and Marie's *Guigemar*.” Bob's work in analyzing the current state of historical or literary enquiry and in presciently articulating new post-national paradigms will continue to serve not just all medievalists, but any careful readers and thinkers in literature, history, and culture.

Bob earned his B.A. in English from Hofstra University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. He began his teaching as a special instructor at Prairie

View A&M College in Texas, in a summer program sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Subsequently, after several years at City College, CUNY, Bob arrived at Purchase College (formerly SUNY Purchase), where he spent the remainder of his career, until his retirement in 2013. In addition, Bob taught frequently at Columbia University, where he also supervised numerous master's theses and doctoral dissertations.

At Purchase Bob played a leading role in devising curricula that took into account both traditional subject matters and innovative approaches to the humanities. He also taught a wide range of courses in ancient, medieval, and Renaissance literature, as well as courses in Latin language and literature, medieval history, and the interdisciplinary study of culture and society. A hallmark of Bob's teaching at Purchase, as at City College and Prairie View, was his commitment to introducing students—many of them the first in their families to attend college—to classical, modern, and contemporary literature, as well as to the protocols and practices of textual, historical, and cultural analysis and the uses of emerging electronic technology in the humanities. A demanding teacher, Bob was also a generous mentor to students, some of whom went on to graduate work and teaching careers.

Bob was regularly sought after as a translator, work he performed across many periods, languages, and genres. He began by translating medieval motets and chansons from Provençal, Catalan, and Latin for use by an early music group, The Waverly Consort. These translations drew on his strong knowledge of music as well as his ability to speak and write in many languages. Subsequently, he translated the correspondence between Walter Benjamin and Erich Auerbach, from German into English. Recently, he had been working on translating the writings of French psychoanalyst Jean Laplanche, a project he found both deeply moving and tremendously interesting. The publication, coauthored with Jonathan House, is forthcoming.

In addition to the influence of his own scholarly writing, Bob was in demand as a reviewer and as a responder to other people's scholarship. His informative reviews helped scholars to broader and more sharply perceived versions of their original vision.

Impressive as the wide-ranging features of Bob's academic career have been, they did not fill all of his life. He was passionately fond of music, especially opera and jazz, to which he brought the same knowledge and brilliance that graced his professional life. He loved good food and was a terrific cook. With Marilyn, his wife of almost 50 years, and joined often by their daughter, Emma, Bob traveled widely and enthusiastically, especially in France and Italy. Their visits to Paris were frequent enough that they made new and lasting friends there. Like his scholarly work and his teaching, Bob's "extra-curricular" activities often crossed the usual boundaries—his daughter Emma's graduate work in the art of Southeast Asia, especially southern India, led Bob into new fields of interest, including a trip with Marilyn to the area of Emma's study. One travel adventure he made in 2000 with Bob Hanning, Nick Howe, and George Economou (in Texas, a place in some ways more "distant" than Southeast Asia) is emblematic of Bob Stein's way of combining his interests and concerns with his travels. Playing hooky briefly from the Medieval Academy meeting in Austin, Bob led these good friends to the "best barbecue" in Texas. As Hanning tells it, they drove for about an hour to their destination in the dusty little town of Taylor. An unimposing shack, this barbecue place still had separate entrances and seating areas for blacks and whites (including Mexicans)—no longer so labeled but well-known to all patrons. Bob Stein led them through the "Blacks-Only" entrance and made sure they sat in the "Blacks-Only" section, where under some initially unfriendly stares, they feasted happily off paper plates.

Bob's blazing intellect, his passion, and insight into the Western tradition make him an exceptional figure: while it is much to be regretted that he was not spared to publish still more, he has left us with both a wealth of thought and insight in his writings and also an unforgettable example of participation in the debates of our society and the life and effects of its representational capacities to which he was so keenly alive. Above all, Bob Stein's firm commitment to intellectual excellence, joined with a passionate concern for social and political justice, has given us a model to remember and to emulate.

Christopher Baswell, Sandra Pierson Prior, Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Louise Yelin

IN MEMORIAM: NORMAN HINTON (1932-2015)

On May 31, 2015, medieval studies lost a great scholar, teacher, colleague, and character, Norman D. Hinton. All medievalists must be interdisciplinary, but Norman was the very model of a modern major polymath, and his students and colleagues in many fields benefited from his erudition and his generosity. A colleague wrote of him that “Norman Hinton had probably read everything ever written in the English language.” His interests ranged from Cynewulf to Chaucer, Donne and Herbert, Huxley and Hart Crane, science fiction, mysteries, Western novels, and the Midwestern poet John Knoepfle. What connected all these things was his interest in language. He could speak and write about variant texts in the Vulgate Bible, puns in Chaucer, dialects of the American upper Mid-West, the language of jazz, and the language of baseball (or at least of his beloved St. Louis Cardinals). He embraced computers as a tool for the study of literature and language, whether databases for medieval manuscripts and for dating a Middle English text or those early examples of social media, DOS bulletin boards and listservs. When Larry Benson and Joe Wittig founded The Chaucer Metapage and were looking for retired professors to be online “mentors” for younger medieval faculty, Norman was a natural choice.

Norman Hinton was a New Yorker by birth (in 1932), but for most of his life he was a Westerner and a Midwesterner. He did his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Tulsa, where he met and married his wife of sixty-one years, Jo Ann. At the University of Wisconsin, he earned a Ph.D in 1957 with the dissertation, *The Study of the Medieval English Poems Relating the Destruction of Troy*. He taught at Wisconsin, then went to Princeton, where he was a junior instructor under D.W. Robertson. He spent ten years at St. Louis University, which was perfect for a lifelong Cardinals fan. Eventually he was recruited to be part of a carefully diversified English faculty at Sangamon State University in Springfield, Illinois, where Norman spent the rest of his career. In 1995, it was absorbed by the state university system and became the University of Illinois-Springfield.

During the course of his long career, Norman’s publications and presentations reflected the whole range of his interests. He was a true Humanist, who rejected the notion that specialization meant choosing between depth and breadth. Even as he made significant contributions to medieval studies, he brought equal seriousness to every topic that caught his interest. In the 1960s and 1970s, he wrote a number of articles for *American Speech* on topics ranging from the basic (“An Early Instance of ‘Lunch’ as an Adjective” and two articles on the suffix “-lash”) to the quirky and charming (“‘Let's Go /fə'nark/ at the Birds’: A St. Louis Term”). While he was publishing in *Neophilologus* and what was then called *Arthurian Interpretations* (now *Arthuriana*) and presenting papers at conferences like the International Congress on Medieval Studies and the Medieval Association of the Midwest, he also regularly presented papers at popular culture conferences and, anticipating the current scholarly interest in *noir* film and fiction, published in *Clues: A Journal of Detection*, the only American scholarly journal devoted exclusively to crime fiction. Occasionally, he managed to combine his enthusiasms for medieval literature and popular culture, as when in 1996 he published on werewolves in the Middle Ages, anticipating their revival in the *Twilight* series by almost ten years. Probably the only enthusiasms that did not show up in his scholarship were fishing and stamp collecting.

Perhaps his most important contribution to medieval studies, though, was being in the forefront of using computer technology to advance our understanding of medieval texts. Norman saw the potential of computers early on and was excited by their ability to expand the scholarly horizon. In the 1980s, he used computer analysis to narrow the date of composition of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. He helped develop code to make databases based on the *Middle English Dictionary*, compiling words from Chaucer and all the texts from the *Pearl* manuscript, and was able to establish with 98% accuracy that *SGGK*, for all its quirks, was typical of Middle English around 1390. At the same time, he used computer analysis of the contents of the *Canterbury Tales* manuscripts to determine that the *Tales* can be seen as a *compilatio*, “a work which arranges *auctoritates* in such a way as to produce materials for a discussion of moral or ethical issues.” He never used software for its own glitzy sake, however. He was quite capable of writing more traditional literary analysis, whether on Lucan and *The Man of Law’s Tale* or the Black Plague and

The Book of the Duchess. His goal was always to find better tools to understand medieval literature in the context of its linguistic, historical, and literary background.

It was probably as a teacher and colleague, however, that he had his greatest impact. From his time working under D.W. Robertson, he learned both what to do and what not to do. Robertson famously brought Chaucer's characters to life by reading Middle English aloud and even concocting conversations between John of Gaunt and Wyclif. Yet he did not allow student discussion. He always finished his lectures just at the bell, did not take questions, and left it to junior faculty like Norman to engage with the students in the discussion sections. He did not spend much time teaching the students to read and translate Middle English, which he seemed to think was easy. Norman learned a better way.

Like Robertson, he brought the force of his personality into the classroom. A tribute to Norman in 2007 said, "In HEL, he always asked his students to buy a textbook, but he didn't really use textbooks in class and they didn't much matter in the end—he was the real textbook in those classes." However, he never let his own erudition get in the way of using discussion to draw students into the literature. In a wry comment on the CHAUCER listserv in 1998, he said of *The Franklin's Tale* and Arveragus and Dorigen "it begins with their assuming that they can be married and still act like unmarried lovers . . . the married students in my classes always knew this wouldn't work: the unmarried ones didn't know what we were talking about." And because of the attention he paid to the writers' use of language, he made sure his students were well versed in Old or Middle English, so that they could engage in the texts, following his model of close reading. He took the success of his students seriously enough that he wrote two volumes for Cliff's Notes: *How to Take an Essay Examination* and *How to Get Higher Marks in English Literature*.

Norman's concern for his students was matched by his concern for his colleagues and his profession and for any threat to academic freedom. He became a professor in the sixties, and throughout his career, he blended pragmatism and idealism, acting both locally and globally. As a young faculty member at St. Louis University, he became the advisor to the newly formed branch of Students for a Democratic Society. He was active with the Illinois Medieval Association and was a founding member of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. In his later years, he became a mentor to an international group of younger scholars and helped them start Mearcstapa, an organization that crosses disciplinary and cultural boundaries. In 2010, Norman signed an open letter from Mearcstapa to the Medieval Academy of America protesting its decision to hold its conference in Tempe after Arizona passed harsh anti-immigration laws, including barring the teaching of ethnic studies and an attempt to bar teachers with "heavy accents" from teaching English. Towards the end of his life, he openly and frequently criticized universities for creating a bloated bureaucracy of middle management while undercutting faculty governance and for cutting programs, especially language education and literature, that he felt were vital to a truly liberal arts education.

The rise of social media in education with the advent of academic listservs gave Norman an opportunity to bring together all the strands of his passions and accomplishments. As usual, Norman was in the lead and even anticipated the use of computers to build a community of scholars across institutional and national boundaries. In 1978, he was instrumental in developing PLATO, an early computer network, and took part in an experiment with long-range communications sponsored by the University of Hawaii and the American Field Service. Sitting at a (now clunky appearing) computer terminal in Springfield, he took part in a trans-oceanic discussion with AFS workers in Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, and various South Pacific islands. Two years before, in an article on the PLATO system, he predicted that soon "a university class may go on in your living room whenever you want to turn to the keyboard."

With the appearance of the CHAUCER listserv, ARTHURNET, MEDTEXT-L, and HEL-L, Norman was in his element, an element he helped create, and he became well known to a new generation of young scholars, who were able to learn from him without having to wait for a publication or sit in his classroom. He encouraged participation by praising others for their contributions as much as by contributing himself. He ended so many postings to CHAUCER with "Is this a great list or what?" that he began abbreviating it as "ITAGLOW?" and other subscribers took it up (how appropriate that a linguist so interested in neologisms should coin such a useful acronym).

That same 1998 posting to CHAUCER on *The Franklin's Tale* is a perfect example of the confluence of Norman's interests and skills. It is worth quoting at some length. "We've got to remember that this is the Franklin's notion of high-class behavior: 'For his absence wepeth she and siketh/ As doon these noble wyves whan hem liketh.' I always pause in admiration of 'whan hem liketh.' . . . Someone, denouncing the lyrics to some of the lieder in *Die Schöne Müllerin*, spoke of 'the easy tears of the Erman muses' in the Romantic period: it crosses my mind when I hear the Franklin make Dorigen 'moorneth, waketh, wayleth, fasteth, pleyneth.' But it wears off, and her flibbertigibbet friends know what she needs: a party! And Dorigen, saying 'I will ne'er consent,' consented. Of course then there's the marvelously blasphemous prayer, the dumb oath, the 'loveris maladye of Herois' of Aurelius—two years in bed crying . . . the pseudo-speech of Dorigen supposedly about suicide, and Arveragus's response when his wife tells him she has to go sleep with a squire—Do the neighbors know? Yeah, I think they are all nincompoops."

That is vintage Hinton. The attention to the nuances of Chaucer's verse, socio-historical context, common sense, and his own direct, even blunt, but witty language. And how many scholars can bring Schubert into a discussion of Chaucer and do it so cogently and pointedly? Even if you disagree, you have to admire and appreciate it.

Norman Hinton is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Hinton and five children: Susan, Chris, Michael, Geoff, and Martin ("none of whom teaches," as he wrote with a mixture of ruefulness and relief in the short autobiography for the Chaucer Metapage). He is also survived by ten grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and scores of former students and colleagues, all grateful for the chance to learn from this Grand Old Humanist.

Alan Baragona, James Madison University

OTHER CONFERENCES AND CALLS

Longwood University Presents: The Tenth Annual Meeting in the Middle Conference "The View from the North": April 8 & 9, 2016

Longwood's Medieval Undergraduate Conference has been bringing together students from institutions across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic to share and showcase their research in Medieval and Renaissance topics. Past conferences have shown the diversity and richness of these fields, and so we again invite students and faculty from the many different disciplines in Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance studies to the literal "middle", Farmville, Virginia, where we will again find common ground.

Students may present 20 minute-papers on history, literature, art history, drama, music, philosophy, religion, or any other discipline dealing with the medieval or early modern eras.

This conference includes two distinguished plenary speakers: Medieval archaeologist and Old Norse saga-translator Dr. Jesse Byock, UCLA, whose work includes new guides to learning Viking language; and Anglo-Saxonist Dr. Lilla Kopár, The Catholic University, Washington, DC who specializes in Old English texts and Viking Age monuments.

Please submit abstracts of 250 words, including your name, university, and paper title to:
Dr. Larissa Tracy: tracylc@longwood.edu or Dr. Steven Isaac: isaacsw@longwood.edu.

Deadline for proposals is January 25, 2016.

Method and the Middle English Text
April 8-9, 2016
The University of Virginia in Charlottesville

The study of Middle English literature has long been characterized by methodological debate. Today, although there is less acrimony between practitioners of differing methodologies than in previous generations, there is still division between “old” and “new” methodologies. On the one hand are the more traditional practices of philology, codicology, paleography, lexicography, biography, and forms of historicism, materialist and other. On the other hand are the newer methodologies, such as ecocriticism, object-oriented ontology, new materialism, affect studies, new formalism, disability studies, queer theory, and the digital humanities.

Advocates of methods both old and new have not hesitated to argue for the merits of their respective approaches. Missing from these discussions, however, is a sense of how these different methods and intellectual investments can operate together as a scholarly praxis. How, for instance, can one combine an interest in codicology with an interest in ecocriticism, biographical readings with affect studies, materialist historicism with the new materialisms, philology with new formalism? This conference aims to produce just such scholarship. Our goal is not to correct or affirm any specific view or theoretical model. Rather, we desire a scholarly disposition of both/and, rather than either/or.

The conference will address these questions through three thematic strands led by our plenary speakers: Modes of Knowledge (Alexandra Gillespie and Patricia Ingham), History and Literature (Steven Justice and Emily Steiner), and Philosophy and Form (Andrew Cole and Kellie Robertson). Each strand will be accompanied by graduate student presentations in a series of roundtable and panel sessions that address the themes of our conference from a variety of critical and literary standpoints. Presenters will also be invited to participate in seminars, conducted by the plenaries and conference organizers and dedicated to discussion of a selection of critical texts. These seminars are designed to complement the roundtables and panels, addressing the methodological questions, cruxes, and problems from the theme of each strand.

For additional information, please see our website at <http://methodandme.com>, or email us at methodandme@gmail.com.

CANADA CHAUCER SEMINAR
Organizers: William Robins, Sarah Star and Jessica Henderson

The eighth annual Canada Chaucer Seminar will be held at the University of Toronto on Saturday, 16 April, 2016. The seminar provides a one-day forum where scholars, from Canada and elsewhere, come together to discuss current research on Chaucer and on late medieval literature and culture.

The 2016 gathering will include keynote papers by Robert W. Hanning (Columbia) and Jocelyn Wogan-Browne (Fordham), as well as several sessions of conference papers.

Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers on any aspect of late medieval English literary culture. Please submit abstracts of no more than 350 words to Sarah Star (sarah.star@mail.utoronto.ca) and Jessica Henderson (jess.henderson@mail.utoronto.ca) by **15 January, 2016**.

Science at Court, 1285-1450
An interdisciplinary conference at Newnham College, Cambridge: 3-4 June, 2016

From the anonymous Middle English Court of Sapience to Nicole Oresme's *Livre du ciel et du monde* to the lavishly illustrated copies of Pliny's Natural History produced for the Visconti family, medieval scientific discourse was often inflected by – and constructed around – literary, musical, and artistic forms present at court. This conference invites abstracts on what it means to “do science at court” in the late medieval period, particularly in the context of literature, music, and the arts.

How do tradition, law, and power dictate the boundaries of science? How do ethics or political science affect natural philosophy? How do didactic poems or works of counsel, conduct, and governance blur the boundaries between science and mimesis? What is the relationship between empiricism and narrative or visual forms? How does music do mathematical and political work?

Science at Court welcomes proposals on any aspect of art at court in the context of late medieval science. Due to the generous support of Newnham College, travel subsidies will be available for attendees who may have difficulty obtaining funds.

Please send abstracts to Dr. Tekla Bude (tlb33@cam.ac.uk) by **15 January, 2016**. You can follow updates on the conference here: www.scienceatcourt.com.

RMMRA 2016
“The Past, Present, and Future of Medieval and Renaissance Texts”
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, June 16–18, 2016

The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites paper and panel proposals for its 2016 conference, to take place on the campus of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, June 16–18, 2016. The conference theme, “The Past, Present, and Future of Medieval and Renaissance Texts,” invites proposals that address any aspect of textual culture, including how medieval and Renaissance authors composed their texts; how texts were affected by their manuscript or early printed context; how works of art could function as visual texts; how texts were received by their intended and unintended audiences; how texts have been transmitted across the centuries; how editorial practice and literary theory have helped form modern approaches to medieval and Renaissance texts; and how advances in digital technology are shaping future directions in the presentation and analysis of texts. As always, while paper and panel proposals that address the conference theme will receive special consideration, proposals in any area of Medieval and Renaissance Studies will be welcome.

The conference will feature two keynote presentations by leading scholars: Sian Echard (University of British Columbia), “‘Examin’d with Original’: Facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts in the Post-Medieval World”; and Adam Zucker (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), “‘Duller Parts’: Comic Stupidity and Difficult Texts.”

Paper and panel proposals should be directed to the RMMRA Program Committee via email to Timothy Graham (tgraham@unm.edu). **Proposals are due by February 15, 2016**. A proposal should include:

- Name of presenter
- Participant category (faculty/graduate student/independent scholar)
- Institutional affiliation
- Preferred mailing address
- Email address
- An abstract of the proposed paper/panel in about 250 words
- Audiovisual requirements and any other specific requests

The Program Committee will notify participants if their proposals have been accepted by **March 5, 2016**. Note that all presenters at the conference must be active members of RMMRA who have paid their annual subscription of \$25 by the time of the conference.

**Æthelred II and Cnut the Great: Millennial Conference to Commemorate
the Siege of London in 1016
Wednesday 6 – Saturday 9 July 2016**

London a thousand years ago: a lively port, the centre of trade, cross-roads for armies going north and south, seat of political government and dispute, all against the backdrop of a war between Æthelred II and Cnut with its culmination in the Siege of 1016. In exactly one year the academics (in association with the UCL Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Centre and Birkbeck College) and interested public of London will commemorate this siege and its times with a three-day international conference.

Please come and join us! Taking London as the hub, and looking outwards, we seek to redefine the history, literature and archaeology of England during this period of major transition. How well served, how poorly judged was King Æthelred II up to this time? What it did mean to be “English” or “Danish” in London in 1016? And what new relation thereafter to Europe did Cnut Sveinsson bring? Through literature, history, and archaeology, we aim to study the civilizing and modernizing effects of Scandinavian warfare, trade and settlement on England; the influence which Anglo-Saxon culture and systems of government had on Scandinavia, and the early Norman presence which led to England’s orientation towards France.

Our plenary lectures are by:

- Prof Simon Keynes of the University of Cambridge on Ealdorman Eadric Streona in the reigns of Æthelred and Cnut;
- Prof Roberta Frank of Yale University on Skaldic poetry in the reigns of Æthelred and Cnut;
- Prof Andrew Reynolds of the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, on the archaeology of London relating to the Vikings and the siege of 1016; and
- Prof Andy Orchard of the University of Oxford, on the contemporary *Beowulf* manuscript, BL MS Cotton Vitellius A.XV and Old English literature;

The conference will begin with a welcome and the first plenary lecture on the afternoon of Wednesday 6 July 2016. We will proceed in archaeological, historical, and Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse literary divisions in single session from then until the end of Friday. The conference will conclude with a day excursion to Winchester on the Saturday, in which specialists from the University of Winchester will present papers and lead a tour of the town and Old Minster.

Papers are invited in the fields of Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian history, literature, and archaeology in and around the Siege of London in 1016. Possible subjects might include, but are not limited to:

- Old English literature of the Benedictine Reform • Old English poetry (including *Beowulf*) • Anglo-Saxon palaeography of the tenth and eleventh centuries • Æthelred II and the Danish Wars • Cnut and early medieval historiography • Skaldic poetry at the court of Cnut • Material culture in the later Viking Age • Cnut and coinage of the British Isles • The archaeology of London • Anglo-Scandinavian cultural exchange • *Knýttlinga saga* and Icelandic and Norwegian sagas • The Danish empire • Cnut and the Baltic • Cnut and Rome • Queens Emma and Ælfgifu • Cnut’s Laws • The *Beowulf* manuscript in the context of Cnut’s reign

Please send abstracts (say of 100-300 words) to Richard North (richard.north@ucl.ac.uk) by **1 January, 2016**. All papers will be considered on the understanding that speakers have a maximum of half an hour. We plan to arrange a manuscript exhibition, to be able to reserve student accommodation for attendees, and to invite speakers and other contributors to submit papers for a volume of Conference Proceedings for publication in the following year.

Richard North, Erin Goeres, Alison Finlay and Haki Antonsson

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The Forgotten Chaucer Works of Mary Eliza Haweis, 1848-98, by Mary Flowers Braswell (Ashgate, 2016)

The Auchinleck Manuscript: New Perspectives, edited by Susanna Fein, Manuscript Culture of the British Isles VII (York UK: York Medieval Press/Boydell & Brewer, 2016). With an introduction and new essays by Derek Pearsall, A. S. G. Edwards, Cathy Hume, Patrick Butler, Emily Runde, Venetia Bridges, Ann Higgins, Marisa Libbon, Helen Phillips, Siobhain Bly Calkin, Timothy A. Shonk, Mícheál F. Vaughan, and Ralph Hanna.

Women's Literary Culture and Late Medieval English Writing. A special issue of *The Chaucer Review* 51.1 (2016), guest edited by Liz Herbet McAvoy and Diane Watt. With an editors' foreward, guest editors' introduction, and new essays on various writers (e.g., Chaucer, Goscelin, *Pearl* Poet, Julian of Norwich, Thomas Hoccleve, the Pastons, Virginia Woolf) by Corinne Saunders, Diane Watt, Amy Appleford, Liz Herbert McAvoy, Nancy Bradley Warren, and Marea Mitchell.

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Journal: *The Bulletin of the International Association for Robin Hood Studies*

The International Association for Robin Hood Studies (IARHS) is pleased to announce the creation of a new, peer-reviewed, open-access journal, *The Bulletin of the International Association for Robin Hood Studies*. The journal will be published bi-annually beginning in Spring 2016 and will be available on the IARHS' website, Robin Hood Scholars: IARHS on the Web: <http://robinhoodscholars.blogspot.com/>. Scholars are invited to send original research on any aspect of the Robin Hood tradition. The editors welcome essays in the following areas: formal literary explication, manuscript and early printed book investigations, historical inquiries, new media examinations, and theory / cultural studies approaches. We are looking for concise essays, 4,000-8,000-words long. Submissions should be formatted following the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Submissions and queries should be directed to both Valerie B. Johnson (valerie.johnson@lmc.gatech.edu) and also Alexander L. Kaufman (akaufman@aum.edu).

2016 NEH Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers on Chaucer

A four-week NEH Seminar on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* will be held this summer, 18 July to 13 August 2016, at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. The Seminar for College and University Teachers (and up to two graduate students) will be directed by Susanna Fein and David Raybin, with guest faculty Ardis Butterfield, Richard Firth Green, Robert Meyer-Lee, and Stephen Fliegel (Curator of Medieval Art, Cleveland Museum of Art). Selected participants will receive a stipend from the NEH. Deadline for application is March 1, 2016. For NEH eligibility criteria and further details about the program, please consult the Seminar website, <http://www.kent.edu/english/neh-chaucer-seminar>.

NEW CENTURY CHAUCER

The first book in this new series from University of Wales Press appeared in September 2015. *Making Chaucer's Book of the Duchess: Textuality and Reception*, by Jamie Fumo, is a study of the transmission, reception, and influence of the *Book of the Duchess*, together with a discussion of its major themes and critical debates. Further monographs and editions of texts are planned for the series, which is co-edited by Helen Fulton (University of Bristol) and Ruth Evans (Saint Louis University). The series editors welcome proposals for both types of work and enquiries can be made to: helen.fulton@bristol.ac.uk.

“DIY digitization” at the Bodleian Library

Over the last five years, people researching manuscripts (and other rare books) in the Bodleian Library in Oxford have been permitted to take their own photographs, with cameras, mobile telephones and cameras. We call this “DIY digitization.” Probably most students of medieval manuscripts have found that this change in practice has revolutionized their work.

As a result, many people probably have a large cache of such photographs saved. Originally, the Library asked all researchers to sign a form stating that the photographs were *not* to be shared. With the support of the Library and a grant from the John Fell Fund, we have now launched a project to *encourage* people to share their photographs of Bodleian manuscripts and rare books. The project is avowedly an experiment in whether such “crowd sourcing” of digital photographs is viable. We do not know what will result.

Researchers are asked to sign up for a page on the website Flickr: www.flickr.com. This is free and takes just a couple of minutes. They can then upload any photographs that they have of Bodleian manuscripts and rare books onto their *own* Flickr page. They should then “share” them with a group called “Bodleian Special Collections,” <https://www.flickr.com/groups/bodspecialcollections/>.

Researchers in the Bodleian Library must, of course, still follow the Reading Room’s rules on what can and cannot be photographed at all (*e.g.* nothing fragile; nothing “on deposit” and owned by somebody else; nothing still in copyright). But there are no rules about how the photographs should be labelled, arranged or displayed on the website Flickr. We are interested – in this experiment – in what exactly people do. Equally, there are no rules in how the photographs are then used. Anybody can access them on Flickr and use them as they wish. We hope that they will not be used commercially and that they will always be attributed. We wait to see the results of the experiment.

Please do take some time to share some images of Bodleian Library’s special collections for this experiment in “DIY digitization.”

Daniel Wakelin, University of Oxford, daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk

Textes vernaculaires du moyen âge (TVMA)

The series *Textes vernaculaires du moyen âge* has been designed to meet the needs of a wide range of researchers working on source material written in the major European vernaculars. *Textes vernaculaires du moyen âge* is a series of the Centre d’Etudes Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale (Poitiers).

<http://www.brepols.net/Pages/BrowseBySeries.aspx?TreeSeries=TVMA>

The Chaucer Review at Fifty

Founded in 1966, *The Chaucer Review* has begun celebrations to mark its 50th year. Two sessions will be sponsored at the International Congress in Medieval Studies, May 2016, and another one, looking at past and future (featuring Helen Cooper, Robert Edwards, Robert Meyer-Lee, and Leah Schwebel), will happen at the 2016 NCS Biennial Meeting. A collection of new essays on Chaucer, *Chaucer: Visual Approaches* (Penn State UP), will appear in mid-2016. In addition, the journal's publication schedule will change. With Volume 51, it will shift from academic- to calendar-year quarterly issues. To accomplish this change, Volume 50 appeared in July and October 2015 as two double issues.

Sessions in Memory of Larry Benson at Kalamazoo 2016

The Harvard Medieval Doctoral Colloquium and *The Chaucer Review* are co-sponsoring sessions in memory of Larry D. Benson at the 2016 International Congress in Medieval Studies. A session on *The Riverside Chaucer* will feature speakers C. David Benson, John Fyler, Andrew Taylor, and a trio from Harvard (Daniel Donoghue, Helen Cushman, and Joey McMullin) speaking on Benson's Chaucer Website. A second session on Alliterative Traditions will feature speakers Richard Firth Green, Joseph Harris, Eric Weiskott, and Susanna Fein.

Launch of the Hoccleve Archive Website

The Hoccleve Archive is launching a new website this fall that aggregates some of the resources we've been collecting and developing for the study of Hoccleve and the history of his texts. These include images of the full set of Charles Blyth's variant collation tables for the Regiment of Princes, an XML edition of the poems in the Holograph Manuscripts, a spreadsheet transcription of Hoccleve's *Formulary*, a concordance-building tool, and more! The new website will be available at our web address <http://hocclevearchive.org> by the end of October. We invite comments and suggestions for how to improve our content, its presentation, and its utility at hocclevearchive@gmail.com.

The New Chaucer Society

President: Susan Crane
Executive Director: Ruth Evans

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