



The Chaucer Newsletter

A Publication of the New Chaucer Society

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Japanese Concordances

1990 saw the publication in Japan of two concordances which Chaucerians will find of particular interest.

1. *A Complete Concordance to the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, edited by Akio Oizumi and programmed by Kunihiro Miki. 10 vols, 9510 pp. Cloth, DM 400. Zürich and New York: Georg Olms.

This concordance will allow students to undertake for the first time full and systematic studies of Chaucer's language and text. It will have great potential as a research tool for English medievalists, historians of the language and historians of ideas, and it will allow syntacticians to see common and 'high-frequency' words in all their contexts. The editor takes as the basis for the concordance the text of *The Riverside Chaucer*, published under the general editorship of Larry D. Benson (Boston, 1987 and Oxford, 1988) and widely recognized as the standard scholarly edition of Chaucer. This computer-generated Chaucer concordance will supersede the Tatlock and Kennedy manually produced work of 1927, which is based on the now outdated Globe edition.

Chaucer's works are here concorded using a KWIC (Key Word in Context) format. Each concordance volume contains a KWIC concordance, a word index, a ranking word-frequency list and a reverse-word list. The concordance

gives all occurrences of every word in the text, including common 'high-frequency' words. The last volume provides a comprehensive bird's-eye view of Chaucer's vocabulary, highlighting the complete concordance. Rime indexes to the poetical texts occupy another volume. Akio Oizumi is Professor of English at Doshisha University, Kyoto; he is co-editor of *Medieval English Studies: Past and Present*, Tokyo, 1990. Kunihiro Miki is Assistant in Linguistic Technology at Osaka University.

2. *A Concordance to Caxton's Own Prose*, edited by Kiyokazu Mizobata. ix + 620 pp. Cloth, ¥ 12,000. Tokyo: Shohakusha (2-8-1 Iidabashi, Chiyodaku, Tokyo 102). ISBN4-88198-801-8.

This concordance, comprising a KWIC concordance, alphabetical

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Towards An Electronic Chaucer Network

At the Canterbury Congress Thomas Bestul encountered considerable positive response to his plan for creating an electronic Chaucer network (described in the Spring '90 Chaucer Newsletter), and NCS Trustees have invited him to present a developed proposal for it at the 1992 Seattle meeting.

In advance of that he would like to hear from other Chaucerians interested in participating in such a network. As a first step, he wishes to compile and distribute a list of members with E-mail addresses. Colleagues may "subscribe" electronically directly to him at TBESTULATCRCVMS.UNLEDU or TBESTULATUNLVAXI [BITNET], or may send a note by mail with an E-mail address to the NCS Director, who will forward it to Professor Bestul. Colleagues who do not have E-mail at present, but who want to be kept posted on the developments of a potential Chaucer network, are also invited to send their names and addresses to the Director. Professor Bestul will continue to monitor interest in the initiative, publicize the purposes of such a network, and, through the Chaucer Newsletter, routinely inform members of the project's status. As members consider the utility of such a network they may find noteworthy the establishment of two other new scholarly electronic networks, SHAKSPER and FICINO (managed by the University of Toronto).

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Actions of the Trustees of the New Chaucer Society

**University of Kent, Canterbury
7 August 1990**

Present President Derek Pearsall (Harvard University), **Trustees** Piero Boitani (University of Rome), J. A. Burrow (University of Bristol), V. A. Kolve (University of California, Los Angeles), Monica E. McAlpine (University of Massachusetts, Boston), A. C. Spearing (University of Virginia), Paul Strohm (Indiana University), **President-elect & Co-chair 1992 Program Committee** Alfred David (Indiana University), **Trustees-elect** Mary J. Carruthers (University of Illinois, Chicago), Helen Cooper (Oxford University), Winthrop Wetherbee (Cornell University), Christian Zacher (Ohio State University, Executive Director). **Absent** Anne Middleton (University of California, Berkeley)

International Secretaries Helen Cooper (Oxford University, England), Juliette Dor (University of Liège, Belgium), A. S. G. Edwards (University of Victoria, Canada), Joerg O. Fichte (Universität Tubingen, Germany), Toshiyuki Takamiya (Keio University, Japan), John Scattergood (Trinity College, Republic of Ireland). **Absent** Graham D. Caie (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Denis B. Walker (University of Canterbury, New Zealand)

Staff and Observers **Former Executive Director** John H. Fisher (Emeritus, University of Tennessee), Jane Fisher (Former Sec'y for Membership and Finance, Knoxville), Sue Oakes (Sec'y for Membership and Finance, Ohio State University), Lisa J. Kiser (Associate Editor, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, Ohio State University), Lorraine Baird-Lange

(Bibliographer, Youngstown State University), Peter Brown (Co-chair, 1990 Program Committee, University of Kent), C. David Benson (Co-chair, 1992 Program Committee, University of Connecticut), Miceal Vaughan (Co-chair, 1992 Program Committee, University of Washington). **Absent** Thomas J. A. Heffernan (SAC Editor, University of Tennessee), Bege K. Bowers (Assistant Bibliographer, Youngstown State University)

Administration, Publications, and Finance Reports were received from the Director, the Editor and the Secretary for Membership and Finance.

The Editor was instructed to begin publishing the programs of NCS conferences every other year in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, starting with the Canterbury Congress. Official support was granted to two projects, the Chaucer Bibliographies (Thomas Hahn, University of Rochester) and the new Sources and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (Robert Correale, Wright State University). Provisional support was given to a draft proposal for establishing an electronic network for Chaucerians (Thomas Bestul, University of Nebraska); formal consideration of the proposal will be made at the 1992 congress.

Expenditure of Endowment Income The Trustees decided that the bulk of the yearly interest income from the Endowment should begin to be awarded as travel grants that would assist young scholars who have recently completed dissertations on Chaucer to attend biennial NCS congresses. The Director was instructed to create a mechanism for identifying recipients and to publicize it in the Winter 1991 Chaucer Newsletter.

Future Congresses
A week in early August 1992 was

confirmed as the time and the University of Washington in Seattle as the place for the 1992 congress. C. David Benson was confirmed as Co-Chair of the 1992 Program Committee to supervise arrangements for the program and Miceal Vaughan as Co-Chair to supervise local arrangements and excursions. Sarah Beckwith, Mary Carruthers, and A. S. G. Edwards were added to the 1992 Program Committee.

Possible times and places for the 1994 congress were discussed. Trustees agreed on the suitability of Italy (Rome) as a site and instructed the Director to investigate possibilities.

The Director was asked to initiate the practice of circulating to members immediately after each congress a brief report on that congress. This would announce the Program Committee for the next congress and encourage members to communicate to the Committee any suggestions for the next meeting's program. The Director was also instructed to remind future program organizers that no NCS member may deliver more than one paper at a congress.

International Secretaries Reports on various national activities were received. The Director was instructed to solicit the interest of one or more colleagues from Eastern European countries who would be willing to serve as international secretaries. Thanks for attentive service were expressed to retiring secretaries Juliette Dor, A. S. G. Edwards, and Joerg Fichte.

Acknowledgments
Gratitude was expressed to Alfred David for preparing the successful Canterbury program, to Peter Brown and his colleagues at the University of Kent for organizing a splendid conference, and to John Fisher and Jane Fisher for their long and sound NCS administrative management.

record of Chaucer studies and an important complement to the various other Chaucer bibliographies now appearing. Since the demise of published congress Proceedings, the annual volume has accommodated the Presidential Address and Biennial Chaucer Lecture as well as those papers from the preceding congress which survive the normal refereeing process. SAC 11 was the first volume to carry this material; it ran to 393 pages; SAC 12, which should be in your hands this month, is an even larger volume (451 pp.).

As I mentioned, the 8th NCS congress is scheduled to be held at the University of Washington in Seattle in early August 1992. C. David Benson of the University of Connecticut will be the Co-chair to arrange the program; Miceal Vaughan of the University of Washington will be Co-chair for local arrangements. Mary Carruthers, A. S. G. Edwards, and Sarah Beckwith have been asked to serve as the other members of the Program Committee. They will meet this fall to make '92 congress plans, and the Call for Papers will be printed in the Spring 1991 Chaucer Newsletter. Now and into this Fall, members are encouraged to approach the Program Committee members with ideas for the Seattle meeting. As for the 1994 congress, the Trustees this week voted to pursue the possibility of meeting that year in Italy; we will let you know more soon about that prospect.

The NCS Trustees meet biennially at the times of the congresses. (The Actions of their meeting at this congress will be printed in the Fall 1990 Chaucer Newsletter.) The terms of Trustees Anne Middleton, A. C. Spearing, and Paul Strohm end with this meeting, and we gratefully acknowledge their interest and support over the past four years. Piero Boitani, John Burrow, V.A. Kolve, and Monica McAlpine continue as Trustees through the

1992 congress. Mary Carruthers, Helen Cooper, and Winthrop Wetherbee have been elected to serve from the end of this congress through that of 1994.

The term of Derek Pearsall as president of the Society ends with this congress. He has presided with engaging authority during the Society's shift in administration. He will be succeeded by Alfred David, who will preside at our meeting in Seattle.

The NCS Constitution was most recently printed at the end of the Membership Directory mailed to all members in the Fall of 1989; copies of the Constitution are available at the registration desk during this meeting. The Constitution mandates that the Executive Director shall report to the members at each biennial congress on the administration and the financial condition of the Society, but that the governance of the Society shall rest in the hands of the President and the seven Trustees, who may on occasion call for mail ballots of the entire membership.

This ends my official report, Mr. President. If there are questions that I can answer, I will be happy to do so. If there are suggestions about the procedures and activities of the Society, I will take them to the Trustees, who will either act on them or submit them to a mail ballot of the membership.

Christian Zacher
August 8, 1990

Contributions to the Endowment Fund

The Society wishes to thank the fifty-two members who together contributed \$980 to the Endowment Fund since our last report. The fund now stands at \$59,352.45. The 1990 contributors are:

Larry D. Benson, Donald A. Bird, Esther K. Birdsall, Charles R. Blyth, Beverly Boyd, Emerson Brown, William Coleman, Carolyn Collette, Helen S. Corsa, Charles R. Dahlberg, James Dean, Stuart H. L. Degginger, Caroline D. Eckhardt, Sumner Ferris, Judith Ferster, John H. Fisher, Michael Foley, Robert Worth Frank, Jr., Allen J. Frantzen, Thomas Garbaty, Jennifer R. Goodman, John A. Gray, Richard Firth Green, Allen Greer, Robert W. Hanning, Tadehiro Ikegami, Lynn Staley Johnson, Ellin M. Kelly, Lisa J. Kiser, Sherman M. Kuhn, Virginia E. Leland, Bernard S. Levy, John Leyerle, Charles Ludlum, Charles A. Owen, Jr., Robert O. Payne, Monica E. McAlpine, Liam Purdon, James Rhodes, Velma B. Richmond, Mary Schieffelin, Tokuji Shimogasa, Karla Taylor, Anna Torti, Catherine Brown Tkacz, Winthrop Wetherbee, James I. Wimsatt, Chauncey Wood, Thomas L. Wright, Toshiki Yamamoto, Robert F. Yeager, Christian K. Zacher.

Mileham's *Pardoner's Prologue*

Anyone interested in obtaining slides of the *Pardoner's Prologue*, a painting by Harry Mileham (1873-1957) which was exhibited at the Canterbury Congress, may request them by writing to the grandson of the artist: Major Patrick Mileham, c/o Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, CB2 1RH, England.

Call for Nominations of New Trustees

Four NCS Trustees must be elected in 1991 to serve from 1992-96. The terms of Trustees Piero Boitani, J. A. Burrow, V. A. Kolve, and Monica McAlpine will end with the 1992 Seattle Congress. Mary Carruthers, Helen Cooper and Winthrop Wetherbee will serve until 1994.

President Alfred David has appointed a nominating committee composed of Monica McAlpine (Chair), Carolyn Dinshaw, Robert Frank, Linda Georgianna, and John McGavin to select eight candidates for the four upcoming vacancies. The NCS constitution specifies that to these eight may be added nominations made by written petition signed by at least ten (10) NCS members. Nominations by petition must reach the Executive Director by 1 January 1991. A ballot listing proposed nominees will be mailed to all members in February 1991. The election period will end 1 April. All signers of petitions, candidates, and elected Trustees must be NCS members in good standing.

Chaucer at Indiana State

Next April 22-24, Indiana State University will host a series of lectures by three visiting Chaucerians: April 22, John H. Fisher, "Chaucer and the Emergence of Standard English"; April 23, Derek Pearsall, "The Idea of Tragedy in the Middle Ages and in Chaucer"; and April 24, Larry D. Benson (topic to be announced).

The free lectures, which are given as part of the Joseph Shick Lecture Series, will be held each day (at a time to be determined) in ISU's Cunningham Memorial Library. For further information, contact Stephen Connelly, 812-237-3144.

Concordances, cont'd

word list and ranking frequency list, is based on Norman F. Blake's edition of *Caxton's Own Prose* (London, 1973), although Mizobata has made no less than 57 emendations on the basis of his own comparison of Blake's text with the original, microfilm version. Not only students working on Caxton and Malory, but anyone interested in the history of the English language will benefit from Mizobata's concordance.

Toshiyuki Takamiya

Interdisciplinary Journal

Literature and History, the pioneer journal in its field, has initiated its second series with the Spring 1990 issue. It is the only journal dedicated to the interdisciplinary interests of historians and literary critics and scholars. The journal, which is published in Spring and Fall, invites subscriptions from libraries (\$29) and individuals (\$21). Subscriptions and inquiries may be sent to Literature and History c/o Department of English, The Ohio State University, 421 Denney Hall, 164 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210.

Newsletter Submission

The New Chaucer Society is now able to accept both computerized and traditional printed submissions to *The Chaucer Newsletter*. If computerized, the submission must be in ASCII text; it must be stored on diskettes using IBM-compatible or Macintosh-compatible diskette formats; either five and one-quarter inch or three and one-half inch diskettes are accepted. Computerized submissions should be accompanied by a copy of the printed text. Please include with any type of submission your address (and E-mail address, if available), phone number (and fax number, if available).

The Chaucer Newsletter, distributed twice a year to members of the New Chaucer Society, is intended primarily as a vehicle for Society business. Its ephemeral character makes it unsuitable for substantive articles, but we are happy to publish discussions of research-in-progress and other activities of interest to Chaucerians. The deadline for the Fall issue is 1 September; for the Spring issue, 1 January. Send materials to Christian Zacher, Editor, at the address given below. You may reach us at the CMRS office (614-292-7495) or by fax (614-292-7816).

The New Chaucer Society



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