Seattle Congress, 1-4 August 1992

While Seattle cannot offer visitors coming for the 1992 NCS Congress the rich variety of historical and commercial connections with Geoffrey Chaucer that Canterbury did in 1990--we have no relics of a "hooly blisful martir" to attract the faithful or the frivolous, nor do we boast a Geoffrey Chaucer School or Chaucer Hair--yet our "Emerald City" and its surroundings provide natural (and other) beauties that would have appealed to "oure auctor."

Although we lack sites resonant with familiarity to readers of the Canterbury Tales, we may claim to inhabit a Chaucerian landscape even more idealized than the Canterbury of the Tales. When you weary from labor at your books next July, perhaps a latter-day African may arrive to push you through the gates of Dame Nature's garden, and with the Dreamer of the Parliament of Fowls you will report that

...overal where that I myne
even caste
Were trees clad with leves that
ay shal laste,
Ech in his kynde, of colour
fresh and gréene
As emeraude, that joye was to
scene.

A short trip nearby will reveal "colde
welle-stemes, nothing dede, / That
swymmen ful of smale fishes lighte, / With fynnes rede and skales sylver
bryghte." And "th'air of that place so
atemptre [is] / That never [is]
greuance of hot ne cold." (And in
August there is little evidence of the
"liquid sunshine" that supports the
profusion of "blosmy bowes" and
"grene mede[s]... With flourises white,
blewe, yelwe, and rede.") While we
cannot guarantee talking eagles or
glimpses of Priapus, Dyane, Venus
and all the rest, we can assure our
visitor ample views of Dame Nature,
"this noble empresse, ful of grace,"
attended by Pleasance, Delyt, and
Beautye. Chaucer did not need to visit
the Pacific Northwest (any more than
he would have had to visit Canterbury)
to describe accurately his fic-
tional locales, but if he could visit
Seattle in 1992 with us he would
change little in the Parliament's evoca-
tion of a place "so sote and greene."

Besides the beauty of its natural
setting, Seattle offers a large, clean
and increasingly international city,
with a per capita consumption of opin-
esso that probably warrants
having the whole population on the
endangered list. Its hills and water-
ways (and the efforts of highway planners)
have produced a city of many
neighborhoods, distinct and varied.
Its lively downtown, a ten-minute bus
ride from the University District, has
all the modern conveniences of stores
like Nordstrom's, Eddie Bauer, and
the like; one of the country's finest
public markets at Pike Place; the
restored old city (at Pioneer Square)
with underground tours of an even
older Seattle, contiguous to the
Kingdome and the Seattle (soon to be
Nintendo, or Tampa Bay) Mariners; a
monorail connection to the Seattle
Center, site of the Space Needle, the
Pacific Science Center, the Opera
House, and theatres, on the grounds
of the 1962 World's Fair.

It has the appeals of a city which
stands at the boundary of land and
sea. An important port for trade by
land, sea and air, it is (as it frequently
claims) the largest city west of Minne-
apolis and north of San Francisco, a

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commercial and cultural capital for a considerable expanse of the United States. It is the U.S. gateway to Alaska and to the Pacific Rim generally. It is the home of active arts communities, and is especially strong in theatre and early music. It is the home of one of the nation’s best ballet companies (Pacific Northwest Ballet), and the Seattle Opera and Seattle Symphony stand high among their peers. The Opera will this summer offer a large new production of Aida, beginning August 5. Seattle’s own major summer production—Seafair—culminates on July 31 with the Seafair Parade, and 350,000 people (on land and water) will watch the Hydroplane Races on the southern part of Lake Washington. Our Sunday sessions, therefore, may be punctuated by the distant roar of “thunderboats” and by exhibitions by the Blue Angels overhead, as Seattle celebrates its love of water and jet engines (Boeing being the major employer in the region).

The natural surroundings of Seattle are the jewels in its crown: two mountain ranges (the Cascades to the east, the Olympics to the west) bracket large bodies of salt water (Puget Sound, the Hood Canal) and fresh water (Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, etc.). Here there are myriad opportunities for easy walks and strenuous hiking; for mountain watching or climbing; for swimming, fishing, or boating. Further afield there are the beaches of the Pacific or the vineyards and orchards of the Yakima Valley and Eastern Washington or the windsurfing meccas of the Columbia River.

After the Congress, Seattle provides an excellent starting point, or base, for further excursions in the Pacific Northwest and beyond: Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, Oregon, and California, to name a few. Gray Line of Seattle (1-800-426-7532), for example, offers a variety of one-day and overnight bus tours to Mount Rainier, via ferry to Victoria and Vancouver Island, and by bus to Vancouver. They can provide longer trips to the Canadian Rockies or, by ship, to Alaska. They also offer self-drive trips of various sorts, providing car, maps, and accommodations. Seattle is well-served by national and international air carriers, and Amtrak provides service from Chicago, Los Angeles, and elsewhere. (Note the description, in the Congress program, of discount airfares available from United Airlines.)

The Congress’ meetings will take place at the University of Washington, a large urban campus which succeeds in retaining much of its natural beauty and appeal. The dormitory in which conferences will be housed is located at the edge of a hill and looks east over Lake Washington to the Cascades. Looking to the southeast over the home of the 1992 Rose Bowl and National Championship Huskies, you will see Mount Rainier, the 14,000-foot, glacier-covered volcano which dramatically punctuates the skyline.

My colleagues and I at the University, along with the Chaucerians from nearby schools who are helping arrange the meeting, look forward to your visit and to another successful congress in the Northwest.

Mícheál Vaughan
University of Washington

I.A.U.P.E. Medieval Seminar in Ottawa

The Fifteenth Triennial Conference of the International Association of University Professors of English will be held at Trent University, Peterborough, on August 2-8 1992. As is customary, prior to the main conference the Medieval Studies Seminar will meet; this will take place on the campus of Carleton University in Ottawa from Wednesday July 29th to Saturday August 1st. Sessions on Chaucer and Old and Middle English language and literature are scheduled.

Many NCS members may wish to consider the timeliness and proximity of this occasion to the Seattle Congress. For further information on the Carleton Seminar, contact Douglas Wurtele at the Department of English, 1802 Dunton Tower, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada, or call him at (613) 788-2310.

The Hainault Connection, Missed Connection, Wrong Connection

It seems clear that much of the success of Chaucer’s political life can be attributed to his marrying into the Hainault Connection, a network which was started when Philippa of Hainault married Edward III and brought with her to court individuals like Paon de Roet, Froissart, Walter Manny, and others. Philippa was the probable godmother of all the Philippas named for her (the daughters of Paon de Roet, John of Gaunt, and Lionel, Duke of Clarence), and she was perhaps also the guardian of Philippa Roet when the latter was serving in the household of the Countess of Ulster. Chaucer prospered by the Hainault Connection all his life. I have treated this in greater depth before (SAC, Proceedings No.2, 1986). My purpose here is to show what happens when the seduction of evidence can lead one down a scholarly skid row, but also how sometimes one may find redemption at what appears to be a despairing dead end.

It is, perhaps, a natural tendency for scholars to attempt to extend the evidence, to let it pull the mind as far as one’s creative powers will allow. In this case, there was the possibility, it seemed, that the Hainault Connection might be the key to open all kinds of Chaucerian biographical doors. The Hainault momentum did carry me into legitimate possible leads. For instance, when Philippa Chaucer was admitted to the Fraternity of Lincoln Cathedral in February 1386, Chaucer’s omission is significant. The other newly admitted members and their families were mainly Hainaulters: Henry, Earl of Derby and his father John of Gaunt, the Black Prince, Katherine of Swynford and her son Thomas Swynford. Geoffrey did not break into the Hainault bloodstream here; however the Hainault Connection probably brought him membership in the Royal Household after 1367. It cannot be only coincidence that Philippa Chaucer became domicella to the queen in the

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Call For Aid:
Annual Bibliography

With the resignation of Lorraine Baird-Lange as Bibliographer of the NCS (effective after SAC 14), I have agreed to take on the task. Bege Bowers (Youngstown State University) has agreed to continue as assistant bibliographer.

This time of transition seems a good one to solicit help in compiling the bibliography, so I am asking for new volunteers and for renewal of interest from those who have helped Lorraine in the past. Such service is enormously important to Chaucer scholarship, and will be acknowledged in the front matter of the bibliography. If you wish to help, please fill out the form below or contact me by electronic mail.

The annual bibliography is compiled by a team of volunteers who agree to locate and annotate books, articles, and reviews that discuss Chaucer, his works, and Chaucer criticism. Books are usually handled by ad hoc members of the bibliographic team, while articles and reviews are the responsibility of people who agree to survey the year’s contents of one or more journals. Volunteers to help with the journals are especially needed, particularly colleagues who have access to international journals or others that are not readily available.

Entries for the bibliography are submitted in one of two forms: 1) on separate 4x6 (or larger) cards or sheets, or 2) via electronic mail. Since I am hoping to make the bibliography available eventually as a searchable database, as well as in SAC, I am encouraging volunteers who have access to e-mail or who are willing to explore this medium (see Tom Bestul, “Electronic Communication and the Chaucer Scholar,” Chaucer Newsletter 12 [1990]: 4-5). A brief discussion of bibliography and e-mail is also scheduled for the Seattle congress.

I want to encourage all volunteers, so please express your interest with the form below or via electronic mail. I will provide all who express such interest with more specific information.

Mark Allen
University of Texas, San Antonio.

(please xerox this page and return the form to the address below)

I would like more information about helping to compile the annual Chaucer bibliography for Studies in the Age of Chaucer:

Name: _________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
 ____________________________________________________________

E-mail Address: _________________________________________________________

_____ Yes, I would be willing to solicit and oversee bibliographic aid from my graduate students.

Please mail to: Mark Allen
Division of English, Classics, and Philosophy
The University of Texas
San Antonio, Texas
78249-0643

E-mail to: lecmea@utsa86.utsa.edu
This "souvenir" sheet of 40x postage stamp was recently issued by the island nation of St. Vincent, in the British West Indies. The twenty-four stamps comprising the sheet are each valued for use, though as a whole the issue is intended for collectors to purchase and stock for sale. The original colors are a decided attraction. The stamps are of the "souvenir" type and the stamp prices are printed on each piece of the mosaic. The logo depicts the ship, the date, and the name of the island. The sheets are issued in sets of twenty-four and are available at the post office. The sheets may still be available to collectors interested in purchasing one.
Chaucer Division Sessions,
MLA 1992

David Wallace (University of Minnesota) announces the following topics and speakers for the Chaucer sessions at the 1992 Modern Language Association convention in New York:

I. "Localities, Ethnicities, Race"

Presiding: Glory Dharma Raj (United Nations)

1. "To seken straunger stondes": The 
   Canterbury Tales and the  
   Limits of Space," Sylvia Tomasch (Hunter College,  
   CUNY)

2. "The Sowing of Ingrained Truth: The Uses of Usury in  
   Chaucer's Prioress' Tale," Shosana Wechsler (Stanford  
   University).

3. "To Scotland ward his foemen for to seke": Chaucer, the  
   Scots, and the Man of Law's Tale," R. James Goldstein  
   (Auburn University)

II. Open Topic

Presiding: David Wallace (University of Minnesota)

1. "The Second Time as Farce": The 
   Reeve's Tale and the de  
   la Poles," Britton J. Harwood (Miami University)

2. "Chaucer Reading Langland: The House of Fame,"  
   Frank Grady (University of Missouri, St. Louis)

   English," Christopher Cannon (Harvard University)

III. When Non-Chaucerians Read Chaucer

Presiding: Peter W. Travis (Dartmouth College)

1. "The Idea of Non-Chaucerians Reading Chaucer,"  
   Allen J.  
   Frantzen (Loyola University of Chicago)

2. "The Jurisdictions of Intention: The Pardoner and the  
   Canon Law," Elizabeth A. Fowler (Harvard University)

3. "Renewing the Fame and Memory of Great Wits: John  
   Dryden and Translating Chaucer for Restoration  
   Readers," Margaret J.W. Ezell (Texas A&M University)

Colloquium Papers Available

NCS Members will notice in their program for the Seattle congress in August  
   an announcement for a colloquium (C12) entitled "Spiritual Community and  
   Social Pathology: Polemical Views of the Prioress' Tale," sponsored by Thomas  
   Hahn. Conferees wishing to read the papers for this session in advance may  
   obtain copies in WordPerfect 5.0 on floppy disk for one dollar from Thomas  
   Hahn, Department of English, University of Rochester, Rochester NY 14627.  
   (Please write for copies after July 1.)

TEAMS Texts,
Published & Planned

Chaucer Society members and others interested in Middle English  
   literature will find the listing of planned and currently available texts in  
   the TEAMS series (listed on the next page) to be of interest.  

The texts in this series are scholarly, but designed for classroom use.  
   The goal is to make available to teachers and students texts which occupy an  
   important place in the literary and cultural canon but which have not  
   been readily available in student editions. The editions maintain the  
   linguistic integrity of the original work but within the parameters of modern  
   reading conventions. Hard words are glossed in the margins and in the  
   glossary. Textual and explanatory notes appear at the end of each text.  

The editions include short introductions on the history of the work, its  
   points of topical interest, and briefly annotated bibliographies. They are  
   normally priced under $10.00. The series is published by the Consortium  
   for the Teaching of the Middle Ages (TEAMS) in association with the  
   University of Rochester by Medieval Institute Publications, Western  
   Michigan University, Kalamazoo. The general editor is Russell A. Peck,  
   Department of English, University of Rochester, Rochester NY 14627. If  
   there are other titles that you think should be included in the series, or if  
   you are interested in working on the project yourself, you should contact  
   Professor Peck. His advisory board includes Rita Copeland (University of  
   Minnesota), Thomas G. Hahn (University of Rochester), Lisa Kiser (Ohio  
   State University), Thomas Seiler (Western Michigan University), R.A.  
   Shoaf (University of Florida), and Bonnie Wheeler (Southern Methodist  
   University).

(continued on the next page)
I. Published

Derek Pearsall, *The Floure and the Leaf, The Assembly of Ladies, The Isle of Ladies*

Alan Lupack, *Three Charlemagne Romances* [*The Sowdon of Babylon,* "The Sege of Melayn,* and *Rauf Coilyear*]

James M. Dean, *Six Ecclesiastical Satires* [*Piers Plowman's Crede,* "The Plowman's Tale,* "Jack Upland,* "Friar Daw's Reply,* "Upland's Rejoynder,* and "Why I Can't Be a Nun"]


II. Available in 1992


Warren Gisberg, *Wynere and Wastoure and The Parliament of the Thre Ages*

David J. Parkinson, *The Palis of Honour* by Gavin Douglas

III. Planned

Harry Butler, *Resoun and Sensuahyte*


James M. Dean, *Poems and Documents of Political Protest*

Graham Drake and Ronald B. Herzman, *King Horn, Havelok the Dane, Athelston, and Bevis of Hampton*

Robert R. Edwards, *Selections from Lydgate's Troy Book*

Thomas G. Hahn, *St. Erkenwald, The Trentals of Gregory, and Related Pieces*

Harriet Hudson, *Sir Eglamour of Artois, Sir Isunbras, Sir Triamour, and Octavyn*

George Kelser, *John Lydgate's The Lyf of Our Lady*

Robert Kindrick, *The Poems of Robert Henryson*

Stephen Knight, *Gamelyn, The Gest of Robin Hood, and Other Robin Hood Narratives*

Erik Kooper, *Floris and Blancheflour, The Squire of Low Degree, Sir Degret, and The Tournament of Tottenham*

David Lampe, *The Kings Quair, The Quare of Jelusy, and The Court of Love*

Anne Laskaya and Eve Salisbury, *The English Breton Lais* [*Sir Orfeo,* "Lai le Freine,* "Sir Launfal" (along with Comfort's translation of Marie's "Sir Launfal" in an appendix), "Sir Degarat,* "Emare,* "Sir Cleges,* and *Erl of Toulouse*]

Andrew MacLeish, *The Poems of William Dunbar*

David Mycock and Emerson Brown, *The Owl and the Nightingale*

Russell A. Peck, *Selected Prose Tales from the Gestas Romanorum and Other Sources*

Daniel J. Pinti, *Selections from Gavin Douglas' Eneados*

Derek Pitard, *Selected Writings of Richard Rolle*

Sherry L. Reames, *Selected Lives of Women Saints*

Elizabeth Robertson, *The Katherine Group* [*Haii Meidenhad,* *Sawles Warde,* and the lives of St. Katherine, St. Margaret, and St. Julian*]

Karen Sauppe, *Middle English Lyrics on the Virgin Mary*

Larry Scanlon and Margaret Kim, *Hoccleve's Regement of Princes*

R.A. Shoaf, *The Testament of Love by Thomas Usk*

Paul E. Szarmach, *Mum and the Sothsegger and Richard the Redeles*

E. Gordon Whatley and Martha Blalock, *Selected Middle English Saints' Lives*
same year that Geoffrey was named "vallettus" to the king. Salter (SAC, 1980) comments on the mutual poetic influence of the Hainauter Frésséart and Chaucer when the former was a "clerc de la chambre" and both were members of the Household. Also, William of Hainault figures prominently in theories of origin of the Parlement of Foulkes. There are many possible connections.

But my greatest excitement was to discover the tube stop "Hainault" on the Central Line of the London Underground last summer. Obviously, I thought, the London Hainaulters had produced their own little fiefdom in Essex--some corner of an English field that is forever Flanders! I had visions of a story, "Passport to Hainault"--movie rights--extension of the evidence beyond my wildest dreams.

My quest was not without obstacles. The ticket lady at the station, unmoved by my academic excitement at having arrived in Hainault, demanded a ransom of an extra 40p beyond my day card and told me that Hainault was just a new housing estate built after the War, that the vicar might know the history but all records would be in Ilford. "You just missed the bus," which meant a 30-minute wait for the Missed Connection. Not a good beginning, I realized, but the woman was obviously an infidel, benighted about Chaucer. Having finally arrived at Ilford (Borough of Redbridge, County of Essex, Greater London), a kindly lady at the City Hall directed me to the historical section of the City Library, and there I went to work. Like the implements conjured up by the sorcerer's apprentice, the librarian kept coming at me with new evidence. Hainault, it seems, was called after Hainault Forest, now largely deforested. Perfect, I thought. The Forest of Ardeans, the Hainaulters heartening back to their native soil. Chaucer, the Hainaulters, Hainault Forest, the Tale of Gamelyn, surely another connection. A hot trail indeed!

In the process of research the fact emerged--mentioned by the librarian--that the older spelling of Hainault was often Hainault. No problem, unimportant, I explained--"excruciating h" often occurs in Southern dialect. Can't trust spelling evidence anyway, obviously scribal, or Cockney pattern. (In the medial position of a non-compound word? There should have been a warning sign here: "DANGER, SKID ROW!" But I would not be stopped.) More evidence was brought. Hainault Forest had belonged to a religious community. I had no problem with this either. After all, the Hainaulter Walter Manny started the first London Charter House. But then the Victoria History of the County of Essex broke my spirit. The derivation of Hainault: from OE holt, forest, owned by a monastic community and called in the 13th and 14 centuries "Hyneholt" (MED hine, 1b "a religious familia, monastic community--only in place names"); the Essex form is mentioned from 1239. It was Henhold in the 16th century. Not spelled Hainault until after 1720.

Over-extended evidence--Wrong Connection--Depression. In fact what could be called a real "downer." Hoist by my owne Hainault petar. What sport.

However, but a momentary setback in the process of research, which can be stopped only be hesitating at the next Overwhelming Question: What was this religious community that owned Hainault Forest? It turned out to be the Benedictine Abbey of Barking, full owner since 1221, but with property charters from Ethelred, William I, Henry I, Stephen, and two by Henry II. In the early 14th century the wealthiest and still most prestigious abbey in England, it was almost bankrupt late in the century because of a series of disastrous floods. In the Barking bail-out John of Gaunt contributed the sizable sum of £51 to the Abbey and to Elizabeth Chaucer when the daughter (or sister?) of Geoffrey was made a nun there in 1381--undoubtedly through the influence of her Hainault Connection. Thus another link in the connection was completed and the network would later extend to, and include, Thomas Chaucer.

Obviously the lesson here is not that in Chaucerian biography all roads lead to Hainault--certainly not the perilous road through Hainault Forest--but that sometimes there are strange confluences of forces that occur if one is patient and perseveres. Certainly, whatever else we learn, it is that we must never be seduced into dropping our itchies.

Thomas J. Garbary
University of Michigan

Festival of Early Drama

As the highlight of their 25th anniversary season, the Poculi Ludique Societas will host a Festival of Early Drama on May 23-24 at Victoria College, Toronto. University groups from North America and beyond have been invited to bring plays of their own choice to be performed in appropriate indoor or outdoor settings in the context of a medieval fair.

For more than 25 years, the PLS has been creating the entertainment of the Middle Ages and early Renaissance for audiences from Toronto to Rome. The company is best known for its festival staging of the great cycles of English medieval mystery plays. The 1977 York Cycle involved hundreds of people in a two-day presentation of 48 plays on moveable pageant wagons. Other festival productions have included the Castle of Perseverance (1979), the Chester Cycle (1983), and the N-Town Pageants (1987).

The presentations will take place on the quadrangle and adjacent buildings at the southeast corner of Charles and Queen’s Park Crescent in Toronto, beginning at 10 a.m. on both days. Daily admission is $10 for adults, $7 for seniors and students (children 12 and under are admitted free).

For more information, call the PLS at (416) 978-5096.
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

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
230 West 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1311 U. S. A.