

# THE CHAUCER NEWSLETTER

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## Biennial Congress To Be Held in London, July 14-17, 2000

Negotiations are in progress for holding the next biennial congress of the New Chaucer Society in the Institute of English Studies, which is located in the Senate House of the University of London. The local arrangements committee, Julia Boffey, Ardis Butterfield, Alastair Minnis, and Paul Strohm, will publish details in the Fall 1999 Chaucer Newsletter.

## New Chaucer Society CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS 2000 Congress: "The Place of Chaucer"

The Twelfth International Congress of the New Chaucer Society will be held at the University of London from 14 to 17 July, 2000. Prospective participants should contact the organizers of each session by August 15, 1999. In consultation with the Program Chair, organizers will make their selection as soon as possible after that. Names of participants will be announced in the Chaucer Newsletter for Fall 1999. Members may offer to take part in more than one session, and may actually take part in one concurrent paper session or panel and one electronic seminar.

The Program Committee consists of David Lawton (Chair), Chris Baswell, Elizabeth Fowler, Robert Hanning, Wendy Scase with Paul Strohm (NCS President) and Susan Crane (NCS Executive Director). Our priority is the encouragement of real dialogue among

members of the Society, both at and between Congresses. We have more than doubled the usual number of places on the program, so that every member who wishes to participate should be able to find a place.

The 2000 Congress has a title, "The Place of Chaucer." This is offered not as an inflexible theme but as a flexible focus. It allows for several key emphases of the program: on London and London books, on Chaucer's work, heritage and place in history; on other European and British writing; on a variety of approaches to Chaucer and medieval studies.

The Congress has a broader range of formats than in the past. For maximum effectiveness, participants and, especially, chairs will need to recognize this range, and the important and varying nature of the chair's role in different types of session. This being the case, all prospective chairs will be required to be present at a special session for chairs on the first afternoon of the Congress, in the interests of all who attend the Congress.

The NCS constitution requires that participants (except for invited speakers from other fields) should be members with their dues paid up. We ask you to share this announcement with graduate students, younger colleagues, and other interested parties who may not now be NCS members. (Students may join the Society at a reduced membership.) There has been a tight limit set on prior invitations to participate in any session: the overwhelming majority of participants in the Congress, including the first plenary panel, will be those who respond to this call.

### Concurrent Paper Sessions

*As in the past, these will last for 90 minutes each with three papers of no more than 20 minutes' duration and 30 minutes devoted to discussion. Time-limits on papers*

will be enforced. Abstracts of proposed papers (c. 250 words) should be sent to the organizer named for each session, together with notice of any audio-visual requirements.

**PS1 Troynovaunt**

Troy, the Brutus legend, and Troynovaunt in the cultural and political discourses of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century England, especially but not exclusively in the formation of urban identity. Topics could include (and draw together): Chaucer's Troy texts, Lydgate's and other verse Troy books, chronicle, genealogy, public ritual, visual arts.

Chris Baswell

Department of English, Barnard College, 3009  
Broadway, New York, NY 10027;  
cbaswell@barnard.edu

**PS2 Pilgrimage in England and Europe**

The emphasis of this session is primarily historical, and its intention is to provide a more diverse context for The Canterbury Tales than is usually proposed. Topics that might be covered include the economics of pilgrimage; jubilee; opposition to pilgrimage; theories of pilgrimage; comparative analysis of different pilgrimages; pilgrimage and travel; relics.

Peter Brown

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College, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NX, U.K.; P.Brown-  
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**PS3 Tradition and Innovation in Francophone Translation and Interpretation of Chaucer**

Proposals are welcome on all aspects of this topic.

André Crépin

18 rue Saint-Simon, P-80000 Amiens, France;  
brau@cybercable.fr

**PS4 Chaucer: Beyond the Academy**

This session will consider Chaucer's place in non-academic culture in the twentieth century. Papers are invited on topics like modern writers' interests in Chaucer, Chaucer on film, television or stage, popularizing critical treatments, children's versions, translations, public commemorations.

Steve Ellis

School of English, University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, U.K.  
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**PS5 Europe in London**

The cultural, linguistic, and political presence of continental Europe in Chaucer and the London of Chaucer's age.

Jan Čermák

Department of English and American Studies,  
Charles University, Jan Palacha 2, 11000 Praha, Czech  
Republic; cermak@ff.cuni.cz

Vincent Gillespie

St. Anne's College, Oxford, OX2 6HS, England;  
vincent.gillespie@st-annes.oxford.ac.uk

**PS6 Chaucer and Aesthetics: Redefinitions, Reclamations**

Can Chaucerians reclaim the aesthetic as a useful critical category? Papers invited that explore aesthetic experience in Chaucer and its relation to ethics, epistemology, ideology, etc. Can we map areas of intersection between the aesthetic as a socially constructed form of knowledge and as a philosophy of language?

Warren Ginsberg

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Albany, NY 12222; wg516@csc.albany.edu; Fax: 518-  
442-4599

**PS7 William Caxton and the Materials of Literary Culture**

This session will explore the relationships between fifteenth-century print production and the consolidation of the English literary canon. In what ways does Caxton's reproduction of existing texts produce new ideological formations about nationalism, subjecthood and literary authority? How does Caxton's introduction of a change in the mode of textual production indicate a change in the mode of consumption? More broadly, how does a renewed examination of Caxton's work with the press complicate the current debate on canon formation?

William Kuskin

Department of English, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406; William.Kuskin@usm.edu; Fax: 601-266-5757

**PS8 Poetry and Music in the Late Fourteenth Century**

Christopher Page

Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Fax: 01223 338884

**PS9 John Lydgate**

Proposals for papers on any aspect of Lydgate's poetry or cultural ambience.

Larry Scanlon and James Simpson

Proposals to Larry Scanlon; Department of English, Rutgers University, Murray Hall, Box 5054, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-5054; lscanlon@rci.rutgers.edu

**PS10 Chaucer and London English**

The English language was Chaucer's tool, not his invention. Recent scholarship has emphasized the dynamic nature of London English during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It is intended that this session will deal with Chaucer's relationship to the varieties of English available in London during the period, both in writing and in speech.

Jeremy J. Smith

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**PS11 Books in London**

The session will take a fresh look at various aspects of the production and dissemination of manuscript books in late medieval London (to include Westminster and environs). Proposals are invited that consider manuscripts as material evidence for metropolitan patterns of book production and ownership, especially as these relate to our understanding of 'Chaucer' reading circles and reading habits, patronage systems, and the commercial and related activities of book artisans. Of special interest will be the impact of 'court' culture on identifiable urban cultural practices.

John Thompson

School of English, Queen's University, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland; jthompson@clio.arts.qub.ac.uk

**PS12 Chaucer and Europe**

This session will explore connections between Chaucer and Europe in order to offer new readings of Chaucer's social and cultural relationships. Papers on Chaucer's travels and diplomatic activities in European countries and on the European contexts of Chaucer's activity as poet. Studies on Chaucer and his readers in Europe and on the impact of Chaucer's poetry on continental scholarship and criticism are welcome.

Anna Torti

Via Giulia 49, 06038 Spello (Perugia), Italy; piacentin@ytn.it

**PS13 Chaucerian Philosophies: Nominalist vs Realist Readings**

Chaucerian fictions as literary playing grounds for negotiating various aspects of the problem of

universals in poetic and linguistic structure, epistemology, and the relationship between the human and divine. A more detailed "Call for Papers" and bibliography on the topic are available at <http://www.uni.edu/~utz/nominalism%26literature.htm>.

Richard Utz

Department of English Language and Literature,  
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0502; Richard.Utz@uni.edu; Fax: 319-273-5807

#### PS14 Urban Devotion and Reform in Northern Europe

This session will investigate some distinctively urban manifestations of religious devotion and reform in late medieval London and other major north European centres. Papers are invited on any aspect of urban religious life or the writings associated with it.

Nicholas Watson

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#### PS15 Material Culture and Medieval Studies

There is much good will towards a dialogue between material culture and the study of medieval texts, but how is it best achieved? Any and all aspects of material culture may be relevant here, as would be the varied experiences of literary scholars, historians, archaeologists (Robert A. Gilchrist has accepted an invitation to take part).

*whole accts + Mary? UG  
u. livery, household making (but  
no livery in LGW...)*

David Lawton, for NCS

Department of English, Washington University,  
One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1122, St. Louis MO 63130; dalawton@artsci.wustl.edu; Fax: 314-935-7461

#### PS16 Chaucer in Later Medievalism

The nineteenth century, obviously, from Blake to the Kelmscott Chaucer; artists, scholars, writers, architects, divines; but also, perhaps, the Elizabethans, Dryden, the eighteenth century, Chaucer in the

medievalism of other countries. An emphasis on method and primary issues would be welcome: what is medievalism, how does it vary over time, what is Chaucer's part in it (smaller than we might expect)? Is there medievalism today, or merely professionalism?

David Lawton, for NCS

Department of English, Washington University,  
One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1122, St. Louis MO 63130; dalawton@artsci.wustl.edu; Fax: 314-935-7461

#### Panels

*Panels will be of two hours' duration, with 6 or 7 speakers who will initially talk for no more than 5 minutes each (and may forgo this period if they wish, in the interests of free discussion). This mode is a development from the colloquia of earlier congresses, but with a more specific brief. Each panel should be devoted to critical approaches to a text or texts (not necessarily whole texts) by Chaucer and/or by others OR to a clearly defined topic. The purpose of such panels is to have scholars representing a wide diversity of approach discussing a common text or topic; and to this end we have avoided the signature sessions of recent conferences which have identified with one particular approach or field. The audience should be given every opportunity to participate: concise handouts would be one way of enabling this. Brief statements of interest (c. 250 words) should be sent to the organizer named for each panel together with notice of any audio-visual requirements.*

#### Panel 1 (Plenary)

#### Enjoying Chaucer

It's no news that canonicity in general has been the subject of much discussion in recent years, and Chaucer's reputation as the "father of English poetry" has also been the focus of recent work. New theories of canonicity have appeared – that of John Guillory, for example, who argues in Cultural Capital that texts have no power over their cultural futures, and that the only thing that matters in understanding canonicity is understanding the institutional arrangements of

power/knowledge that make some texts “valuable” and others not. It’s been a while since an interesting psychoanalytic treatment of this question captured our imaginations; The Anxiety of Influence makes good re-reading, as much for thinking over its limitations as its accomplishments. But where does all this leave us in thinking about Chaucer’s “place” – his place in our classrooms, his places in the world, his place in our networks of cultural value? Why do we continue enjoying Chaucer? What are the ethical implications of so doing? And what are the implications for the kind of work the New Chaucer Society ought to be doing in the world?

Louise O. Fradenburg

University of California at Santa Barbara;  
lfraden@humanitas.ucsb.edu; Fax: 805-685-3616

**Panel 2 Troilus & Criseyde and Fourteenth-Century Social Practices**

We encourage contributions that examine the poem within the contexts of fourteenth-century social practices and tensions at the aristocratic level. However, broad social issues cutting across city and country, economic and class supports may also be relevant. We especially welcome updating of value-laden social issues from earlier courtly literature, and reference to other texts reflecting late chivalric, religious, materialistic and mercantile concerns.

John M. Hill

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Annapolis, MD 21402; jhill@nadm.navy.mil

William Askins

English Department, Community College of  
Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19130;  
waskins@ccp.cc.pa.us

**Panel 3 Book Production and Use in London**

The session will re-evaluate the history of the book and its relevance to Chaucer studies. Panelists are invited to discuss one or more links between artists,

scribes, printers, owners and readers living and working in late medieval London, and Chaucer manuscripts or imprints. Comments on papers from previous sessions, Books in London, organized by John Thompson, and on Caxton, organized by William Kuskin, and responses to the e-seminar on MSS, led by Stephen Partridge, are encouraged.

Martha W. Driver

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Row, NY 10038; Mdriver@fsmail.pace.edu

**Panel 4 Theatre and Theatricality**

Five-minute responses to the above topic, taking either individual Canterbury Tales or a group of tales as the focus. Issues might include: the relationship of Chaucer’s work to English vernacular culture; specifically the urban religious drama; rethinking and historicizing the categories of spectacle and drama; space and performance; *mouvance* and performance; transvestism, transgending and the body; theorizing audience response. I seek a variety of disciplinary and theoretical approaches, but I ask that potential participants reflect at least in part on the wider congress theme, “The Place of Chaucer,” and thus address the questions: why Chaucer and theatre? Why now?

Ruth Evans

School of English Studies, University of Wales,  
Cardiff, CF1 3XB; senre@cf.ac.uk

**Panel 5 City Institutions**

Papers are invited on the rich institutional life of medieval London, its polities, guilds, reigning bodies, social architecture, networks, trades; its ceremonies, regulations, commissions, traffic, records; its privileges, honors, signage, hierarchies, horizontal bonds; its inns, churches, factories, ditches, docks, public works; its measures, customs, artifacts, vehicles, enclosures.

Elizabeth Fowler

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**Panel 6 Texts and Ricardian Culture**

This panel will explore the ways in which literary and other scholars read medieval texts in a cultural environment. Panelists will bring to bear on a specific text their research on "Ricardian" (i.e., later fourteenth- and early fifteenth-century English) intellectual, political, social (including gender), religious, legal, economic, or visual contexts and documentation. Proposals may deal with entire texts but should indicate a finite portion of the text in question as a focus for discussion, so that handouts can be prepared for use by the audience. Preference in forming this panel may be given to proposals targeting non-Chaucerian texts (Gower, Langland, the Pearl poet, romances, etc.). In choosing panelists, the organizers will attempt to set up pairs of responses that elucidate the same text from widely divergent perspectives and/or with contrasting interpretive outcomes. We encourage submissions across a wide spectrum of historicizing and contextualizing methodologies, from the well-established to the very new.

R.W. Hanning

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Michael Hanrahan

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michael.hanrahan@reed.edu

**Panel 7 London Lives**

Contributions on the ways in which late medieval Londoners constructed social identities by means of textual practices. Participants might investigate: (1) the "life writing" of individual Londoners, e.g. occupational records, wills, commonplace books, confessions, or even the institutions or architectural monuments founded by

Londoners that could be considered as memorial texts (e.g., Whittington College); (2) texts employed in the education of children or other phases of the urban life cycle; (3) links between behavioral texts owned by Londoners and actual behavior; (4) the role of texts in producing London saints or celebrities; (5) the construction of group identities through the circulation of manuscripts.

Sheila Lindenbaum

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Bloomington IN 47405; lindenb@indiana.edu

**Panel 8 Labor**

How late medieval representations of labor relate to current understandings of labor and literary production. Advantages or disadvantages of postindustrial theory (marxist, neomarxist, etc.) as applied to medieval literature.

Kellie Robertson

Department of English, University of Pittsburgh,  
526 Cathedral of Learning, 4200 Fifth Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001; kroberr+@pitt.edu; Fax:  
412-624-6639

**Panel 9 Reading History, Writing History**

The goal of this panel is to open a discussion of "reading fourteenth century history" with the aim of seeing whether reading historical narrative after the linguistic turn – close, readerly, attentive to the opacities, silences, and textual and intertextual structure of "the historical record" – can in any way reach beyond the figures of representation and yield positive knowledge about the nature and structure of past experience. In order to achieve the greatest degree of audience participation, the work of the panel should be based on a single text or small number of particular texts (to be agreed upon later based on the interests of the panelists), and participants should be prepared to collaborate actively prior to the conference in determining our specific focus.

Robert Stein  
Columbia University; rms9@columbia.edu

Panel 10 **Teaching the Text of Chaucer**

How are students introduced to Chaucer and medieval studies? What social and cultural functions are performed by the various scholarly and popular (and electronic) editions, translations of or introductions to Chaucer's texts and the text of "Chaucer"? How distinctive are the forms of intellectual and social discipline by which we invite students to become Chaucerians and medievalists?

Stephanie Trigg

Department of English and Cultural Studies,  
University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, 3052;  
s.trigg@english.unimelb.edu.au; Fax: +61 3 9344 5494

→ Panel 11 **The Representation of Agency**

Who or what governs the action in Chaucer's texts? And who or what controls narration? I would like to hear from scholars interested in Chaucer's representation of agency – individual, social, astrological, providential, and so on – and in the locus of narratological agency, particularly in the Canterbury Tales. I am particularly interested in discussing the interaction of various forms or levels of agency in, or over, a given text.

Carolyn Van Dyke

Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042;  
vandykec@lafvax.lafayette.edu; Fax: 610-330-5606

Panel 12 **The Parliament of Fowls**

All available aspects: text; reception history; readings of all kinds from different critical and cultural perspectives; interests and contexts – medieval and modern, British and European. The ideal text for a focused but provocative panel?

David Lawton, for NCS

Department of English, Washington University,  
One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1122, St. Louis MO  
63130; dalawton@artsci.wustl.edu; Fax: 314-935-7461

Panel 13 **The Place of Chaucer**

Open: for all meditations, reverent or scandalizing, punning or otherwise, on the Congress title. Unexpected ones especially welcome.

David Lawton, for NCS

Department of English, Washington University,  
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63130; dalawton@artsci.wustl.edu; Fax: 314-935-7461

**Electronic Seminars**

*This is a new mode for the Society. Members will be invited to join an e-seminar of their choice in the months prior to the Congress. After joining they will contribute a preliminary position statement of no more than 500 words to the convenor. These will be posted on the Internet. The seminar group will then correspond mainly, we envisage, by e-mail; but hard copy options are there for those without electronic access. To qualify for the congress program, seminar members must then post a revised statement by an agreed deadline; this need not be substantially longer than the first (say 800-1,000 words) but should take into account the intervening exchange of views. The e-seminars will then meet in concurrent sessions at the congress, for two hours. Most of these meetings will not be open. They will be for the people who have worked together for the previous months in setting up a discussion that might take any form participants decide: a collaborative project, a volume of essays, a bibliography, electronic publication and so on. Unlike ordinary e-lists, they will not be open to all comers; participants will be selected after they respond to this call. When they meet at the congress, e-seminars will be free to determine their own procedures (preferably in advance!).*

*All members of the Society are invited to join one e-seminar (and one only), whether or not they are participating otherwise in a paper session or panel. There is no minimum size for such a seminar beyond what the participants feel is useful, but there is a limit of fifteen participants in an e-seminar. Convenors may recruit up to four of these places by invitation, in order to seed a fruitful program of work, but will fill the remainder on the basis of interest expressed. Members are invited to offer second and third preferences in the event that the e-seminar of their first preference is full. Please send a brief expression of interest (no more than 250 words) to the convenors named for each panel, with a copy, and statement of second and third preferences, to David Lawton (dalawton@artsci.wustl.edu).*

#### **E-Seminar 1 Rhetoric and History**

Histories of Rhetoric and the Next Millennium:  
Medieval Studies, Cultural Histories, Intellectual Histories

Martin Camargo

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University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211;  
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Rita Copeland

Department of English, Lind Hall, 207 Church  
Street, Southeast, Minneapolis, MN 55455;  
cope1002@maroon.tc.umn.edu; Fax: 612-624-8228

#### **E-Seminar 2 Pedagogy: Chaucer in the Curricula**

How Chaucer came into our curricula in the last century, and where he might be going in the next one; Chaucer at various places in the curriculum (postgraduate, undergraduate, secondary school), and in various forms (hypertext, editions, translations, Chaucer for children); political, social and gender inflections of these questions.

Thomas A. Goodman

Department of English, University of Miami,  
P.O. Box 248145, Coral Gables, FL 33124;  
tgoodman@miami.edu; Fax: 305-284-5635

#### **E-Seminar 3 Pedagogy: Approaches to Teaching Chaucer**

Contributions are sought detailing and comparing approaches. At the center of my own recent teaching of Chaucer have been two questions: 1) religiosity and spirituality in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; 2) Chaucer's poetic language, his "poetic invention". In the first, taught in tandem with Boccaccio's Decameron, I try to provide a wide perspective on the social history of medieval Europe with special attention to the developments of religious movements and ecclesiastical institutions in both Italy and England. The approach is comparative and interdisciplinary, with particular attention to the anthropology of religion. The second question, "poetic invention," addresses problems of medieval poetics, rhetoric, and literary history within the broader question of intertextuality.

Patrizia Pizzorno Grimaldi

University of Siena, Casanova, Trespiano, 50010  
Florence Italy; grimaldip@unisi.it

#### **E-Seminar 4 Liturgical Performance and Literary Practice in Late Medieval England**

Intersections, conflicts, and continuities between the practices of vernacular writing and liturgical performance; liturgy, latinitas, and authority; liturgy and Lollardy; liturgy as social practice, ideology, propaganda; liturgical institutions; liturgical performance and gender performance; liturgical aesthetics and/vs. literary aesthetics; liturgy, sexuality, and the body. Codicological, textual, and theoretical approaches all welcome.

Bruce Holsinger

Department of English, University of Colorado,  
Campus Box 226, Boulder CO 80309-0226;  
holsinge@stripe.colorado.edu

#### **E-Seminar 5 Death**

This is hardly a cheery subject; however, a vast range of issues converge in the concept of death. Our discussion will be anchored in specific medieval texts (martyrologies, lyrics, romances), beliefs, and practices. Phillipe Ariès's landmark studies of the history of dying,



Western Attitudes towards Death and The Hour of our Death would provide a valuable historical framework for critical discussion. The Church's control over thinking about death provides another field to which to relate medieval texts, as does mourning, the practice and psychoanalytic basis of which have been illumined by Julia Kristeva, Black Sun: Depression and Melancholy. As a topic, death is both cerebral and visceral. It can be uplifting, depressing, or grimly humorous. Our discussion aims to reflect this range and interest.

Sarah Kay

Girton College, Cambridge University;  
sk210@cus.cam.ac.uk

Louise D'Arcens

School of English, University of New South  
Wales, University College, A.D.F.A., Canberra ACT  
2600 Australia; l-darcens@adfa.edu.au; Fax: 06-268-  
8899

#### E-Seminar 6 **Chaucer and the Place of Pathos**

In this seminar, we will investigate Chaucer's perplexing use of pathos through attending to the place and function of pathos in the variety of discursive registers that suffuse and surround his writings: those of late-medieval devotion, visual culture, physiology, ethics, and so on. Specific issues will reflect the interests of seminar participants, but may include considerations of pathos as a technique for generating or contesting class distinction; pathos and the feminized audience; the power of pathos in a culture of violence; pathos and the performance of emotions; pathos and embarrassment; and the place of pathos in Chaucer criticism, including its relation to nostalgia in our millennial moment.

Sarah McNamer

The Society of Fellows, Harvard University, 78  
Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge MA 02138;  
smcnamer@fas.harvard.edu; Fax: 617-495-2645

#### E-Seminar 7 **Medieval Performance: Theater, Theatricality, Theories**

We invite contributions to an electronic seminar on any aspect of theatricality or performance in English literature of the Late Middle Ages. Possible topics include: any aspect of medieval drama; representations of theater in literature; "Chaucerian Theatricality"; medieval literature in light of performance and film theories.

Ruth Nissé

University of Nebraska-Lincoln;  
rnisse@stanford.edu

Laura King

University of Vermont

#### E-Seminar 8 **Book Production and Use in London and Beyond**

This seminar will focus on physical, documentary, and textual evidence for book production and use from the 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. While the production and use of manuscripts and printed editions of Chaucer's works will be one focus, the participation of those engaged in research on other texts (including those in other languages) and books produced and read outside England are welcome and will be essential to the success of the seminar.

Stephen Partridge

Department of English, UBC, 397-1873 East  
Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1, Canada;  
sbp@interchange.ubc.ca; Fax: 604-822-6906

#### E-Seminar 9 **Genre, Gender and Sexualities**

If sexualities are cultural productions, they can be expected to be historically specific: medieval literature in general and the work of Chaucer in particular write sexualities in ways alien to us, or do we find evidence of the continuity of sexual identity? Are such culturally embedded sexualities discursively specific, differently produced according to genre? And can genres themselves thus be said to have sexual identity? Such questions will be the focus of the e-seminar on genre and sexualities; participants of all shades of opinion are welcome.

Sarah Salih

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Jean-Pascal Pouzet

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After June 1999: 5 rue des Grands Jardins F-  
58000 Nevers, France

→ E-Seminar 10 **New Chaucer Society**

Members with varied backgrounds and experiences are invited to join a discussion of the purposes and scope of the New Chaucer Society. What, for example, are the problems and benefits of a society predicated on an idea of authorship, in an era more devoted to textual and cultural emphases? What is the 'Age of Chaucer' and how should we be studying it? What sorts of adjustments are needed to reposition the society for continued vitality in the decades to come?

Paul Strohm

St. Anne's College, Oxford University;  
paul.strohm@english.oxford.ac.uk

E-Seminar 11 **Cultural Geography**

Topics for discussion might include: a) space as physical reflections of social practice – symbolic and material landscapes; maps and other forms of spatial representation; holy geographies; cartographies of difference; sexual geographies; gendered spaces; public vs. private places; sites of production; licit and illicit places; the cultural politics of nature; domains of the dead; b) space as sites of contestation – centers vs. margins; city vs. country; courts, castles, and convents; orientalism; Christian vs. "other" spaces; the place of Islam; spatial strategies, e.g., colonizing discourses, dispossession, surveillance; the space of supercession; spatiality vs. temporality; heterotopias; c) movements in space – tropes of travel; itineraries; pilgrimages and pilgrimage accounts; crusades and crusaders; royal geographies; *translatio imperii*; exile, expulsion, and outlawry; frontiers, limits, and boundaries.

Sylvia Tomasch

Hunter College (CUNY), 695 Park Avenue, New  
York, NY 10021; stomasch@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu; Fax:  
212-772-5138

E-Seminar 12 **Pornography and the Politics of  
Fantasy in Chaucer**

A discussion of pornography as an expressive medium in Chaucer and his culture, beyond purely expressions of misogyny or social decay. Which metaphors, ironies, symbols, and fantasies constitute pornography's political significance? Are modern theories of porn appropriate to mediæval cultural modes? If so, what is the social agenda of late medieval pornography?

Michael Uebel

University of Kentucky, 1215 Patterson Tower,  
Lexington KY 40506-0027; uebel@pop.uky.edu; Fax:  
606-323-1072

E-Seminar 13 **Computers in Research and Teaching**

This electronic seminar will examine computer resources in researching and teaching about Chaucer and his age, especially tools and approaches developed or refined since the mid-1990's. Such resources include, but are not limited to, electronic databases and glossaries, listservs, Web sites, and MOOs. Other topics include implications of such resources for classroom practices; theorizing computer use; professional issues.

Susan Yager

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Ames, IA 50011-1201; syager@iastate.edu; Fax: 515-  
294-6814

## Future Biennial Congress Sites?

The President and Trustees invite suggestions, inquiries and proposals for venues for future congresses. The 2002 congress should be held in North America, and the 2004 congress could be in North America or elsewhere in the world: all suggestions for these or later meetings would be welcome. Please contact Susan Crane at the return address printed on this newsletter

## Endowment Contributions, 1998

The New Chaucer Society is fortunate to have an endowment that is growing thanks to the strong investment market and the generosity of many members. In 1998, 81 members contributed a total of \$1967 to the endowment. Last year's top ten contributors were Charles Blyth, Derek Brewer, Tom Burton, Mary Carruthers, John Ganim, Alan Gaylord, Haruo Harada, Monica McAlpine, Eiki Nishida, and Derek Pearsall.

## Election Results

The Trustees of the New Chaucer Society have elected Helen Cooper as the Society's next President. Her term of office begins after the 2000 Congress and runs until 2002. The Trustees elected Carolyn Dinshaw to deliver the Biennial Chaucer Lecture at the 2000 Congress. Members of the New Chaucer Society have elected four new Trustees for the term 2000-2002; the new Trustees are Julia Boffey, Anthony Edwards, Stephen Knight, and Toshiyuki Takamiya. Members elected Robert Yeager to the Finance Committee for the term 2000-2006. The other members of the Finance Committee are Paul Strohm (ex officio, President), Susan Crane (ex officio, Executive Director), and John Fyler (elected member). For names, terms, and titles of all other officers, please see the 1998 Membership List.

## Members' Announcements

**From Elizabeth Scala:** Texas Studies in Language and Literature invites contributions for a special issue on "The Ends of Historicism: Medieval Literary Studies in the New Century." We are interested in papers that examine historicism as a practice that describes the current state of medieval literary studies or that take such an examination as a point of departure for examining the critical practices that historicism entails. By "ends" we mean to indicate, at once, the (past/future) goals of historicization, the agendas historicization inscribes, and the possibility of a medieval studies beyond/after historicism. What may or should come after historicism's reign? We seek essays that will provide either practical or theoretical consideration of the extensions, supplements, or correctives that would enrich what historicism "is" or might be. Send essay proposals by May 15 to the special editors: (in North America) Elizabeth Scala, Dept of English, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 (scala@mail.utexas.edu); (in Europe) Christopher Cannon, St Edmund Hall, Oxford OX1 4AR (christopher.cannon@english.ox.ac.uk).

**From Becky Geist:** Canterbury Tales Festival! Coming to San Francisco in June 2000! From June 2 to June 29 the complete Canterbury Tales Cycle will be presented in two cycles, in repertory, by "Geoffrey Chaucer & Co.," a non-profit professional theatre company committed to bringing to the stage the great masterpieces of Geoffrey Chaucer, fully enacted in modern English and with original music. Don't miss this lifetime experience which is already drawing a national audience to the Bay Area! For more information call toll-free 10877-4CHAUCER or check our website at [www.marinet.net.com/chaucerco](http://www.marinet.net.com/chaucerco) (soon to become [www.chaucertheatre.org](http://www.chaucertheatre.org)).

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## Annual Chaucer Bibliography

The Bibliographers of the New Chaucer Society encourage you to inform them of publications that pertain to Chaucer. Please use the form below (or separate paper if more convenient) to report your Chaucer publications of the past calendar year. Offprints are welcome. Submissions will appear in the annual Studies in the Age of Chaucer bibliography and the On-line Chaucer Bibliography.

**Author's Name:**

**Titles and publication information:**

**Mail to:**

Mark Allen, Division of English, Classics, Philosophy and Communications, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78249-0643. E-mail: [mallen@lonestar.jpl.utsa.edu](mailto:mallen@lonestar.jpl.utsa.edu) Fax: (210) 458-5366

or

Bege Bowers, Department of English, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH 44555-3415.

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## Newsletter Submissions

The New Chaucer Society accepts both computer and traditional printed submissions to the *Chaucer Newsletter*. If computerized, the submission may be in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format; it must be stored on a 3.5-inch IBM compatible diskette. Computerized submissions should be accompanied by a hardcopy of the text. Please include your address, phone number, and e-mail address with any submissions.

The *Chaucer Newsletter*, distributed twice a year to New Chaucer Society members, is intended primarily as a vehicle of Society business. Its ephemeral nature makes it unsuitable for substantial articles, but we are always happy to publish discussions of research in progress and other activities of interest to Chaucerians. The deadline for the Spring issue is January 1; the deadline for the Fall issue is September 1. Send materials to Susan Crane, Executive Director, or Susan Arvay, Graduate Assistant, at the address below. You may also reach the NCS office by phone or fax at (732) 932-8703 or by e-mail at [arvay@eden.rutgers.edu](mailto:arvay@eden.rutgers.edu).

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## ***The New Chaucer Society***

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