Essay Contest: "Why Do We Still Study Chaucer?"

Two friends of the New Chaucer Society, Virginia Hamilton Adair and Dolores Cullen, offer an essay prize in the amount of $600 to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Chaucer’s death. Submissions should be no more than 500 words long and should address the question, “Why, after 600 years, are we still studying the works of Chaucer?” The prize’s benefactors encourage students as well as scholars at all stages of their careers to participate; membership in the Society is not a requirement. Submissions will be judged anonymously: they should be sent to the New Chaucer Society office, where they will be assigned identification numbers before they are forwarded to a panel of judges drawn from the Trustees of the Society. The deadline for receipt of submissions is June 15, 2000; the winner will be announced on July 14 at the opening plenary of the London Congress.

London Congress Update

The New Chaucer Society will cosponsor its Twelfth International Congress with the Institute for English Studies in London from Friday, July 14 through Monday, July 17. A registration form is enclosed with this newsletter; members of the Institute may choose to register with the Institute’s office in the Senate House. The enclosed registration form should be returned to the New Chaucer Society office as soon as possible if a place is desired in the special-rate lodgings reserved for participants, and no later than July 1 for those who are making their own lodging arrangements.

The Senate House in Malet Street, just behind the British Museum, will host the Congress information center, the opening plenary, most of the sessions, and a publishers’ exhibit. The local committee in charge of arrangements for the congress, Julia Boffey, Ardis Butterfield, Alastair Minnis, and Paul Strohm, have planned an array of receptions and events around the program, including an opening reception in the Crush Hall of Senate House on July 14, a reception in the medieval London rooms of the Museum of the City of London on July 15, and a reception and banquet at the Merchant Taylors’ Company buildings to follow the Biennial Chaucer Lecture on July 16. The congress will close with a Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey in celebration of Chaucer’s life and a commemoration at Chaucer’s tomb; the program will feature poems by and about Chaucer read by Poet Laureate Andrew Motion together with Tom Burton, David Lawton, Helen Cooper, and others. A reception at the British Academy’s buildings in Carleton House Terrace will follow.

Three London historians have agreed to lead registrants on historical walks in the City of London on the afternoon of July 16. Leaders and subjects will include: Caroline Barron (the Guildhall and environs), Vanessa Harding (Aldgate and the Docks), and John Schofield (the original Paul’s and other archaeological traces). Each group will be limited to 20 persons. Registrants may sign up for a walk beginning at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 14 at the Congress information center in the Senate House.

David Lawton, Chair of the Program Committee, has provided updated details of the program for this newsletter. The final program, available at the Congress information center, will provide complete information on times, rooms, and paper topics.
Endowment Contributions

The New Chaucer Society’s endowment provides a long-term source of income for special projects, such as defraying the travel expenses of new Ph.D’s and advanced graduate students who attend the biennial congresses. Endowment contributions from members during 1999 totaled $2207. The year’s top ten contributors were Derek Brewer, Tom Burton, Mary Carruthers, John Fleming, Thomas Garbaty, Masatoshi Kawasaki, Bernard Levy, John Leyerle, Eiki Nishida, and Paul Strohm. The Society owes thanks to all contributors for sustaining the Society’s long-term health and its support for special projects.

New Chaucer Society Participants
2000 Congress
"The Place of Chaucer"

Entries are in order: Title (organizer, and chair if different, where known); speakers. The final program, with information on times, rooms, and paper topics, will be available at the Congress information center.

Opening Plenary: Chaucer’s London

Organizer: Paul Strohm (Oxford)
Caroline Barron (Bedford-Royal Holloway, U of London)
Sheila Lindenbaum (Indiana)
John Schofield (Museum of the City of London)

Biennial Chaucer Lecture:

Carolyn Dinshaw (New York U)

Paper Sessions:

1. Troyntovaunt

Organizer: Christopher Baswell (Barnard College)
Thomas Hahn (Rochester): ‘Engraving Troy Anew’
Andrew Lynch (Western Australia): ‘Peace, War, and Urban Identity in Chaucer’s New Troy’

Marion Turner (St. Anne’s, Oxford): ‘Death and the City: London, Troilus and Criseyde, and the Psychology of Loss’

2. Pilgrimage in England and Europe

Organizer: Peter Brown (Kent)
Scott D. Westrem (CUNY): ‘Chaucer in Place’
Dee Dyas (Glamorgan): ‘Pilgrims Were They All? Modes on Pilgrimage in Medieval English Spirituality’
Andrew Taylor (Saskatchewan): ‘The Ethics of Virtual Pilgrimage: Margaret of York and Beinecke MS 639’

3. Tradition and Innovation in Francophone Translation and Interpretation of Chaucer

Organizer: André Crépin (Paris IV): ‘Chaucer in France: A Non-Person?’
Chair: Juliette Dor (Liège/Luik)
4. Chaucer Beyond the Academy
Organizer: Steve Ellis (Birmingham)
James D. Johnson (Humboldt State): ‘The Portrayal of Chaucer in Edward Rutherford’s “London” and its Predecessors in Fiction’
David Matthews (Newcastle, New South Wales): ‘Infantilising the Father: The Edwardians, their Children, and Chaucer’
Edward Wheatley (Hamilton College): ‘Spike Lee’s Get on the Bus: Mr. Chaucer Goes to Washington’

5. Europe in London
Organizers: Jan Cermák (Charles U., Praha) and Vincent Gillespie (St. Anne’s, Oxford)
Ardis Butterfield (UCL): ‘France in London: Philippa of Hainault and English Writing’
Leonard M. Koff (UCLA): ‘The Presence of Queen Anne in Richard II’s European Ambitions and Chaucer’s Geography of One World’
Lynn Staley (Colgate): ‘Richard II and Images of Rule’

6. Chaucer and Aesthetics: Redefinitions, Reclamations
Organizer: Warren Ginsberg (SUNY at Albany)
Peggy Knapp (Carnegie Mellon): ‘Correctness, Aesthetic Pleasure, and Chaucerian Texts’
Ann Astell (Purdue): ‘Eating Beauty: Utility, Excess, and Chaucerian Aesthetics’
Karla Taylor (Michigan): ‘Muses that Men Clepe Pierides’
Respondent: Teresa Kennedy (Mary Washington College)

7. William Caxton and the Materials of Literary Culture
Organizer: William Kuskin (Southern Mississippi)
Alexandra Gillespie (Corpus Christi, Oxford): ‘Caxton’s Quarto Editions of Chaucer’s and Lydgate’s Minor Works’
Mark Addison Amos (S. Illinois): ‘Consuming Caxton’s “Corpus”’
William N. West (UC Berkeley): ‘Old News: Caxton, de Worde, and the (Un)planned Obsolescence of Print’
Respondent: Jennifer Goodman (Texas A&M): ‘Caxton’s Canon’

8. Poetry and Music in the Late Fourteenth Century
Organizer: Christopher Page (Sidney Sussex, Cambridge)

9. John Lydgate
Organizers: Larry Scanlon (Rutgers) and James Simpson (Cambridge)
Larry Scanlon (Rutgers): ‘Lydgate Without Apology’
Philippa Mary Hardman (Reading): ‘Lydgate’s Uneasy Syntax’
Robert J. Meyer-Lee (Yale)

10. Chaucer and London English
Organizer: Jeremy J. Smith (Glasgow)
Maldwyn Mills (Wales): ‘Chaucer and the Semantics of London English’
Simon Horobin (Glasgow): ‘The Influence of Chaucer’s English’
Emily Steiner (Pennsylvania): ‘Urban Voices in Chaucer and Langland’

Organizer: John Thompson (Queen’s, Belfast)
Linne R. Mooney (Maine): ‘London’s Professional Scribes in the Late Fourteenth and Fifteenth Century’
Mary C. Erler (Fordham): ‘Manuscript Pepys 2006: Ownership and Audience’
Rosemarie McGerr (Indiana): ‘City and Court in Oxford, Corpus Christi College MS 237’

12. Chaucer and Europe
Organizer: Anna Torti (Perugia)
Eugenio M. Olivares Merino (Jaén): ‘“Glorie of Spayne”: Juan Ruiz’s Influence on Chaucer Revisited’
Michael Hanly (Washington State): ‘Literary Transmission in Chaucer’s Europe’
David Wallace (Pennsylvania): ‘At Calais Gate’

13. Chaucerian Philosophies: Nominalist vs Realist Readings
Organizer: Richard Utz (Northern Iowa)
Paule Mertens-Fonck (Liège): ‘The Canterbury Tales: A Literary Debate About Universals’
Robert Myles (McGill): ‘Chaucer’s Anti-Essentialism and the Semantic Point of View’
J. Stephen Russell (Hofstra): ‘Naming and Transformation in the Canon Yeoman’s Tale’
Brenda Deen Schildgen (UCLA): ‘Chaucer’s Diversity of Worldviews, J. Habermas, and Late Medieval Nominalism’

14. Urban Devotion and Reform in Northern Europe
Organizer: Nicholas Watson (Western Ontario)
Nancy Warren (Utah State): ‘St. Colette’s Convents at Poligny and Ghent: Local Cults, Monastic Foundations, and Burgundian Politics’
John Van Engen (Notre Dame and Princeton): ‘Inquisitors and Vernacular Books in the 1390s in the Netherlands: The Modern Devotion at Court’
Kathryn Kerby-Fulton (Victoria and Princeton): ‘Female Prophetic Preaching and Reformist Devotion in the Beguineage’
Respondent: Felicity Riddy (York)

15. Material Culture and Medieval Studies
Organizer: David Lawton (Washington U) for NCS
Chair: John Van Engen (Notre Dame and Princeton)
Susan Crane (Rutgers): ‘Talking Garments’
Bruce Holsinger (Colorado): ‘Genealogy of the Habitus: The Medievalisms of Pierre Bourdieu’
TBA
Respondent: Barbara Nolan (Virginia)

16. Chaucer in Later Medievalisms
Organizer: David Lawton (Washington U) for NCS
Chair: TBA
Helen Cooper (Oxford): ‘Elizabethan Chaucer’
Mark Sherman (Rhode Island School of Design): ‘Making Memory in Chaucer and Spenser’
Richard Utz (Northern Iowa): ‘Philology and National Identity: German Chaucerians and the Challenge of F.J. Furnivall’
John Ganim (UC Riverside): ‘Chaucer and Free Love’

Panels:

1. Enjoying Chaucer
Organizer: Louise Fradenburg (UC Santa Barbara)
Felicity Riddy (York)
Glenn Burger (Edmonton)
Karma Lochrie (Indiana)
Simon Gaunt (UCL)
Stephen Knight (Cardiff)
Jeffrey Jerome Cohen (George Washington U)
Elizabeth Scala (U Texas-Austin)

2. Troilus and Criseyde and Fourteenth-Century Social Practices
Organizers: John M. Hill (U.S. Naval Academy) and William Askins (Community College of Philadelphia)
Ronald A. Waldron (King’s, London): ‘Troilus and Thomas Usk’
Mary-Jo Arn (Harvard): ‘Troilus and Charles of Orleans’
H. A. Kelly (UCLA): ‘Criseyde and Widowhood’
Lawrence Besserman (Hebrew U, Jerusalem): ‘Criseyde and the Durham Ordinances’
Corinne Saunders (Durham): ‘Ravishing Criseyde’
Allen Frantzen (Loyola): ‘The Sacrificial Economies of Troilus’
Respondent: John V. Fleming (Princeton)

3. Book Production and Use in London
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (Pace)
See also Seminar 8 (co-meeting)
Bryan P. Davis (Georgia Southwestern State): ‘The Production of Troilus’
Tom Hanks (Baylor): ‘MS to Caxton: Creating the Passive Reader’
Kathryn McKinley (Florida International): ‘Caxton’s Ovid’
Candace Barrington (S. Connecticut State): “Redeth Gower”: Caxton’s Marketing of the Confessio Amantis
Mary Hamel (Mount St. Mary’s): ‘Wynkyn de Worde as Editor’
Satoko Tokunaga (Keio): ‘Wynkyn de Worde’s The Canterbury Tales: The Use of Sources for “The Monk’s Tale”’
Samantha Mullaney (University College Cork): ‘Bibliophilia in Manuscript Culture’
Jennifer Summit (Stanford): ‘English Libraries Pre- and Post-Reformation’

Maria Bullon-Fernandez (U of Seattle): ‘Richard II and Ricardian Writers: Gender, Privacy, and the English “Property Fetish”’
Alcuin Blamires (Goldsmiths, London): ‘John Gower on Richard’s Barge: History, Metaphor, and Apocalypse’
Michael Hanrahan: ‘Legendary Pasts and the Ricardian Present’
John Bowers (Nevada): ‘St. Erkenwald and Ricardian Culture’
James Rhodes (S. Connecticut State): ‘Critical Hermeneutics in Cleanness’
Steven Kruger (Alberta): ‘Sexual Politics/Politicized Sexuality in Cleanness’

4. Theatre and Theatricality
Organizer: Ruth Evans (Cardiff)
Laura Kendrick (Versailles)
Andrew Johnson (Freie Universität, Berlin)
Dana Symons (Rochester)
Peter Beiderle (Lehigh)
Catherine Sanok (U of Washington, Seattle)

5. London’s Medieval Institutions and Modern Archives
Organizer: Elizabeth Fowler (Virginia)
C. David Benson (Connecticut): ‘The Ward: Cornhill’
Louise Bishop (Oregon): ‘Medicine’
Ralph Hanna III (Keble, Oxford): ‘Patronage’
William Kuskin (Southern Mississippi): ‘Literary Production’
Derek Pearsall (Harvard): ‘Provenance’
Vanessa Harding (Birkbeck, London): ‘Property’
Lianna Farber (Northwestern): ‘Crafts’
Andrew Prescott (Sheffield): ‘Royal Justice: The Court of King’s Bench’
David d’Avray (London): ‘Preaching’

6. Texts and Ricardian Culture
Organizers: Robert W. Hanning (Columbia) and Michael Hanrahan (U College of Ripon and York)
Chair: Robert W. Hanning (Columbia)
Emma Lipton (San Francisco State): ‘Public Life, Private Voice: Sexuality and Masculine Identity’

7. Framing Chaucer: Image, Film, Commemoration
Organizer: Steve Ellis (Birmingham) for NCS Ruth Sternglanz (Adelphi)
Velma Boursier Rich (Holy Names College)
Julian Wassermer (Loyola)
Jenna Mead (Tasmania)
Tamara F. O’Callaghan (Northern Kentucky)
Kevin J. Harty (La Salle)
Barrie Ruth Straus (Windsor)

8. Labor
Organizer: Kellie Robertson (Pittsburgh)
Catherine Batt (Leeds)
Andrew Cole (Duke)
Britton Harwood (Miami U of Ohio)
Ethan Knapp (Ohio State)
Ruth Nissé (Nebraska - Lincoln)
Vance Smith (Princeton)
Michael Uebel (Kentucky)

9. Reading History, Writing History
Organizer: Robert Stein (Purchase College-SUNY)
Elizabeth Allen (UC Irvine)
Sylvia Federico (Leeds)
John Fyler (Tufts)
Kathleen Kelly (Northeastern)
Fiona Somerset (Western Ontario)

10. Teaching the Text of Chaucer
Organizer: Stephanie Trigg (Melbourne)
Betsy Bowden (Rutgers)
Tom Goodman (Miami)
Sarah Kelen (Nebraska Wesleyan)
Stephen Knight (Cardiff)
Michael Murphy (Emeritus, CUNY)
Susan Yager (Iowa State)

11. The Representation of Agency
Organizer: Carolynn Van Dyke (Lafayette College)
Anne Clark Bartlett (De Paul)
Edwin Craun (Washington and Lee)
Daniel Kline (Alaska-Anchorage)
William Munson (Alabama-Huntsville)
William Nelles (Massachusetts, Dartmouth)
Teresa P. Reed (Jacksonville State)
Martha Rust (UC Berkeley)
A. C. Spearing (Virginia)

12. The Parliament of Fowls
Organizer: David Lawton (Washington U) for NCS
Ebbe Klitgård (Roskilde)
Kathleen Davis (Bucknell)
Carolyn Collette (Mount Holyoke)
Edward I. Condren (UCLA)
Elizabeth Robertson (Colorado)
Lee Patterson (Yale)
Simon Meecham-Jones (Cambridge)

13. London Lives
Organizers: Wendy Scase (U of Birmingham) and
Sheila Lindenbaum (Indiana)
Nancy Bradbury (Smith)
Chris Humphrey (York)
Derek Keene (U of London)
Miri Rubin (Oxford)
Wendy Scase (U of Birmingham)
Anne Sutton (Mercers’ Company)
Karen Winstead (Ohio)
William Chester Jordan (Princeton)

Seminars

1. Rhetoric and History
Organizers: Martin Camargo (Missouri-Columbia) and Rita Copeland (Pennsylvania)
Ann Astell (Purdue)
Mary Carruthers (NYU)
Georgiana Donavin (Westminster College)
Richard Gleijzer (North Central)
Robin Hass (Indiana-Northwest)
Peter Mack (Warwick)
Timothy Spence (Missouri)

Denise Stodala (Missouri)
Scott Troyan (Wisconsin)
Marjorie Curry Woods (Texas, Austin)
Respondents: Martin Camargo (Missouri, Columbia) and Rita Copeland (Pennsylvania)

2. Pedagogy: Chaucer in the Curricula
Organizer: Thomas A. Goodman (Miami)
Louise Bishop (Oregon)
Peter Christensen (Cardinal Stritch)
James Flynn (W. Kentucky)
Amy Goodwin (Randolph-Macon)
Daniel Kline (Alaska, Anchorage)
David Matthews (Newcastle, NSW)
Thomas Prendergast (College of Wooster)
Anne Worthington Prescott (San Francisco)
Theodore Steinberg (SUNY Fredonia)
Barbara Stevenson (Kennesaw State)
Barrie Ruth Straus (Windsor)
Alexander Weiss (Radford)
Bonnie Wheeler (Southern Methodist)
Miriam Youngerman Miller (New Orleans)

3. Chaucer and Aesthetics
Organizer: Krista Sue-Lo Twu (U Minnesota, Duluth)
Valerie Allen (John Jay College, CUNY)
Ann Astell (Purdue)
Teresa Kennedy (Mary Washington College)
Norman Klassen (Trinity Western)
Jerome Mandel (Tel Aviv)
Karla Taylor (Michigan)

4. Chaucer and Europe
Organizer: Nicola F. McDonald (York)
Emilia DiRocco (U of Rome)
Hisato Ebi (Kobe Women’s University)
Michael Hanly (Washington State)
Nicola McDonald (York)
Tamara O’Callaghan (Northern Kentucky)
Helen Phillips (Glamorgan)
Antonio Leon Sendra (U of Cordoba)
Jesús L. Serrano Reyes (U of Cordoba)
David Wallace (Pennsylvania)

5. Death
TBA
6. Pathos
Organizer: Sarah McNamer (Georgetown)
Elizabeth Allen (UC Irvine)
Thomas Bestul (Illinois, Chicago)
Andrew Galloway (Cornell)
Wendy Harding (Paul Valery, Montpellier)
John M. Hill (U.S. Naval Academy)
Eve Salisbury (Rochester Institute of Technology)
Corinne Saunders (Durham)
Jennifer Wong (Washington U)

7. Medieval Performance
Organizers: Ruth Nissé (Nebraska-Lincoln) and
Bruce Holsinger (Colorado)
Susan Arvay (Rutgers)
Jessica Brantley (UCLA)
Robert Epstein (Fairfield)
B. G. Harding (Colorado)
Jean Jost (Bradley)
Erick Kelemen (Delaware)
Laura S. King (Vermont)
Emma Lipton (San Francisco State)
Barbara Nolan (Virginia)
William Quinn (Arkansas)
Catherine Sanok (Washington)
Ruth E. Sternblantz (Adelphi)
Claire M. Waters (New Mexico)
Katherine Ziemann (Wesleyan)

8. Book Production and Use in London and Beyond
Organizer: Stephen Partridge (UBC)
Joint Meetings with Panel 3
Candace Barrington
Barbara Bordalejo (De Montfort)
Margaret Connolly (U College, Cork)
Bryan P. Davis (Georgia Southwestern State)
Martha Driver (Pace)
Alexandra Gillespie (Corpus Christi, Oxford)
Mary Hamel (Mount St. Mary’s)
Tom Hanks (Baylor)
Takako Kato (Keio/Wales, Bangor)
Kathryn McKinley (Florida International)
Samantha Mullaney (U College, Cork)
Jennifer Summit (Stanford)
Josephine Koster Tarvers (Winthrop)
Satoko Tokunaga (Keio)

9. Genre, Gender and Sexualities
Organizers: Sarah Salih (UEA) and Jean-Pascal
Pouzet (Paris IV)
Gila Aloni (Columbia)
Leo Carruthers (Sorbonne)
Brian Gastle (Western Carolina)
Ruth Evans (Cardiff)
Jessica Lawrence (Washington U)
Betsy McCormick (Mount San Antonio)
Nicole Nolan (Rutgers)
Myra Seaman (Lewis and Clark)
Pauline Sukinicki (Indiana)
Louise Sylvester (King’s College, London)

10. Computers in Research and Teaching
Organizer: Susan Yager (Iowa State)
Craig Berry (Loyola)
Ian Lancashire (Toronto)
Ehna Lay (Hofstra)
Murray McGillivray (Calgary)
James McNeils (Kutztown)
Peter Robinson (Oxford)
Gary Shawver (Toronto)
Elizabeth Solopova (Kentucky)
Elza Tiner (Lynchburg)
Joseph Wittig (N. Carolina)

11. Cultural Geography
Organizer: Sylvia Tomasch (CUNY-Hunter)
Alan Ambrisco (Akron)
Joan Baker (Florida International)
Daniel Birkholz (Pomona College)
Kenneth Bleeth (Connecticut College)
Kathleen Davis (Bucknell)
Jennifer Goodman (Texas A&M)
Cynthia Ho (North Carolina, Asheville)
Linda Holley (North Carolina State)
Laura Howes (Tennessee)
Patricia Ingham (Lehigh)
Miriamne Krummel (Lehigh)
Christopher Kuipers (UC Irvine)
Andrew Lynch (Western Australia)
Jenna Mead (Tasmania)
Nicola McDonald (York)
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. Please send to Mark Allen or Bege Bowers by October 15, 2000.

Author's Name:

Titles and publication information:

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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.

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