CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS:
2002 Congress, "Chaucer and After"

The Thirteenth International Congress of the New Chaucer Society will be held at the University of Colorado at Boulder from July 17 to 21, 2002. Prospective participants should contact the organizers of each session by June 15, 2001, and organizers will choose their panelists soon after, in consultation with the Program Chair. Names of participants will be announced in the Chaucer Newsletter for Fall 2001. Members may apply to participate in more than one session or panel, but finally they may only actually take part in one.

The Program Committee members are Lisa J. Kiser (Chair), Steve Ellis, Lee Patterson, Beth Robertson, and Fiona Somerset, with Helen Cooper (NCS President) and Susan Crane (NCS Executive Director).

The 2002 Congress is entitled "Chaucer and After." In keeping with what that title implies, the congress is designed to draw on much of the excellent new work being done by the membership in post-fourteenth-century literature and culture. New examinations of fifteenth-century literature, for example, will be highlighted, as well as Chaucer's own impact on the literatures and cultures of the centuries following. In addition, the plenary sessions will offer debate and reflection by both medievalists and contemporary writers on the place of Chaucer today. However, the program of this congress is still flexible enough to include the usual variety of topics suggested by the membership at large; these topics cover many issues, both literary and cultural/contextual, that members have expressed an interest in examining.

The formats envisioned for the congress include regular concurrent paper sessions as well as panels. Once the session- and panel-participants have been selected, some of the sessions and panels will have e-seminars attached to them so that participants (and anyone else interested in the topics) may discuss them online together before the congress begins. Special events planned for the congress will, in many cases, take advantage of the Colorado surroundings, and the Program Committee will also be sponsoring a Chaucer translation contest, the details of which will be outlined in the Fall newsletter.

The NCS constitution requires that participants (except for invited speakers from other fields) should be members with their dues paid up. However, as usual, we encourage you to share this announcement with other interested parties who may not now be NCS members, such as graduate students, new colleagues, and people working outside the field who might be interested in the sessions that relate to their own specialties. (Students may join the Society at a reduced membership rate.) Finally, there has been a tight limit set on prior invitations to participate in any session. In other words, the overwhelming majority of participants in the congress will be those who respond to this call. The following session and panel announcements are listed alphabetically by name of organizer.
CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS

These will last for 90 minutes each with three papers of no more than 15 minutes' duration and with the remaining time devoted to discussion. Time-limits on papers will be enforced. Abstracts of proposed papers (c. 250 words) should be sent to the organizer(s) named for each session, along with notice of any audio-visual requirements.

PS 1 Chaucer and Spenser

Any critical or theoretical approach to Chaucer and Spenser is welcome. Papers may consider (but are not limited to) how the texts and contexts of Chaucer and Spenser compare using such coordinates as social behavior, gender, poetic tradition, the body, economic matters, antiquity, religion, authority (literary, moral, legal, political), or innovation (formal, linguistic, social). Abstracts to: Craig Berry, 1426 W. Thome Ave. #2A, Chicago, IL 60660-1835; or craigberry@mac.com

PS 2 Chaucer and the English Language

Abstracts should bear in some way on Chaucer's use as a poet of the resources provided him by the English of his time. Possibilities include: registers, ranging from high formal to vulgar colloquial; technical and other special vocabularies; proverbs and literary allusions; language as bound to gender or social class; language associated with conventions of literary genre; and, of course, language as expressive of human character, emotion, and thought. Abstracts to Marie Borroff, Department of English, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520; or marie.borroff@yale.edu

PS 3 From Image to Illustration

There is a long tradition of Chaucer illustration, but its nature and function have changed over time. This session will seek to explore the theory and practice of "imaging" as it was understood in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries—for example, by drawing on Lollard writing, meditative texts, or iconography—and then to examine pictorial images of Chaucer's works from the Middle Ages to the present day, including those found in manuscripts, printed books, and as free-standing compositions. Abstracts to Peter Brown at pb2@ukc.ac.uk or to Corinne Saunders at C.J.Saunders@durham.ac.uk

PS 4 Marriage in Chaucerian Fictions

Although recent scholarship has retreated from Kittredge's idea of a unified "marriage group" in the Tales, it is timely to return to the marriage question in light of new work on sex/gender systems, cultural studies, the history of sexuality, and queer medievalism. How much does our discussion of Chaucer's works reproduce modern regimes of heterosexuality and heteronormativity? To what extent might the focus of so many of these fictions on marriage and the matter of woman within marriage reflect the specific, classed interests of Chaucer and his immediate audience? To what extent is Chaucer's focus the focus of the late medieval West more generally? Are there particular material conditions producing a marriage debate in late medieval "gentil" society? Papers dealing with Chaucerian texts, other relevant late medieval cultural production, or with the theoretical issues raised by marriage are welcome. Abstracts to: Glenn Burger, Department of English, Queens College, City University of New York, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11367; or to glenn_burger@qc.edu

PS 5 Tradition and the Individual Talent: Women's Writing After Chaucer

This session addresses Chaucer's and Chaucerian relationships to medieval women writers. What kinds of dialogues between these figures and terms are relevant to contemporary reflections on gender and literary history? Possible topics and approaches include views of the author, generic interventions, patronage and reception, gender and the material text, the politics of reading and writing, and the construction of canons. For this session, the term "women writers" and the meaning of "after" are broadly defined. Abstracts to: Theresa Coletti, Department of English, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; or to tc19@umail.umd.edu
PS 6 Chaucer and the Restoration/18th Century

Papers investigating any aspect of Restoration/18th century approaches to Chaucer's work are welcome. Topics might include 18th century editions of Chaucer (Urry, Tyrwhitt, Bell, etc.) and editing criteria; Chaucer and art (such as the illustrations of Stothard and Blake); translation and imitation (Dryden, Pope, Smart, Gay, etc.); Chaucer as the "reformer of the English language" and the 18th century as the reformer of Chaucer's language; Chaucer methodised and "polished" through modernization and normalization of Chaucerian texts; the concept of the "Gothic"; Chaucer and the 18th century "standard of taste." Abstracts to: Stefania D'Agata D'Ottavi, Via Alberobello, 18-00040 Rocca di Papa, (RM) Italy; or agataottavi@unimc.it

PS 7 Translating Chaucer: Coghill and After

What is the value of modern Chaucer translation? How do the various versions compare with each other? Why has Coghill's been so popular, and why is there such an academic animus against it? Can translations be useful in our teaching? How do modern translations relate to changing academic interpretations of Chaucer? Abstracts to: Steve Ellis, Department of English, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT United Kingdom; or to ELLISSP@hhs.bham.ac.uk

PS 8 Chaucerian Communities

How did Chaucer's artistic work influence later poets' representations of pluralist groups, such as guilds, parliaments, congresses, etc.? What formal and informal structures survived specifically from his poetry as a means of depicting heterogenous societies? Abstracts are invited that explore these and other related questions in the context of Chaucer's work and those of its immediate successors. Abstracts to: Matthew Giancarlo, Department of English, Yale University, Box 208302, New Haven, CT 06520-8302; or to matthew.giancarlo@yale.edu (e-mail attachment preferred).

PS 9 Chaucer in Manuscript and Print

Abstracts are welcome on changes in the production and dissemination of books in late medieval and early modern England, and their impact on ideas about Chaucer, his followers, and his canon. Topics might include fifteenth-century manuscripts in and out of court; the rise of the metropolitan book trade; the arrival of the press and enduring manuscript traditions; reform, antiquarianism, and Chaucerian (and Lydgatean) apocrypha. Abstracts to: Alexandra Gillespie, Balliol College, Oxford, OX1 3BJ, UK; or to alexandra.gillespie@balliol.ox.ac.uk

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Mellon Seminar for Grad Students at Penn State

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will sponsor an "Issues in Interpretation" seminar for dissertation-level graduate students May 15-June 7, 2001 at the University Park campus of Penn State University. The topic of the seminar is "Tradition, Revision, and Continuity in Renaissance and Medieval Literary Studies." The focus will be on approaches to Chaucer, Gower, and Lydgate. The seminar is directed by Patrick Cheney and Robert R. Edwards. Graduate students in any stage of dissertation work are eligible to apply for admission and a $1000 stipend to help cover expenses. Applications should include a cover letter, CV, dissertation description, and letter of support from the adviser. Materials should be sent to Mellon Seminar in Interpretation, Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies, Illsang Cottage, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. The deadline for application is March 1, 2001. Contact numbers: 814-865-0495 or iahs@psu.edu.
PS 10 Discourses of Penance, Rhetorics of Confession In Late Medieval England

This session invites papers that examine, from any useful perspective, the interaction in late medieval England among post-Lateran IV institutional discourses of penance (summae, manuals, treatises on sins and remedies, episcopal documents, etc.), polemics about the sacrament and its ministers, and literary explorations/representations of the personal and cultural implications of penance (especially of confession, its rhetorical component) in the works of Chaucer and his contemporaries. Blind submissions, please (name, etc. in separate envelope). Abstracts to: R.W. Manning, Department of English, Columbia University, 602 Philosophy, 1150 Amsterdam Ave., NY, NY 10027-4927.

PS 11 Chaucer and Lesser-Known Chaucerians

This session will aim to examine Chaucer's stylistic and thematic impact on lesser-known contemporaries who were part of his immediate court circle, such as Usk, Clanvowe, and Montagu. The session will also be open to the discussion of other less familiar writers and texts of Chaucer's period that were arguably influenced by him and to inspire dialogue about how we define and determine Chaucer's influence on these lesser-known authors. Abstracts to: Jill Havens, Department of English, P.O. Box 97404, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76798-7404; or to Jill_Havens@baylor.edu

PS 12 Chaucer's Life and Afterlife

How has Chaucer's perceived biography influenced reading, editing, and teaching practices since the medieval period? Possible topics include Usk's Testament, Chaucer and John of Gaunt, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century biographical accounts of Chaucer's life, teaching the Cecily Champaigne case, and so on. This session will address the hermeneutic complexity involved in reading literature against a biographical framework that may itself be constructed to match perceptions of the literature. Abstracts to: Sarah Kelen at sak@nebrwesleyan.edu

PS 13 Chaucer and the Natural World

This session invites papers that address topics such as Chaucerian forests, deserts, rivers, fields, flowers, oceans, mountains, skies, weather; animals and the animalizing imagination; animal subjectivities; humans as geographic and ecologic agents; human/animal boundaries; Chaucerian ethical reflections on the environment; the social creation of nature; human use of natural resources; nature as economic, technical, political, organic, mythical, textual, gendered; Chaucer and the land. Abstracts to: Lisa J. Kiser, Department of English, Ohio State University, 164 W. 17th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210-1370; or kiser.1@osu.edu

PS 14 Fifteenth-Century Genealogies

This session seeks to rethink fifteenth-century verse by placing it in genealogies of the longue durée. Papers might address either English or Scottish Chaucerians and might work with them either retrospectively (looking towards their Ricardian precursors) or prospectively (looking towards the use made of Chaucerian figures by later writers such as Skelton and Hawes). Abstracts to: Ethan Knapp, Department of English, Ohio State University, 164 W. 17th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210-1370; or to knapp.79@osu.edu

PS 15 Chaucer's War

This session invites proposals connecting Chaucer with a wide range of issues relating to war, such as the rhetoric of war, war as metaphor, war in its historical context, counsel and strategy, the peace process, martial masculinity, war and women, war and religion, the ethics of war, and military atrocity. Abstracts to: Andrew Lynch, Department of English, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, WA 6907, Australia; or to alynch@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

PS 16 Shakespeare's Chaucer

Despite the towering canonical importance of Chaucer and Shakespeare, their relationship remains surprisingly understudied. Although Shakespeare rarely draws attention to it, his debt to Chaucer extends far beyond his use of The Knight's Tale or the Troilus and confounds the traditional period boundary of medieval/early modern. This session welcomes papers that explore all aspects of that debt, in texts that foreground it and in those that do not. Abstracts to: Kathryn Lynch, Department of English, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02481; or to klynch@firstclass.wellesley.edu
PS 17  Chaucer and Romanticism

Before Romanticism, Chaucer's value lay in his detachment from the Middle Ages. Yet Romanticism effortlessly re-attached Chaucer to the medieval. How was this effected? How did Chaucer the realist become a poet of the feelings; how did romance's satirist become the new champion of romance? Contributions are invited on aspects of this transformation and its impact on later constructions of Chaucer, scholarly or popular. Abstracts to: David Matthews, School of Humanities, University of Newcastle, Central Coast Campus, Ourimbah NSW 2258, Australia; or to eldom@cc.newcastle.edu.au

PS 18  Chaucerian Theologies

What are the sources and significance of the medieval theological discourses deployed in Chaucer's poetry? How does his knowledge compare with that of other educated lay folk of his age, and indeed with that shown by men and women who may be regarded as being, in one way or another, professional theologians? Do any of those discourses show evidence of radicalism, or indeed hint at heresy? These questions are crucial for this session. However, the wider issue may be addressed: what value should be set on knowledge of medieval theology in the contemporary interpretation of Chaucer, given the post-Robertsonian state of Chaucer studies and recent calls for atheistic reading of his work? Abstracts to: Alastair Minnis, Department of English, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, United Kingdom; or to ajm22@york.ac.uk

PS 19  Chaucer and the Victorians

Proposals are invited for papers on Chaucer and Victorian literature and culture. Topics might include the bowdlerization of Chaucer's works, Arnold's failure to find in Chaucer "high seriousness," references to Chaucer in the works of poets and novelists, paintings by Ford Madox Brown and others. Abstracts to Lee Patterson, Department of English, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520; or lee.patterson@yale.edu

PS 20  Hoccleve and Lydgate

Possible topics include Chaucer as father; subservience and/or challenge in Hoccleve and Lydgate; naming and self-revelation; "Ricardian" versus "Lancastrian" poetics and politics; dialogue, storytelling and framing; canon-formation and the early dissemination of Chaucer manuscripts; author portraits and the image of the author. Abstracts to: Nicholas Perkins, Girton College, Cambridge, CB3 0JG, United Kingdom; or to nerpl@cam.ac.uk

PS 21  Chaucer and the Dream-Vision

Proposals are invited for papers on new research on, or new critical approaches to, Chaucer's dream poems, those of his contemporaries, or those written by his successors in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Abstracts to: Helen Phillips, Department of English Language and Literature, Modern Languages Building, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 7ZR, United Kingdom; or to hep@liverpool.ac.uk

PS 22  Religious Poetry After Chaucer: 15th-17th Centuries

This session will consider how religious verse after Chaucer is influenced by dramatic changes in the cultural context of literary production, such as regional and royal politics, expanding lay readership and patronage, anxieties about vernacular theology, and new forms of feminine devotion. How does a commitment to a "Chaucerian" poetic in the fifteenth century (e.g., Lydgate, Hoccleve, Bokenham) respond to or seek to evade contemporary political and social transformation? How does this poetic change after the Reformation? More broadly, what does religious poetry suggest about the relationship between formal and historical categories of analysis? Abstracts to Catherine Sanok at sanok@u.washington.edu

PS 23  Chaucer and the Langland Tradition

Papers addressing commonalities and points of contact, as well as contrasts, between the Langland and Chaucer traditions. Examples: Langland's possible influence(s) on Chaucer, themes or topics prominent in both (e.g., labor, estate), later poems that participate in both traditions (e.g., The Plowman's Tale, the Upland Series), Chaucer's and/or Langland's later reputation (founder of canon, proto-Protestant, etc). Abstracts to: Fiona Somerset, Department of English, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 3K7; or to fsomersse@julian.uwo.ca
PS 24 Chaucer and the New Media

This session invites papers that address how the electronic media (CD-ROMs, videos, TV and others) will be changing the way we read and understand Chaucer in our scholarship and in our classrooms. Topics for papers might include the use of on-line databases, digital collation systems, multi-media teaching aids, and CD-ROM applications, both current and planned. Abstracts to: Toshiyuki Takamiya at toshi.takamiya@nifty.ne.jp

PS 25 Chaucer and Modernism

This session will consider the conjunction of Chaucer and early twentieth-century modernism, from a range of perspectives: for example, the aesthetic and critical importance of English literary tradition for modernist writers, the growing disjunction between the "general" and the professional reader of Chaucer, and broader cultural debates in this period about the relation between high and popular culture and the uses of the past. How do we read the modernist Chaucer, nearly one hundred years on? Abstracts to: Stephanie Trigg, Department of English, University of Melbourne, Victoria, 3010, Australia; or to s.trigg@english.unimelb.edu.au

PANELS

Panels will, in most cases, be of two hours' duration with between four and eight speakers. Each speaker will be given no more than 5 minutes—and may even forego this period in the interests of free discussion, depending on the organizer's wishes. The purpose of these panels is to allow for a variety of approaches to the topic at hand and to encourage the audience to participate. Brief abstracts or statements should be sent to the organizers named, with notice of audiovisual requirements.

Panel 1 'Swych love of frendes': The Fortunes of Friendship in Chaucer

Short presentations welcomed on particular forms of friendship (or their debasement) in Chaucer: same sex, hetero-sex, "brotherhood," communities, conspiratorial, etc. Reference could be made to psychological, ethical, or political implications, and to medieval discourses on amicitia. Panels will outline how their particular emphases contribute to a wider view of the presentation of friendship in Chaucer. This panel will have five speakers. Abstracts to: Alcuin Blamires at A.Blamires@gold.ac.uk

Panel 2 Rethinking the Legend of Good Women

This five-speaker panel invites participants to explore new approaches to the poem in respect to audience, circumstances of composition, relationship to continental collections of stories about women and to the increasing focus on women's roles in mediating social and political difficulties in late fourteenth-century Anglo-French culture. Proposals revisiting such topics as the conventions and origins of marguerite poetry, the poetics of the text, and the role of medieval cognition, epistemology, and literary theory in the Prologues are also welcome. Abstracts to: Carolyn Collette at ccolletti@mt holyoke.edu

Panel 3 Teaching Chaucer

For this eight-member panel, we invite abstracts addressing how we, as educators, should handle the background concepts that students need in order to read and discuss Chaucer meaningfully. Topics might include our need to revise our approaches to "background issues" given our new multicultural contexts; our perceptions of lack of student understanding of background material; and our identification of essential background concepts such as medieval science, medieval Christianity (with its varied doctrines of sin/penance/judgment, pilgrimage, etc.), anteclerical and antifraternal trends, and medieval manuscript culture. Our goal will be to share creative approaches, locate useful resources, and identify background contexts currently unfamiliar to many students. Abstracts to: Dee Dyas, 59 Trowell Grove, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4AY United Kingdom; dyas@globalnet.co.uk or to Tom Hanks, P.O. Box 97421, Waco, TX 76798-7421; Tom_Hanks@baylor.edu
Panel 4  Chaucerian Aesthetics: Theory, Practice, Pleasure

The focus of this exploration will be to reconsider aesthetic issues in light of contemporary attention to the various textual, historical, and hermeneutic approaches that have characterized the last few years of scholarly activity, rather than to level a "return to aesthetics" as an attack on critical theory. Appropriate contributions would discuss the medieval aesthetic thinking Chaucer had access to, the nature of aesthetic pleasure experienced by current readers, the aesthetic impact of specific linguistic formations in Chaucer's work, and teaching practices related to aesthetic pleasure in Chaucer classes. This panel will have five speakers. Abstracts to: Peggy Knapp, Department of English, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; pk07@andrew.cmu.edu; or to Stephen Knight, ENCAP, Cardiff University, P.O. Box 94, Cardiff CF10 3XB, Wales, UK;SENSK@cardiff.ac.uk

Panel 5  The Manciple's Tale

Papers on any aspect of The Manciple's Tale are welcome. Especially interesting might be proposals that address the question of the place of The Manciple's Tale in The Canterbury Tales, which may include its (privileged?) position as the last tale before the Parson's, or its place in the intellectual, social, political, moral, marital, and theological debates in The Canterbury Tales as a whole. Proposals that address the role of the poet and poetry in society are also strongly encouraged. This panel will have four speakers. Abstracts to: Jim Rhodes, Department of English, Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent St., New Haven, CT 06515; or to rhodes@scsu.ctstateu.edu

Panel 6  Chaucer's Short Poems

This five-speaker panel will focus on a close and in-depth study of three of Chaucer's short poems: "Truth," "The Former Age," and "The Complaint to Pity." We invite statements from potential panelists that include suggestions for questions, topics and contexts that would help initiate discussion of these poems among audience members and panelists. Topics to consider might include manuscripts; the meanings of single words (e.g., "besynesse," "worlde," "truth," "pitee"); stylistic issues (meter, figurative language, tone, allusion, etc.); genres; historical context; and sources. Since panelists selected will work together to formulate topics for general discussion, at this stage we are seeking ideas for discussion only, not abstracts for actual papers or presentations. Statements to: Elizabeth Robertson, Department of English, Box 226, University of Colorado-Boulder, Boulder, CO 80302; roberte@spot.colorado.edu; or to Al David at aldavid@indiana.edu

Panel 7  'In Forme of Text is Chauenge:' Chaucer in the Age of E-Texts

What form(s) will the Chaucerian texts we teach and study take in the new millennium? Will the traditional, philologically-based edition be superseded by a text focused on cultural, historical, and theoretical questions? Will the codex book be replaced by the e-text? Are we ready for a paperless Chaucer classroom? Abstracts for this five-speaker panel on these and other questions are welcome. Abstracts to: Josephine Koster Tarvers, Department of English, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC 29733-0001; or to tarversj@winthrop.edu (For a related session, with full-paper formats, see Paper Session 24/Takamiya).

Panel 8  Genre After Chaucer

This four-speaker panel will focus on the remarkable legacy of generic opportunities which Chaucer's oeuvre presented for subsequent authors to develop: dream poems; romances; kinds of legend and life; various comic forms and, in due course, drama; prologues; shorter lyric forms, including complaint, epistle, testament. Comparative papers, which address genre after Chaucer through more than one author, will be especially welcome. Abstracts to: Barry Windeatt at baw1000@hermes.cam.ac.uk
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, 2001.

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 hard copy 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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