



*2004 Congress: A call for participants*

## Chaucer & Empire, Nation, Region

The Fourteenth International Congress of the New Chaucer Society will be held at the University of Glasgow from 15 to 19 July, 2004. Local arrangements are already at an advanced stage, with the not-to-be-missed prospect of participation in a Ceilidh and visits planned (among others) to the Trossachs and a distillery.

Prospective participants should contact the organizers of each session by July 1, 2003, 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 2003. 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 Alcuin Blamires (Chair), Graham Caie (local organizer), Elizabeth Scala, Karla Taylor, Stephanie Trigg, with David Lawton (NCS Executive Director) and Pete Wetherbee (NCS President)

The 2004 Congress acknowledges its Scottish venue by adopting the title "Chaucer and Empire, Nation, Region." The intention is that our presentations and discussions will in part focus on ideas that medievalists have been generating on how the writings of Chaucer and Middle Scots authors inscribe those formations (cultural, literary, social, linguistic, etc.) that signal national, regional, or imperial interests. At the same time it is emphasized that the congress accommodates numerous other topics, textual and contextual, that

members have proposed to the program committee.

The formats envisioned for the congress are concurrent paper sessions (designated 'Pr' in the list below) and seminar panels (designated 'Sr' in the list below). Mindful of the need to keep invigorating the society and to promote a flow of new faces and ideas, the committee has adopted as a new convention for this congress the policy that paper sessions shall comprise four papers: one of these four is to be reserved for research students, where proposals of suitable quality are forthcoming. We ask all members to note this. Again, in order to ensure maximum levels of congress support based on home university subsidy, seminar panels will usually comprise seven or eight panelists who will make short presentations prior to the opening up of plenary discussion.

The NCS constitution requires that participants (except for invited speakers from other fields) should be members with their dues paid up. But we do encourage you to share information about this congress with potentially interested people who may not be NCS members at present – such as graduate students, new colleagues, and anyone working outside the field who may be interested in the sessions that relate to their specialties. (Research students may join the Society at a reduced membership rate.) Finally, a tight limit has been 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 ensuing announcements of paper sessions (Pr) and seminar panels (Sr) are listed alphabetically by name of organizer.

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### Concurrent Paper Sessions

These will last for 90 minutes each and comprise four papers of 12 minutes' duration each, the remaining time being 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 to arrive by 1 July 2003, along with notice of any audio-visual requirements.

#### Pr. 1. A Europe of Nations

This title – alluding to a phrase used by the modern European Union – indicates how nations in Europe are now both distinct and allied. The trajectories and taxonomies of nation in the middle ages are clearly differently situated. Contributors will consider theoretical, historical or literary constructions of nationhood across medieval Europe. What differences exist in the way that ideas of nationhood are formulated in 13th-15th century Europe? How far does a sense of national identity emerge from linguistic, economic, or politically formed communities existing in conflict or competition? What can we learn by comparing the relations between such communities in a range of contexts: a single country, or even a single city, or a pair of trading peoples, or a set of feuding family histories? What perceptions of foreignness do we find in writings of all genres? How do these perceptions relate to a sense of national assertiveness? Abstracts welcomed on any European region (especially France, Italy, and the Low Countries) to Ardis Butterfield, Department of English, University College, London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT (a.butterfield@ucl.ac.uk).

#### Pr. 2 Chaucer the Clerk

Two terms much in prominence at Boulder were “vernacular” and “lay”: less attention was given to their converses, “Latin” and “clerical.” To redress the balance, papers are invited on any aspect of Chaucer’s relationship with Latinity or clerikliness. Such topics might include, for example, the clerikliness of his authorial persona; his use of Latin sources; his learning and education; his treatment of (or

identification with) the clerks among his fictional characters; his engagement in scholastic culture. Abstracts to Neil Cartlidge, Dreikönigstraße 12 (Villa Kuenzer), Freiburg im Breisgau, D79102, Germany (neil.cartlidge@ucd.ie)

#### Pr. 3 English Chaucer, British Chaucer

In the past decade or so, historians have begun to stress a non-London-centric understanding of Britain as an interrelation of collectives, which include Wales, Scotland, Normandy, France, Norway, and Ireland, in addition to England. The implications of such a decentered/recentered historiography upon the canon of medieval English literature (and most especially upon that most canonical of authors, Geoffrey Chaucer) have not yet been well explored. This session will focus on the excavation of a British rather than a strictly English Chaucer, an author who inhabited an island which spoke in many tongues, included many cultures, and was haunted by the ghosts of some that had vanished. Proposals to Sylvia Tomasz, Dept of English, Hunter College, 695 Park Ave, New York, NY 10021 (stomasch@hunter.cuny.edu) and Jeffrey Cohen, Dept of English, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052 (jjcohen@gwu.edu)

#### Pr. 4 Chaucer’s Neighbors

Papers are invited on the (Lacanian or otherwise) neighbor in Chaucer and Chaucer Studies. The opposition of charity to cupidity preoccupied much Chaucer criticism in the later twentieth century. More recently, Lee Patterson has urged renewed attention to Robertsonian exegesis. Perhaps Robertsonianism is the unresolved ghost in our postmodern machine. If so, perhaps this is partly because the commandment to “love thy neighbor” has been wreaking havoc in Judeo-Christian culture(s) since our reception of the law began. Is there a specially intense focus on the figure of the neighbor in Chaucer’s poetry and milieu? How do neighbor relations help work out inter-character, inter-author, and inter-textual relations in new, and less strictly genealogical, ways? How does contemporary thinking about the intimacy of the neighbor help us re-approach the Middle English text?

Abstracts to Louise Aranye Fradenburg, Dept of English, U of California at Santa Barbara, CA 93106 (lfraden@english.ucsb.edu).

#### Pr. 5 Cultural Translation In the Age of Chaucer

Papers are invited that interrogate from theoretical and practical points of view the linguistic, literary, social, political, and ideological issues at play in cross-cultural translations in England during the later fourteenth century. Abstracts to Warren Ginsberg, Department of English, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, USA (warren@oregon.uoregon.edu)

#### Pr. 6 Home

What was home like to Chaucer, his contemporaries, and his sources? How was home similar to or different from other real and imagined places? Possible topics on home include: home and exile, home and threats by the unfamiliar, disruptions to imagined homes by realities, home as too homely (morally, psychologically), home and the unhomely (i.e. hauntings), home and gender, the multiplicity of identities one might have at home, multiple homes. Abstracts to: Matthew Boyd Goldie, Department of English, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Rd, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 (mgoldie@rider.edu)

#### Pr. 7 Writing History, North and South

How does the idea of the border give rise to fictionalizing tendencies? Papers exploring the reciprocal construction of political and ethnic identities and the making of borders—military, bureaucratic, cultural—in later medieval British cultural productions (chronicles, histories, literature, material cultures) particularly across Scotland and England, but in other regions as well: from Bannockburn and Stirling Bridge to Barbour, Braveheart, and Richard in Ireland. Abstracts to Thomas Goodmann, P.O. Box 248538, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33124 U.S (tgoodman@miami.edu)

#### Pr. 8 Chaucer, Ballad and Folktale

Folklore, once a major discourse, has languished somewhat among Chaucerians. Since in the past quarter century a number

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of medieval and early modern historians (such as Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Carlo Ginzburg, Jean-Claude Schmitt, and Ronald Hutton) have emphasized its importance, the time seems ripe for a return to this material, and Scotland with its rich folk traditions offers a particularly appropriate setting for doing so. Abstracts on any aspect of this topic to Richard Firth Green, Department of English, The Ohio State University, 421 Denney Hall, 164 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43219 (green.693@osu.edu)

**Pr. 9 Chaucer and Diplomacy**

Taking as a starting point the fact that Chaucer himself served as a diplomat early in his career, this session will consider him in the context of his Continental counterparts in the frequent international meetings that took place during this time of war and schism. Papers might consider such things as Chaucer's relations, known and perceived, with contemporary French poets who also played some role in diplomacy (Oton de Grandson), or who moved on the fringes of that milieu (Deschamps, Froissart). Abstracts to Michael Hanly, Dept of English, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-5020 (hanly@wsu.edu).

**Pr. 10 Boccaccio and Chaucer: Comparative Soclopoetics**

Comparative analysis of how Boccaccian and Chaucerian fictions engage (directly or obliquely) their respective cultures' political, economic, religious, or social concerns (including anxieties about class, gender, and sexuality). Texts chosen should invite such comparison but need not be "sources" or "analogues" per se. Topics reflecting Congress themes (e.g. representation of non-European "Others"; "Chaucer's Italy and Boccaccio's England") especially welcome. Abstracts to R.W. Hanning, Dept. of English, 602 Philosophy Hall, Columbia U., New York, NY10025-4927 (rwh2@columbia.edu). Blind submissions please, by hard copy or email attachment.

**Pr. 11 Chaucerian Topography.**

"Know thy contree, look up . . ." ('Truth', 19). Submissions are invited on any aspect of geographic and topographic reference in the writings of Chaucer and his contemporaries, but will be particularly welcome on the following topics: toponyms – the relationship between language and place; knowledge of "contree" – local and global perspectives; classical and medieval models of spatial representation; the Mandeville-author and Chaucer; maps and literature. Abstracts to organizers Alfred Hiatt, School of English, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT England (a.hiatt@leeds.ac.uk) and Scott D. Westrem, Ph.D. Program in English, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 USA (swestrem@gc.cuny.edu).

**Pr. 12 Chaucer's Language and the Middle English Compendium**

The completion of the Middle English Dictionary and its publication online as part of the Middle English Compendium, has provided Chaucerians with a new set of resources and tools with which to analyse Chaucer's language. This session is intended to allow contributors to discuss ways in which these resources can be harnessed to address a variety of research questions concerning Chaucer's lexicon and its linguistic environment. Abstracts to Simon Horobin, Department of English Language, 12 University Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, Scotland, U.K. (S.Horobin@Englang.arts.gla.ac.uk).

**Pr. 13 Generation Conflict in Chaucer and Contemporaries.**

We would like to have contributions from different angles on how contrast or conflict between generations, in particular old age, is treated in Chaucer's poetry. How far are conventions and clichés about infancy, maturity and old age modified or critically questioned in Chaucerian narrative? Is there a genuine interest in different attitudes to life and to moral values according to generations, e. g. parents and children or particular social groups? Abstracts to: Christa Jansohn, Centre for British Studies, Kapuzinerstrasse 25, D-96047 Bamberg

(Christa.Jansohn@split.uni-bamberg.de), and Dieter Mehl, Uckerather Strasse 74, D-53639 Koenigswinter (DieterMehl@web.de)

**Pr. 14 Deschamps and Chaucer - Broadening Horizons**

Comparative study of works of the two poets from any critical perspective except source study and focusing on any texts except Deschamps' ballad praising Chaucer. One-page abstracts to Laura Kendrick, 54 rue Blanche, 75009 Paris, France (Laura.Kendrick@sudam.uvsq.fr).

**Pr. 15 Inside Chaucer**

Widely known as a cosmopolitan poet whose professional life involved travel, diplomacy, and financial dealings throughout the known world, Chaucer was also fascinated by interior spaces and by the relationship between the exterior world and the world within: by domestic spaces (stuwes, muwes, chambers, halls, walls, windows, wardrobes) and the secret spaces of the body itself (stones, bones, throats, breasts, mouth, heart). This session will explore Chaucer's mapping of interior space, of privacy, violation, secrecy, and discovery. Abstracts to Kathryn Lynch, English Department, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02482 (klynch@wellesley.edu)

**Pr. 16 Chaucerian Theologies**

Following on from the session on Chaucerian Theologies at the 2002 NCS conference, this panel will continue to investigate the sources and significance of the medieval theological discourses deployed in Chaucer's writing. 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 professional theologians? Do any of those discourses show evidence of radicalism? Is Chaucer deliberately raising issues which, in his day, were leading people into error and heresy, and, if so, can his own theological positions be inferred? These questions are crucial for this session. However, the wider question may be addressed: what value should be set on knowledge of medieval

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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, (alastairminnis@yahoo.co.uk).

**Pr. 17 The Reeve's Tale**

Contributions are invited on such topics as the tale's regionalism (including the introduction of Northern dialect and vocabulary), iconography, or structure, or its treatment of spirituality, sexuality, contentiousness, time, space, and/or gender. The session is dedicated to the memory of Robert Worth Frank, Jr., whose 1973 essay "The Reeve's Tale and the Comedy of Limitation" offers one of the classic discussions of the tale. Abstracts to David Raybin; 725 Grove Avenue, Kent OH 44240, US (cfdr@eiu.edu).

**Pr. 18 Chaucer and the Auchinleck Manuscript**

Contributions invited on the relation of the romances in the Auchinleck manuscript to Chaucer, the provenance of the manuscript, and /or (re) evaluations of the theories of Chaucer's relation to the supposed London bookshop promulgated by the work of Laura Hibbard Loomis. One-page abstracts to Elizabeth Scala, English, University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX 78712 (scala@mail.utexas.edu) - Word attachments or text in e-mail message only, please.

**Pr. 19 Middle Scots Poetry and the Reception of English Writing**

While the centrality of Chaucer to the Middle Scots poetic tradition is unquestionable, that centrality has had a way of obscuring the important engagement of Scottish poets (as well as scribes, compilers, and printers) with the works of Lydgate, Gower, Trevisa, and other English writers. This panel seeks to broaden critical understanding of 15th- and 16th-century Anglo-Scottish literary relations by considering how Scotland receives English poetry and why that reception matters. Abstracts to Michael Sharp, English Department, Binghamton University (SUNY). Binghamton, NY

13902-6000 (msharp@binghamton.edu).

**Pr. 20 Hagiography and Historiography in Chaucer.**

Contributions are invited that consider the antagonisms and/or affinities between hagiographic and historiographic narratives in Chaucer's work. How are hagiography and historiography marked as distinct by the fourteenth century, and what changes, if any, might Chaucer have worked on the hagiography/historiography of his predecessors? Does one mode tend to trope the other in order to assert its own veracity, or force discursive and philosophical concessions out of the other? Abstracts to Mark Sherman, Department of English, Rhode Island School of Design, 2 College Street, Providence, RI, 02893 USA (msherman@risd.edu).

**Pr. 21 Chaucer Texts and MSS: Issues and Problems of Cultural Mapping**

"Cultural mapping" describes the investigation of the production, dispersal and influence of texts and manuscripts. In reviewing recent work on reception studies, cultural ethnography, historical linguistics, codicology, textual scholarship and book history, cultural mapping often functions as a supple topographical analogy, describing features of cultural practice that resist notions of textual organicism or unity, prioritizing instead ideas of mobility, transition and exchange. The session will explore how far such a methodological conception of variegated cultural activity can be usefully applied to the twenty-first century study of Chaucer texts and manuscripts. Abstracts to John Thompson, Dept of English, Queen's University, Belfast BT5 6PL, UK (J.Thompson@qub.ac.uk)

**Pr. 22 Chaucer and East Anglia**

Contributions are invited on such topics as Chaucer and East Anglian drama, Chaucer and East Anglian religion (including Julian of Norwich, Lollardy, Margery Kempe), Chaucer and fifteenth-century East Anglian poets (for instance, John Lydgate, Osbern Bokenham), Chaucer's family and the wine trade, cultural and economic connections to the Continent via East Anglia and the significances of such connections for Chaucer's texts. Abstracts to Nancy Bradley Warren, Department of English, Utah State University, 3200 Old

Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-3200 (nwarren@english.usu.edu)

**Pr. 23 Middle Scots Writers**

Open paper session for contributions on individual Middle Scots writers. Organized by the New Chaucer Society. Abstracts to David Lawton, Dept of English, Washington University, Campus Box 1122, One Brookings Drive, St Louis, MO 63130 (chaucer@arts.wustl.edu), and to Alcuin Blamires, Dept of English & Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, London SE14 6NW (A.Blamires@gold.ac.uk).

**Pr. 24 Troilus and Criseyde: Poem of Empire, Nation or Region?**

Contributions are invited that consider Troilus in some relation to the conference theme(s) - including refutation of such relation. Organized by the New Chaucer Society. Abstracts to David Lawton, Dept of English, Washington University, Campus Box 1122, One Brookings Drive, St Louis, MO 63130 (chaucer@arts.wustl.edu), and to Alcuin Blamires, Dept of English & Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, London SE14 6NW (A.Blamires@gold.ac.uk).

**Pr. 25, Ottoman and Other Empires**

This panel looks forward to the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the emergence of a powerful Ottoman Empire that challenged both the boundaries and the culture of Christian Europe. How does Europe redefine itself against a sense of constricting boundaries? How are trade and military considerations aligned? Subjects might include the afterlife of the Crusades; relations with eastern Christians before 1453; European responses to Islam in Spain, Africa and Asia; Europe's sense of a Tartar empire as potential enemy or ally; the Ottoman Empire's 'multiculturalism' and sources for 'worldly goods'. References to Chaucer are welcome, as are papers looking from an Islamic or Ottoman perspective. Proposals to David Lawton (dalawton@arts.wustl.edu), Department of English, CB 1122, Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St Louis, MO, 63130, USA, by July 1, 2003.

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**CONGRESS**, from page 4**Seminar Panels**

Seminar panels will, in most cases, be of two hours' duration with six to eight speakers. The norm will be that each speaker will be given no more than 5 minutes. The purpose of these panels is to allow for a variety of approaches and to generate discussion that genuinely involves the audience. Brief abstracts should be sent to the organizer(s) named to arrive by 1 July 2003, with notice of any audio-visual requirements.

The Panels are listed below in the alphabetical order of the organizers' names.

**Sr. 1 Chaucer in the Classroom.**

This seminar will share good practice and new approaches to the teaching of Chaucer and will stimulate discussion about the future of Chaucer studies in schools and universities. We welcome innovative and creative thinking in this area. Contributors might focus on the use and role of translations; questions about editions of Chaucer's work; workshop skills; performance based work; active, inquiry or problem-based learning scenarios; team taught or student led seminars; peer learning; innovative methods of assessment; "writing back" techniques and creative work; or anything of general interest in this area. Abstracts to Gail Ashton, Dept of English, University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PL, UK (gail.ashton@man.ac.uk).

**Sr. 2 Colonial Chaucer**

How has Chaucer figured in the former British colonies (including the U.S., Canada, and other former colonial outposts) as a point of cultural dominance and/or as a point of appropriation? We hope to consider the various media and guises into which Chaucer has been refigured, translated and appropriated in these former British colonies, as well as the ways scholarship and university teaching in the former colonies have been shaped by an offshore literary inheritance that putatively begins with "father Chaucer." Abstracts to Candace Barrington, Dept. of English, Iona College, 715 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801 (barrington@ccsu.edu) and

Sarah A. Kelen, Dept of English, Nebraska Wesleyan University, 5000 Saint Paul Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68504 (sak@NebrWesleyan.edu).

**Sr. 3 The Afterlife of Origins: Chaucer and his Sources.**

What is the value of source study for Chaucerians? What constitutes a source? Has the definition changed in the sixty years between the old and new Sources and Analogues? What intellectual models inform Chaucer's and our understanding of sources? How can/should source study be used in scholarship and teaching? Is there a hierarchy of sources (textual versus visual, Latin versus vernacular, "hard" versus "soft")? Abstracts to Arlyn Diamond, English, U of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003 (adiamond@english.umass.edu) and Nancy M. Bradbury, English, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063 (nbradbur@smith.edu).

**Sr. 4 Medieval Gossip.**

Extensive treatments of gossip in secular and religious sources suggest an understanding of gossip as powerful and dangerous. At the same time it was understood that gossip could be put in the service of various political, social and religious agendas. Contributors might address the paradoxical nature of gossip, or might consider such varied issues as the gendering of gossip, the sociology of gossip, the relationship of gossip to the literary, or Early Modern gossip about the Middle Ages. Abstracts to Tom Prendergast, English Department, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691 (tprendergast@wooster.edu).

**Sr. 5 Re-Reading and Re-Thinking the General Prologue**

This session will explore new and innovative approaches to the General Prologue as well as reassess old and familiar ones. Contributors may address the GP broadly or focus on a segment; they may adopt a theoretical approach or relate the GP to social, political, religious, or class formations in medieval culture. Conceived of as a "master class," the session welcomes everyone who applies but encourages established Chaucerians in particular. Abstracts to Jim Rhodes, 60 Mountain

Brook Road, North Haven, CT USA (rhodesj1@southernct.edu).

**Sr. 6 Empires Out of Time**

This panel seeks to encourage a discussion of recent re-conceptions of "empire" — how it might re-frame the questions of periodization and temporality that so concern medievalists and early modernists. How does the concept of empire (or even its predecessor, imperialism) shape versions of the premodern? In what ways, if any, does the concept repeat, or render otiose, the narratives of historical materialism? What are its limits? How might it inform or deform the concepts of "Regions" and "Nations" that also thematize this conference? Abstracts to Kellie Robertson, Dept of English, University of Pittsburgh, 526 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001 (krobert@pitt.edu) and Andrew Cole, Dept of English, Park Hall 254, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

**Sr. 7 Teaching Chaucer Online**

Participants are invited to present creative ideas for teaching Chaucer or related topics using fully online or hybrid models at either undergraduate or graduate levels. Topics may include issues such as pedagogy, design, interdisciplinary approaches, and team teaching. Abstracts to Sylvia Rogers, Notre Dame de Namur University, M.S. 144, 1500 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, California 94002 (srogers@ndnu.edu).

**Sr. 8 Chaucerian Piety: The Case of the Clerk's Tale**

Much recent work on the Clerk's Tale has explored ways in which Chaucer uses the tale as a social or political critique. This panel will pose the problem: how can we use readings of the tale's secular valences to explore its relation to the complicated issue(s) of late medieval piety? We aim for a coherent panel discussion that is less bent on framing answers than on articulating the sorts of questions we ought to be asking of this tale. Each panelist will be asked to write a ten-page paper, which will be shared with other members of the panel. After reading all the other papers, each member then writes

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a three-page digest of his or her own paper. Abstracts to Lynn Staley (lstailey@mail.colgate.edu) and Larry Scanlon (Lfscanlon@aol.com).

### Sr. 9 Early Women Scholars and the History of Reading Chaucer

Contributions invited on the impact of women on nineteenth and early twentieth-century Chaucer studies: 1) known figures such as E. Hammond, M. Bentinck Smith, C. Spurgeon, and E. Rickert; 2) relatively unknown scholars (the first women getting their doctoral degrees with dissertations on Chaucer: e.g., Helen Isabel Whiton, Jane Belle Sherzer, Doris Hertwig, Maria Koellreuther, Käthe Heidrich, Hedwig Korsch; Gertrud Sauerbrey; names from other national traditions would be very welcome); 3) translators, compilers, copyists, and indexers (e.g., Eleanor Marx [daughter of Karl], Teena Rochfort-Smith, Eleanor Nickel Dalziel, Isabel Marshal, Lela Porter) without whose "ancillary" efforts the work of Frederick Furnivall (and other male scholars) would have been impossible. Abstracts to Richard Utz, Dept of English, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0502 (Richard.Utz@uni.edu).

### Sr. 10 The Independence of Middle Scots Poetry

Contributions are invited on any aspect of this topic. Organised by the

New Chaucer Society. Abstracts to David Lawton, Dept of English, Washington University, Campus Box 1122, One Brookings Drive, St Louis, MO 63130 (chaucer@artsci.wustl.edu), and to Alcuin Blamires, Dept of English & Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, London SE14 6NW (A.Blamires@gold.ac.uk).

### Specialist Meetings

A number of sessions of a specialist nature will be held during the congress. Of those so far notified, only "Scribes of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales" is included in the present call for participants.

#### Scribes of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

Contributions are invited on the scribes of any of the 15th- or early-16th-century manuscripts of The Canterbury Tales, revealing new information on the identity / provenance / linguistic profiles / professional affiliations of the scribes, or other manuscripts written by them. Four papers will be given, each of which must be under 15 minutes' delivery time. One-page abstracts or complete 7-8 page drafts to Linne R. Mooney, Department of English, 5752 Neville Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469-5752, U. S. A: fax 207 581 3886 (mooney@maine.edu).

Among other special meetings that will be convened are one on Middle English Dialectology and another on Digitization of Manuscripts.

## Chaucer Studio hosts two performances

The Chaucer Studio is sponsoring two events that Chaucerians would be interested in for the 2004 International Medieval Congress, July 12-15 at Leeds: a session as we often have at Kalamazoo of tutorial groups in Reading Chaucer Out Loud July 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m. I need readers who would like help in reading Chaucer out loud for that session. Also, depending on response, I might need other helpers in guiding these tutorial sessions from among

experienced readers of Chaucer's texts. Interested parties, experienced or inexperienced, could contact me at paul.thomas@byu.edu.

The second event at the 2004 Leeds IMC is a live performance of one of Chaucer's works (one short enough to perform in an hour or less) July 13, 9 p.m. I would welcome suggestions for texts to perform as well as readers who would like to be included in this live performance at Leeds.

## HISTORY

## Riverside Chaucer, Lydgate, and the Chaucer Window

The window erected in 1868 in honour of Chaucer in the Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, was destroyed by blast during the Second World War. In the course of recent researches into its iconography, which grew out of work on the reception of *The Flower and the Leaf* and *Legend of Good Women*, I discovered that one of the sources for the window was British Library Manuscript Royal

HELEN  
PHILLIPS

University of  
Liverpool

18D11. The illustration on f. 148 of this manuscript of Lydgate's *Siege of Thebes* is, of course, familiar as the cover illustration for the paperback edition of the Riverside Chaucer.

The window's design features four main sections: at the top Chaucer's head surrounded by those of Edward III, Philippa of Hainault, Wyclif, John of Gaunt, Gower, and Stroud; below that depictions of the ladies of the Leaf and the Flower from the *Flower and the Leaf*; below that two roundels showing Chaucer being given the King's commission to visit Genoa and being received by the Doge of Genoa; and at the bottom two scenes showing the Canterbury Pilgrims. Those on the left (as one would have looked up at the window from inside the Minster) are a group of secular pilgrims with the Tabard inn in the background, leaving Southwark. On the right is a group of pilgrims who are almost entirely connected with the Church and they are shown with Canterbury as their background. The use of the manuscript scene for this lower-right panel in the window seems clear: the walled city of Canterbury with the cathedral and St Augustine's Abbey appear behind the mounted pilgrims, as they do in the manuscript picture.

The window's design, its sources and the ideas embodied in it prove complex and they have an intriguing, and perhaps not wholly expected, relationship to both the period of the window and to its position in the Minster, and therefore opposite the Houses of Parliament. I discuss them in detail in a paper, "Chaucer and the Victorian City," in *Chaucer and the City*, ed. Ardis Butterfield (forthcoming).

## CALLS FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Revisiting Chaucer and Christianity

*July 21-23, 2003, Canterbury Cathedral International Study Centre*

This interdisciplinary conference will explore fresh perspectives on the Christian content and context of Chaucer's writings in a way which will inform both research and teaching. Conference sessions will be held at the new International Study Centre within the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral. The programme will include an evening event at the Cathedral.

Speakers will include David Aers, Margaret Aston, Peter Beidler, Tom Bestul, Santha Bhattachargi, Alcuin Blamires, Derek Brewer, Andrew Butcher, Graham Caie, Helen Cooper, Eamon Duffy, Rosalind Field, Tom Hanks, John Hirsch, Laura Hodges, H. A. Kelly, Alastair Minnis, Richard Newhauser, Helen Phillips, David Raybin, Sherry Reames, Elizabeth Robertson, Miri Rubin, Wendy Scase, John Shinnors, Sarah Stanbury, Paul Szarmach, Julian Wasserman, and Diana Webb.

*For more information, contact Dr. Dee Dyas [d.dyas@stjohns-nottm-ac.uk](mailto:d.dyas@stjohns-nottm-ac.uk).*

### Inventio: Rereading the Rhetorical Tradition

The Canadian Journal of Rhetorical Studies is sponsoring a multidisciplinary rhetoric conference to take place at the University of Waterloo on August 8-9, 2003. "Inventio: Rereading the Rhetorical Tradition" will bring together more than fifty distinguished professors from across the disciplines to reexamine the past, present, and future of rhetorical studies across all periods. The conference will also feature keynote lectures by three eminent scholars: Jonathan Culler (Class of 1916 Chair of English and Comparative Literature, Cornell University); Rita Copeland (Classical Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania); and Barbara Cassin (CNRS, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne). The Inventio conference will include at least three panels on medieval topics. For more information (and to register), please see the attached e-poster or visit the conference website at <http://homepage.mac.com/andrewmcmurry/inventio/index.html>

### 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 Chaucer Bibliography Online. Please send to Mark Allen or Bege Bowers by October 15, 2003. Include author's name, title of publication and bibliographic information. Mail to:  
Mark Allen, Division of English Classical, Philosophy and Communications, The University of Texas at San Antonio, TX 78249-0643. Email: [mallen@utsa.edu](mailto:mallen@utsa.edu) Fax: (210) 458-5366 or Bege Bowers, Department of English, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH 44555-3415.

**Election:** As a result of the recent election of members, the following have been elected as Trustees: Elizabeth Archibald, John Fyler, Lisa Kiser, Helen Phillips.

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