



**Message from the Executive Director**

Dear members

**NCS Moving Home**

NCS is excited to announce that the new website <http://newchaucersociety.org> is almost ready to be launched. Designed by James Muspratt, a website designer based in Boulder CO, it is no longer linked to a particular institutional home but is hosted on an external site. The website looks fresh and uncluttered, and is easy to navigate. I am very pleased to report that Glasgow University Library gave NCS permission to use as the main image on the homepage part of the cuckoo-pint border decoration on fol. 57v of the unique copy of Chaucer's *Romaunt of the Rose* in Glasgow University Library, MS Hunter 409. The website will have some welcome new features. Members will be able to change their profile information themselves on the website, and will be able to log in to their own accounts to access features such as the guest blog (with invited posts), where members can leave comments. There is also a page for Conferences and Calls, where members will be able to submit CFPs for posting as and when they appear, rather than waiting for the biannual Newsletter.

**Volcano Lovers**

The program for the 2014 Biennial Congress in Reykjavik Congress is available on the current website <http://artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/congress/reykjavik2014.php>. Registration will open in late November on the new website. Members are free to book their own accommodation, but the NCS hotels – and there are a good range of them, in different price categories – offer the most competitive prices. Graduate students and recent graduates that have applied for a Howard Travel Scholarship are advised that the scholarships include – and in some cases may be limited to – accommodation at Hotel Garður. When I visited Reykjavik in May, I stayed at the main Congress hotel, the Radisson Blu Saga, which is on the university campus. It is extremely comfortable and serves an excellent breakfast. Sif Ríkhardsdóttir, the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, was a wonderful host. I ate delicious fresh local fish at Osushi and Grillmarkaðurinn. The Congress venue on the main university campus is only a short distance from the city center; it is easily walkable. Our Congress Dinner will be in the Kolabrautin

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restaurant in Harpa, the dramatically spectacular and award-winning new building on the harbor front that houses a concert hall and conference center. Sif and the local arrangements committee have put together an excellent program of excursions, which includes the Blue Lagoon, whale-watching, and Þingvellir National Park (a UNESCO World Heritage site). You will also be able to book your own excursions; suggestions will be provided on the new website.

The 2014 Congress promises to be our liveliest yet. We have an unprecedented number of paper-givers, round-table speakers, seminar participants, and poster-session presenters. Some highlights include the Presidential Address by Alastair Minnis, titled “Fragmentations of Medieval Religion: Thomas More, Chaucer, and the Volcano Lover,” the Biennial Lecture by James Simpson, titled “‘Not Yet’: Chaucer and Anagogy,” the plenary lecture, which will be given by the distinguished Icelandic scholar Guðrún Nordal, and Ardis Butterfield and Paul Strohm in conversation about writing Chaucer biography. Graduate students will be able to apply to participate in the Graduate Student Workshop that will be run by Daniel Wakelin and Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir and held on Tuesday 15 July 2014, before the Congress proper begins. Details of this Workshop are given below.

### **Chaucer Notes Redux**

A new initiative: NCS will be reviving the Notes columns of the Newsletter, which used to be a feature until the late 1980s. Notes might include the announcement of new scholarly discoveries, new interpretations of textual cruces, new textual and codicological information, and material relating to the history of the Society. Submissions must be short (max. 1,000 words), must be of the highest quality and substance, and presented in MLA style. They will be peer-reviewed by the Executive Director and one other reader. Since these Notes are part of the Newsletter they will remain permanently on the website. NCS is aware that the UK journal *Notes & Queries*, which appears four times a year, is also a venue for such notes, but we would like to establish our Newsletter as a site for the latest Chaucer scholarship. If you would like to submit a short

note for consideration for publication in the Spring Newsletter, please email it to Ruth Evans at [chaucer@slu.edu](mailto:chaucer@slu.edu).

### **Voting for Next President and New Trustees**

As stipulated in the Constitution, the Trustees propose names for the next President, and the President convenes a Nominating Committee to produce a slate of six (6) names for the Trustees ballot. We need to vote for three (3) new Trustees to replace Alcuin Blamires, Frank Grady, and Larry Scanlon when their term of office ends in 2014. This committee has now been appointed by the President, Alastair Minnis. It consists of Tom Hahn (Chair; Rochester), Sebastian Sobocki (Groningen), Andrew Cole (Princeton), Joyce Coleman (Oklahoma), and Marion Turner (Oxford). Alastair Minnis sends his thanks for the nominations for this committee that he received from members.

I am now calling for nominations for Trustee by the other method for which the revised Constitution provides, namely by written petition from at least eight (8) Members. If you wish to propose a member as a Trustee, please send an email to the Executive Director at [chaucer@slu.edu](mailto:chaucer@slu.edu). This must be followed by a document, mailed to the ED at Department of English, Saint Louis University, St Louis MO 63108, signed by at least eight members. Any members proposed by petition will be added to the slate of 6 names proposed by the Nominating Committee.

Online voting for the next President and three new Trustees will take place in the New Year.

### **Chaucer at Large**

NCS goes from strength to strength: this Newsletter now goes out to 1,175 members; we have 544 “likes” on Facebook and 450 followers on Twitter. 615 people saw our Facebook posts last week. Volume 35 of *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* is currently being printed, and will be shipped out to members by mid-December. Members with institutional access to JSTOR can already access the online version.

Ruth Evans, Executive Director

**2014 NCS Congress  
Graduate Student Workshop**

The Graduate Student Workshop at the 2014 Congress will take place on **Tuesday July 15, 2014** at the [Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies](#) (Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum fræðum) at the University of Iceland (Háskóli Íslands). It is open to all graduate students attending the 2014 Congress and to all those who received their PhDs after July 2012. It will cover manuscript studies in Icelandic and Middle English and will be accessible to students with all levels of prior knowledge. It will be run by Daniel Wakelin ([daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk)) and Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir ([salta@hi.is](mailto:salta@hi.is)). It is not open to Congress delegates and is available by application only. If you are interested in attending the workshop please apply by sending an e-mail to [daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.wakelin@ell.ox.ac.uk) by **December 15, 2013** with a short statement about your dissertation topic and a short CV. All Howard Travel Scholars will be offered a place on the workshop. Please note that places may be limited. Further details about the program of activities and speakers will be coming soon on the new website.

**Other Conferences, Symposiums, and Calls**

**Second Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies**

**June 16-18, 2014**

**Saint Louis University**

Saint Louis, Missouri

**Plenary Speakers:**

**John W. Baldwin, Johns Hopkins University**

**Robert Hillenbrand, University of Edinburgh**

The [Second Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies](#) (June 17-19, 2014) is a convenient summer venue in North America for scholars to present papers, organize sessions, participate in roundtables, and engage in interdisciplinary discussion. The goal of the Symposium is to promote serious scholarly investigation into all topics and in all disciplines of medieval and early modern studies.

The Symposium is held annually on the beautiful midtown campus of Saint Louis University. On campus housing options include affordable, air-conditioned apartments as well as a luxurious boutique hotel. Inexpensive meal plans are also available, although there is a wealth of restaurants, bars, and cultural venues within easy walking distance of campus.

While attending the Symposium participants are free to use the Vatican Film Library, the Rare Book

and Manuscripts Collection, and the general collection at Saint Louis University's Pius XII Memorial Library.

The [Second Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies](#) invites proposals for papers, complete sessions, and roundtables. Any topics regarding the scholarly investigation of the medieval and early modern world are welcome. Papers are normally twenty minutes each and sessions are scheduled for ninety minutes. Scholarly organizations are especially encouraged to sponsor proposals for complete sessions.

The deadline for all submissions is **December 31 2014**. Decisions will be made in January and the final program will be published in February.

For more information or to submit your proposal online go to: <http://smrs.slu.edu> (or by email: [smrs@slu.edu](mailto:smrs@slu.edu))

**Spreading the Light Conference**  
**15th-16th November 2013**

Registration has now opened for the project conference, to be held at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on 15th and 16th November 2013. The registration fee is £100, or £60 for postgraduates; this includes registration pack, tea, coffee and lunches on both Friday and Saturday, and the conference reception and dinner on Saturday evening. Registration is via the University of Kent's online store: <http://store.kent.ac.uk/>. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah James ([s.james@kent.ac.uk](mailto:s.james@kent.ac.uk)) or Huw Grange ([h.r.grange@kent.ac.uk](mailto:h.r.grange@kent.ac.uk)).

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**Canada Chaucer Seminar**  
**Saturday, April 12, 2014**  
**Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto**  
**Call for Papers**

The sixth annual Canada Chaucer Seminar will be held at the University of Toronto on Saturday, April 12th, 2014. The aim of the seminar is to provide a one-day forum that brings together scholars, from Canada and elsewhere, working on Chaucer and on late medieval literature and culture.

The 2013 gathering will include keynote papers by Helen Cooper (Cambridge) and Warren Ginsberg (Oregon), several sessions of conference papers, and a concluding roundtable. Proposals are invited for 20-minute conference papers on any aspect late medieval English literary culture. Submit one-page abstracts by **15 January 2014** to: [william.robins@utoronto.ca](mailto:william.robins@utoronto.ca) and [gisellegos@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:gisellegos@fas.harvard.edu)

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The Canada Chaucer Seminar  
<http://groups.chass.utoronto.ca/chaucer/>

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**Romance in Medieval Britain Conference**  
**11-13 April 2014**

Clifton Hill House, Bristol

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> biennial conference on medieval romance in Britain. The conference is devoted to the study of medieval romance in all the languages of medieval Britain (French, English, Latin, and the Celtic languages). Further information can be obtained from

- Dr Judith Jefferson, English Department: [j.jefferson@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:j.jefferson@bristol.ac.uk)
- Prof. Ad Putter, English Department: [a.d.putter@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:a.d.putter@bristol.ac.uk)

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/birtha/events/medievalromance/>

**Revisiting the Legacy of Boethius in the Middle Ages**  
**Harvard University**  
**March 13-15, 2014**  
[HarvardBoethius@gmail.com](mailto:HarvardBoethius@gmail.com)

The legacy of Boethius in the Middle Ages has been enjoying a resurgence of interest in recent years, with new editions, translations, and studies that place his profound influence in a new light. The Alfredian Boethius project of Oxford University, to pick just one example, has produced a critical edition of the Old English Boethius (2009), and the spinoff database of the commentary tradition will almost certainly change our understanding of the broader reception of The Consolation of Philosophy across medieval Europe. Other recent work has revisited the legacy of Boethius in the fields of music, philosophy, poetry, and theology, and the

Companion to Boethius in the Middle Ages (2012) will stimulate future scholarship and teaching.

The conference will be hosted by Harvard University's English Department and the Standing Committee on Medieval Studies, with support from the Morton Bloomfield Fund and the International Boethius Society. We are pleased to announce that Ann Astell (University of Notre Dame), Susan Irvine (University College London), and Eleanor Johnson (Columbia University) will be giving the conference's plenary addresses.

For more information, please visit <http://www.HarvardBoethius.wordpress.com>

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**III International John Gower Congress**  
**Rochester, 30 June-3 July, 2014**  
**“JOHN GOWER: LANGUAGE, COGNITION, AND PERFORMANCE”**

The John Gower Society will hold its third International Congress on the campus of the University of Rochester, in beautiful upstate New York, 30 June-3 July, 2014. The Congress title, “John Gower: Language, Cognition, and Performance,” defines a wide focus: “Language,” in all its many aspects, and languages, translations, specialized discourses, dialects, idiolects, and influences, as well as manuscript printed, and digital texts—and Digital Humanities, generally, with application to Gower; “Cognition,” including medieval memory and ideational theory, cognitive science, mental (and physical) health and models of therapy, general modes of perception and more specialized (e.g., Gower and suffering, political, salvific and emotive discourses—“Gower and the non- / supra-human world”); “Performance,” anticipating sessions on performance and

performance theory, on the staging of ideas, on philosophy (people/characters “staged” by deeds and choices, etc.), narrativity.

MEMBERS OF THE GOWER AND CHAUCER SOCIETIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. A draft program will soon be available. Look for it on the Gower Society website, [www.johngower.org](http://www.johngower.org). Congress registration information will appear there as well, in due course.

Questions may be addressed to R.F. Yeager, President of the Gower Society at [rfyeager@hotmail.com](mailto:rfyeager@hotmail.com) or Russell A. Peck, Conference Co-ordinator at [russell.peck@rochester.edu](mailto:russell.peck@rochester.edu)

## NEH SUMMER SEMINAR FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

London

July 6-August 2, 2014

In the coming summer David Raybin and Susanna Fein will direct a four-week NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers on the *Canterbury Tales*. The seminar will be located in London, July 6-August 2, 2014. The seminar is open to school teachers (K-12), with two spots reserved for graduate students who plan to become school teachers. Please tell any teachers and graduate students who might be interested in receiving information about the seminar to contact us at [draybin@eiu.edu](mailto:draybin@eiu.edu), or to consult the seminar website: [www.eiu.edu/~neh](http://www.eiu.edu/~neh). The deadline for receipt of applications is **March 4, 2014**.

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### From glass case to cyber-space: Chaucerian manuscripts across time

Syrffio'r silff: hynt a helynt llawysgrifau Chaucer

The National Library of Wales/Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru

14-16 April, 2014

To celebrate the digitization of the Hengwrt manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales* (available from April 2014), The School of English, Bangor University and IMEMS (the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities) is delighted to host an interdisciplinary conference devoted to Chaucerian manuscripts and editions at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

We welcome abstracts from postgraduates and colleagues on all aspects of Chaucerian studies, and from a broad range of disciplines, including history, book history, literature, art history, and the digital humanities.

Papers are particularly welcome on, but are not limited to:

The palaeography and codicology of Chaucerian manuscripts  
From manuscript to printed text; Chaucer and his contemporaries  
Owners and users of Chaucer's works  
Chaucer and medieval Wales  
Chaucer and his contemporaries as story tellers  
Post-medieval production and reception of Chaucer's works

Digitizing medieval manuscripts: the way forward  
Digital Chaucer in the classroom  
Chaucer in the Twenty-first century

Confirmed speakers include Lorna Hughes (University of Wales), Ceridwen Lloyd Morgan (Bangor and Cardiff Universities), Andrew Prescott (King's College, London), Liv Robinson (Oxford University) and Estelle Stubbs (Sheffield University). We are pleased also to announce a tour of the multi-faceted exhibition at the National Library of Wales showcasing the Hengwrt Chaucer – one of the treasures at the National Library of Wales. Papers submitted may also be considered for a special edition of *English: The Journal of the English Association* (OUP).

Please send abstracts of 200-300 words, for papers lasting 20 minutes, no later than **1 December 2013** to Dr Sue Niebrzydowski (School of English, Bangor University), [s.niebrzydowski@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:s.niebrzydowski@bangor.ac.uk), for consideration by the conference committee. For information about registration, please see our webpage <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/english/ChaucerianMS/philp.en>

## Medieval Materiality: a conference on the life and afterlife of things.

This interdisciplinary conference will take place at the **University of Colorado Boulder, October 23-25, 2014**. The plenary speakers are Caroline Walker Bynum (Professor *Emerita*, History, Columbia University/Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ), Daniel Lord Smail (Professor, History, Harvard University), Aden Kumler (Associate Professor, Art History, University of Chicago), and Jessica Brantley (Associate Professor, English, Yale University). For more information, contact Katie Little at [Katherine.C.Little@colorado.edu](mailto:Katherine.C.Little@colorado.edu) or Anne Lester at [Anne.Lester@colorado.edu](mailto:Anne.Lester@colorado.edu).

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indiana Medieval Graduate Student Consortium Conference The Geographic Imagination Conceptualizing Places and Spaces in the Middle Ages *Call for Papers*

The students of the Indiana Medieval Graduate Student Consortium (IMGC) are pleased to announce that we are accepting submissions for the second annual IMGC conference, “The Geographic Imagination: Conceptualizing Places and Spaces in the Middle Ages,” to take place on **28 Feb-1 Mar 2014** at the University of Notre Dame.

The transnational turn in the humanities over the last two decades has put increasing pressure on our ideas of nationhood and has provided us with a liberating awareness of the constructedness of the spaces we study. New methodologies have developed in response to this pressure as scholars turn to comparative approaches, borderland studies, *histoire croisée*, studies of empire, and oceanic models in order to accommodate the ambiguities of nationhood and of conceptions of space. Suggested by seminal transnational studies, such as Paul Gilroy’s *The Black Atlantic*, many critics now study “the flows of people, capital, profits and information.” Recently, David Wallace’s ambitious literary history of Europe has adopted a similarly fluid approach to culture, avoiding a study of “national blocks” of literature, organizing itself instead along transnational itineraries that stretch beyond the European sphere. The Middle Ages offer a particularly broad and rich era in which to encounter fluid notions of space, as any glance at a medieval map such as the famous Hereford *mappa mundi*

(pictured here) invitingly suggests. We invite presentations from all fields to explore any aspect of the medieval “geographic imagination,” of conceptions of space, place, and nation: ideas of geography, cartography, transnational identities and networks, intercultural encounters, mercantile routes, travelogues, rural and urban spaces, religious places, and concepts of locality and local identities.

The IMGC is delighted to announce that our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Geraldine Heng, well known to many of us for her exhaustive and provocative study of medieval romance, *Empire of Magic*, and her subsequent work on race in the Middle Ages.

Please submit a 300 word abstract for a 15-20 minute paper by **15 Dec, 2013** on the conference website, [www.nd.edu/imgc2014](http://www.nd.edu/imgc2014). Proposals should include the title of the paper, presenter's name, institutional and departmental affiliation, and any technology requests.

*This conference is generously sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies. The Nanovic Institute is committed to enriching the intellectual culture of Notre Dame by creating an integrated, interdisciplinary home for students and faculty to explore the evolving ideas, cultures, beliefs, and institutions that shape Europe today.*

**“Chaucerian Comedy and the Senses (of Humor)”:  
The Fourth Biennial Chaucer Celebration at Arizona State University, Tempe AZ  
April 18, 2014**

Guest speaker: John Ganim, UC-Riverside

The events of the celebration will include a Roundtable discussion on “Medieval Sensuality and Chaucerian Comedy,” a performance of early English music by the Phoenix Early Music Ensemble, an exhibit of rare books on Chaucer in the Hayden Library, and a graduate-student-organized Roundtable on “Medieval Studies and the Humanities as Ethical Education.” Free and open to the public. Contact the English Department at ASU for more information ([480-965-3535](tel:480-965-3535)), or Richard Newhauser ([richard.newhauser@asu.edu](mailto:richard.newhauser@asu.edu)) or Robert Sturges ([robert.sturges@asu.edu](mailto:robert.sturges@asu.edu)).

All events are free and open to the public.

**Recent Publications**

Arner Lynn, *Chaucer, Gower, and the Vernacular Rising: Poetry and the Problem of the Populace After 1381*. University Park, PA: Penn State UP, 2013.

Bahr, Arthur. *Fragments and Assemblages: Forming Compilations of Medieval London*. Chicago: Chicago UP, 2013).

Carney, Clíodhna and McCormack, Frances, eds. *Chaucer's Poetry: Words, Authority and Ethics*. (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013).

Contributors: Clíodhna Carney, Kristin Lynn Cole, Frances McCormack, Megan Murton, Brendan O'Connell, Niamh Pattwell, Richard Pearson, Helen Phillips, John Scattergood, Charlotte Steenbrugge, Malte Urban.

Crane, Susan. *Animal Encounters: Contacts and Concepts in Medieval Britain*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2013.

Fletcher, Alan J. *The Presence of Medieval English Literature: Studies at the Interface of History, Author, and Text in a Selection of Middle English Literary Landmarks*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2012.

Grudin, Michaela and Grudin, Robert. *Boccaccio's Decameron and the Ciceronian Renaissance*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. (50% discount (through December 2013) if book is ordered from [www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com) and promo code GRUDIN2013 is entered just before check-out.)

Higl, Andrew. *Playing The Canterbury Tales: The Continuations and Additions*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2013.

Holloway, Julia Bolton. *The Sweet New Style: Essays on Brunetto Latino, Dante Alighieri, Geoffrey Chaucer*. <http://www.umilta.net/Newstyle.html>.

Hsy, Jonathan. *Trading Tongues: Merchants, Multilingualism, and Medieval Literature*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 2013.

Klitgård, Ebbe. *Chaucer in Denmark: A Study of the Translation and Reception 1782-2012*. Odense: UP of Southern Denmark, 2013.

McTaggart, Anne. *Shame and Guilt in Chaucer*. New Middle Ages Series. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Meale, Carol M. and Pearsall, Derek, eds. *Makers and Users of Medieval Books: Essays in Honour of A.S.G. Edwards*. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, forthcoming 2014.  
Contributors: Nicolas Barker, J.A. Burrow, A.I. Doyle, Martha W. Driver, Susanna Fein, Jane Griffiths, Lotte Hellinga, Alfred Hiatt, Simon Horobin, Richard Linenthal, Carol M. Meale, Orietta Da Rold, John Scattergood, Kathleen L. Scott, John J. Thompson, Toshiyuki Takamiya. To subscribe at a reduced cost (£35.00 (\$65 US) instead of £60 (\$99US)) and for your name to appear in the *Tabula Gratulatoria*, please email Robert Kinsey: [Rkinsey@boydell.co.uk](mailto:Rkinsey@boydell.co.uk).

Mooney, Linne R. and Stubbs, Estelle. *Scribes and the City: London Guildhall Clerks and the Dissemination of Middle English Literature 1375-1425*. York: York Medieval Press, 2013.

Nakao, Yoshiyuki. *The Structure of Chaucer's Ambiguity*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2012.

Quinn, William A. *Olde Clerkis Speche: Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde and the Implications of Authorial Recital*. Washington, DC: Catholic U of America P, 2013.

Yager, Susan and Elise E. Morse-Gagné, eds. *Interpretation and Performance: Essays for Alan Gaylord*. (Provo, UT: Chaucer Studio Press, 2013).  
Contributors: Ann W. Astell, Alan Baragona, Peter G. Beidler, Betsy Bowden, Howell Chickering, Elise E. Morse-Gagné, Laura F. Hodges, Brian S. Lee, Maura Nolan, Thomas H. Ohlgren, William A. Quinn, Lorraine K Stock, Paul R. Thomas, Winthrop Wetherbee, Susan Yager.

## Other News on Resources and Announcements

### Chaucer Bibliography Update

While Stephanie Amsel and her team of contributors continue with the work of producing the annual Chaucer bibliography for *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, I have begun to update the Chaucer Bibliography Online (CBO), seeking to fill gaps between 1975 and 2010 and, eventually, adding retrospective records which precede the current *terminus a quo* of the CBO (1975). If you know of books, essays, and other items that pertain to Chaucer studies published between 1975 and 2010 (inclusive) that at present are not in the CBO, please e-mail me with the complete bibliographical information and, if possible, a brief non-evaluative description of the item. The CBO is accessible at [uchaucer.utsa.edu](http://uchaucer.utsa.edu).

Many thanks,  
Mark Allen ([mark.allen@utsa.edu](mailto:mark.allen@utsa.edu))

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The *Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale* (CESCM) would like to announce the reconfiguration of their website. For more information, please visit <http://cescm.labo.univ-poitiers.fr/>

## Reorganization of SEENET and the *Piers Plowman* Electronic Archive

The executive committee of the Society for Early English and Norse Electronic Texts (SEENET) is pleased to announce that the society and its imprint, the *Piers Plowman* Electronic Archive (PPEA), will relaunch as a web-based publishing program beginning in the fall of 2013. With the move to an online platform, the society has also reorganized its governing structure and appointed new officers to leadership positions. SEENET and PPEA will have a combined executive committee led by three co-directors: Hoyt Duggan (University of Virginia), Thorlac Turville-Petre (University of Nottingham), and Timothy Stinson (North Carolina State University). The remaining members of the executive committee will be Robert Adams (Sam Houston State University), Patricia Bart (Hillsdale College), Eugene Lyman (Independent Scholar), and Jim Knowles (NC State, Project Manager).

Institutionally, the society will be organized as a cooperative venture between UVA, Nottingham, and NC State, with NC State taking the lead on the day-to-day administration of the organization. Technical infrastructure and support for the organization will be shared between UVA's Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) and the Digital Library Initiatives Department at NC State Libraries. The co-directors of IATH, Daniel Pitti and Worthy Martin, will serve as members of the SEENET Advisory Board.

The *Piers Plowman* Electronic Archive will remain a distinct imprint within SEENET, with a

dedicated editorial board. Since 2000, PPEA has published, with the advice and support of IATH's technical staff and in cooperation with the University of Michigan Press, the Medieval Academy of America, and Boydell and Brewer, seven manuscript witnesses of the *Piers Plowman* B text (in CD-ROM editions). With the forthcoming migration of the archive to the web, all of the published editions will be made available online, free of charge. New documentary editions of individual manuscripts in the A, B, and C traditions, along with hybrid manuscripts, archetypes, and critical editions will be published on the web as they become available, also free of charge.

The web launch of PPEA will also mark the publication date for the Archive's newly completed edition of the B archetype (Bx), edited by John Burrow and Thorlac Turville-Petre. This groundbreaking edition aims to establish the archetypal readings of the witnesses to the B-version of *Piers Plowman* and argues that the readings of Bx can be established with certainty in the majority of lines. Through the technical work of Paul Broyles and Cindy Girard at UVA, the electronic edition of Bx will allow users to see line-by-line comparisons of the ten most important manuscript witnesses to the B-version of the poem alongside the editors' detailed annotations of the textual variants.

CONTACT: Jim Knowles ([jrknowle@ncsu.edu](mailto:jrknowle@ncsu.edu)); Timothy Stinson ([tlstinso@ncsu.edu](mailto:tlstinso@ncsu.edu))

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### *The Chaucer Review*

#### *"Thinking Historically after Historicism: Essays in Memory of Lee Patterson"*

NCS members may be interested to learn that in April 2014 a special issue of *The Chaucer Review* will commemorate Lee Patterson's impact on the modern study of Chaucer and his contemporaries: "Thinking Historically after Historicism: Essays in Memory of Lee Patterson." Articles include a preface by the editors, a list of Patterson's publications, an introduction by guest editors Emily Steiner and Candace Barrington, and contributions by Candace Barrington, Christine Chism, Ethan Knapp, Emma Lipton, Robert J. Meyer-Lee, Larry Scanlon, George Shuffelton, and Jennifer L. Sisk. Copies of this issue will be available for separate purchase at the Penn State UP booth at Kalamazoo.

**Southern African Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies**  
**Newsletter Number 2 for 2013**

The time has come to assemble the second 2013 newsletter for posting on the website at  
<http://sasmarsnewsletter.blogspot.com/>

The present newsletter on the website contains information and a first call for papers for our next conference at Stellenbosch from **28 to 31 August 2014** on the theme *The Art of Reading in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*. **The keynote speaker will be Professor Henry Woudhuysen, Lincoln College, University of Oxford. Deadline for proposals: 31 January 2014.**

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**The Takamiya Collection of Middle English Manuscripts**

An exciting announcement from Professor Toshiyuki Takamiya

“I am very glad to announce that I am depositing on long-term loan at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University my collection of western medieval manuscripts. The Takamiya Collection numbers over one hundred manuscripts and includes the outstanding core of Middle English texts in which I have been interested as a scholar and collector.

Assembled over forty years, it is perhaps the largest and most comprehensive collection of Middle English manuscripts in modern times. A substantial group of medieval English vernacular texts of literary, historical, scientific and cultural significance, it includes the classics of Middle English poetry, works of spiritual devotion in prose and verse, historical chronicles, two Wycliffite Bibles, the only manuscript of Mandeville’s imaginary *Travels* in private hands, and many others. Among the jewels of the collection are three manuscripts of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, and Chaucer’s *Treatise on the Astrolabe*.

Now that I have had the satisfaction of collecting and studying these manuscripts, it is high time to think of their future in a secure home, where they will be easily accessible to international scholars and students. I am impressed by the Beinecke Library’s ambitious research programs and I think they have both the expertise and energy to use the collection to great advantage. As many of you know, I have always enjoyed making these manuscripts available to the scholarly community, but I am aware that Tokyo may at times seem far away, and for many people New Haven is closer to home. I myself first visited the Yale campus as a teenager in the summer of 1963, just before the opening of the Beinecke Library, and again in the autumn of 1966 as an interpreter of a Japanese Noh troupe. I find it particularly gratifying that the collection has arrived in time for the Beinecke Library’s 50th anniversary celebrations this autumn.

I am certain that Dr E. C. Schroeder, Director of the Beinecke Library, and Dr Ray Clemens, Curator of Early Books and Manuscripts, will soon officially announce the arrival of the collection at Beinecke for long-term loan and its availability to academia in the future.

Those of you who are interested in the collection are invited to refer to “A Handlist of Western Medieval Manuscripts in the Takamiya Collection,” which I contributed to *The Medieval Book: Glosses from Friends and Colleagues of Christopher de Hamel*, ed. James H. Marrow, Richard Linenthal and William Noel, 2010, pp. 421-440.”

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