



THE CHAUCER NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the New Chaucer Society

Volume 9, Number 1

Spring, 1987

Toponyms, Surnames, Titles and Cognomens: With Special Reference to John of Gaunt and Henry of Lancaster

The personal names of Chaucer's day seldom cause us any difficulty. Everybody had a Christian name, most people had an inherited family name, and, depending on the occasion, we can use either or both names as we would for our contemporaries. Certain exceptions, particularly among the royal family and the clergy, often give us trouble, however, and lead us into unwitting historical solecism. The chief traps are the names and titles of Henry IV (before he becomes king) and of his father, those personages that Shakespeare often calls Bolingbroke (or Henry Bolingbroke) and Gaunt, as many of us do too, probably because of his example. But although the errors did not originate with Shakespeare, he got their names wrong. The aim of the present note is to establish, particularly in the two cases cited and perhaps particularly for Americans, the forms of some names and titles that Chaucer might have used or recognized. The misunderstandings and incorrect forms, though unattributed and not quoted directly, are drawn from published books and articles, primarily though not exclusively Chaucerian.

In the later fourteenth century, the royal family, probably uniquely among the gentle classes, had not yet adopted a family surname. (Although it is convenient for us to speak of the Plantagenet dynasty, it was not until 1448 that the cognomen was adopted as a family name, by Richard, duke of York.) Instead, its members took individual toponyms from their places of birth. Thus four of the five sons of Edward III who lived to adulthood are Edward of Woodstock (the Black Prince), Lionel of Antwerp, Thomas of Woodstock, and Edmund of Langley; but these toponyms were not taken to be titles or family names,

and the princes were never spoken of as simply Woodstock, Antwerp, Woodstock (again) or Langley (much less as Lionel Antwerp, etc.) nor should they be now. Likewise, the fifth was and should be John of Gaunt (i.e., of Ghent), never simply Gaunt.

In point of fact, the use of "John of Gaunt" might have been considered somewhat *infra dig* or excessively familiar in the fourteenth century. Royalty and nobility were proud of their titles, and rarely in contemporary documents, especially official ones, do we find them referred to by their Christian names and toponyms alone. Richard II, for example, is termed Richard of Bordeaux only until he was acknowledged as heir apparent and declared Prince of Wales in 1376. Contemporary writers usually refer to nobility by their Christian names (sometimes but infrequently with their toponyms or family names), ranks, and titles, or by their ranks and titles alone. Thus the two youngest sons of Edward III may be called Thomas, duke of Gloucester, and Edmund, duke of York, or they may be called (the duke of) Gloucester and (the duke of) York.¹ To call them Thomas of Gloucester and Edmund of York, however, is to commit an error that is the obverse of the previous one, namely, to treat a title as though it were a toponym. But John of Gaunt had so many titles that it can be confusing to the reader, and a trap for the writer, to use them. He was created earl of Richmond in 1342, earl of Lancaster in 1361, earl of Lincoln, Derby, and Leicester in 1362, and duke of Lancaster later in 1362. In 1372 he surrendered the earldom of Richmond but claimed the title of king of Castile and Leon. Many Chaucerians prefer to speak of him formally as Lancaster, the principal English title he held during most of Chaucer's adult life (and short for the more formal "John, duke of Lancaster") but it is convenient, customary, and not incorrect to call him John of Gaunt.

His son Henry was born at Bolingbroke (one of Lancaster's castles, in Lincolnshire), and was therefore referred to in his own day

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1988 Congress Call for papers

The Program Committee for the Sixth International Congress, to be held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (9-13 August 1988) announces the following topics for paper sessions, and their organizers. Paper proposals, in the form of a prospectus of about one typewritten page, should be sent directly to the session organizer. In addition to paper sessions of the usual form, there will be several "colloquium" sessions devoted chiefly to discussion, in which the papers accepted for the program will have been read by participants before the session. These are listed separately (see description below).

Session organizers should receive all proposals by 1 June 1987, and may at their discretion specify a date by which the completed paper should be sent. Organizers will select the session participants by mid-August 1987, and their names and paper titles will be announced in the Fall 1987 *Newsletter*. (There will be a sheaf of abstracts of all papers made available at the conference, so those whose papers are accepted should plan to submit one of these to the organizer well in advance.)

- 1) Chaucer and postmodern criticism (John Ganim, U of California, Riverside)
- 2) Chaucer and the common law (Richard Firth Green, U of Western Ontario)
- 3) Chaucer and the discourses of medieval philosophy and science (Russell Peck, U of Rochester)
- 4) Chaucer's London (Paul Strohm, Indiana U)
- 5) Portraiture: verbal and visual (Mary Carruthers, U of Illinois, Chicago)
- 6) Chaucer and late-medieval religion (Siegfried Wenzel, U of Pennsylvania)
- 7) The legacy of 19th Century Chaucer criticism (Renate Haas, Universität Duisburg)
- 8) Persona and voice (David Lawton, U of Sydney)
- 9) Chaucer's lyrics: textual, codicological, interpretive studies (John Scattergood,

(continued p. 3)



*C Cripples: before practitioner (physician?)

III. MS. France XV¹
 San Marino, CA: Huntington Lib. HM 27523, 28^v; Bartholomeus Anglicus, *De proprietatibus rerum*: French trans. by Jean Corbichon, 1378, Bk. V, *De hominis corpore*.

Det. (Inc. of Bk. V)—Practitioner (Physician?), l., facing r., in skullcap and hooded gown, pointed sleeves, pointed shoes, holds tall apothecary jar (?) in r. hand, steadies it (or makes affective gesture ?) with l.; r., facing l., two cripples on crutches, both in belted tunics, first hatless, l. leg bandaged below knee, carried behind, r. leg with hose gathered at knee, bare thigh; second hooded, r. foot missing (amputated?), shin bandaged to knee; background black; ground green, grassy; illuminated frame attached to initial "A."

Bibl.—*Chronica*, 5-6; *Aspects of Medieval England*, n. 43 open at fol. 101 v.

*K PHYSICIAN/SURGEON/AMPUTATION/CRUTCHES/PATIENT CARE/APOTHECARY JAR/BANDAGES/DRESS AND ATTIRE/BARTHOLOMEUS ANGLICUS/DE PROPRIETATIBUS RERUM/FRENCH/JEAN CORBICHON/BOOK 5/SAN MARINO CA/HUNTINGTON LIBRARY/HM 27523/XV/FIRST HALF/ILL MSS/FRAME/INITIAL/ *E

A Computerized Index of Medieval Medical Images The Cosmas and Damian Project

Although it borrows the names of two early saints, Cosmas and Damiana, who were accepted in the Middle Ages as the patron saints of medicine, our project is concerned not with hagiography as such but with iconography, and indeed secular iconography rather than sacred. Our ultimate objective is to create a new, comprehensive index, in electronic form, which will record medieval visual evidence on medical topics, thus making it available to scholars in many academic disciplines—art history, textual and literary study, social history, and the history of technology, among others.

Medical images of special interest to Chaucerians include depictions of Cosmas and Damiana which show them even more elegantly outfitted than Chaucer's Physician in *The GP* in his "pers and sendal." Other illustrations depict physicians and pharmacists dispensing the sweet "Ypocras and Galiones," of which the Host seems so fond in the end link to the Physician's Tale. The dissection scenes which abound in manuscript copies of Bartholomaeus Anglicus may be in the back of Chaucer's mind when he has the Host praise the Physician's "gentil cors," and then has him swear "by corpus bones" a few lines later (VI. 304, 314).

These images survive in manuscript illuminations, such as the one reproduced here (also from a copy of Bartholomaeus), and stained glass, the latter often featuring images of the medical saints. Besides figurative illustrations of interest to art historians, the index will contain such functional items as urine charts and anatomical diagrams. In short, we want to create a secular extension of the Index of Christian Art, an Index of Medieval Medical Images—IMMI. Like the I.C.A., it will include manuscript and textual data description of the content of each image, and relevant bibliographical information. Like MacKinney's *Medical Illustrations in Medieval Manuscripts* (London, 1965), the only comprehensive reference tool in this area up to now, its chronological range will extend to 1500. Unlike that pioneering work, the new index will also cover illustrations in non-medical manuscripts, and we will extend its

Philadelphia Proceedings

The *Philadelphia Proceedings* volume of SAC is now with the copy editor and should be mailed out by the end of the summer. So far, we have in hand 182 orders for it from 567 members, and standing orders from a mere 57 of our 210 libraries with standing orders for SAC. If we cannot do better, this will probably be our last Proceedings volume. The contents of the volume, listed below, are outstanding. We solicit your order on the form at the end of this Newsletter, and please urge your library to place a standing order. The \$20 prepublication price to members will end when the volume is mailed. Libraries pay the full \$30. We still have plenty of copies of the *York Proceedings* available at \$30.

SAC *Philadelphia Proceedings*, ed. John Fleming and Thomas Heffernan (Provisional contents) *Presidential address* Beryl Rowland, "Elvyssh by his countenance"; *Biennial Lecture* Derek Pearsall,

Continued p. 5

cultural/geographical range to Islam and the East.

Researchers will be able to search the index using combinations of key words like those found in the caption between symbols *K and *E. We are using the free-form indexing program FYI 3000, which allows us to make the entries as long as necessary, and use an enormous number of key words, sortable by Bollean ("AND" "OR" "NOT") logic. One day, we hope, it will be economically feasible for us to wed the index to a videodisc containing the images.

If you know of medieval medical images, especially items not listed, or not described in MacKinney (the item above falls into both categories), please contact us. We would also be happy to entertain suggestions or questions about our methods and/or requests to participate in the project. Please write or call us at the Medical History Division, Department of Anatomy, UCLA School of Medicine, The Center for the Health Sciences, Los Angeles, California 90024, phone (213) 825-9555.

Mark Infusino
Ynez Violé O'Neill
UCLA

This is a condensation of one of the reports delivered at the "work in progress" session of The Philadelphia Congress.

1988 Congress

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- Trinity College, Dublin)
- 10) Chaucer and 14th Century political thought (David Wallace, U of Texas, Austin)
 - 11) Interpreting late-medieval English culture: politics and literary scholarship (David Aers, U of East Anglia)
 - 12) Feminist criticism and Chaucer (Carolyn Dinshaw, U of California, Berkeley)
 - 13) Chaucer and 14th Century music (James Wimsatt, U of Texas, Austin)
 - 14) Chaucer's textual tradition (John H. Fisher, U of Tennessee)
 - 15) Performance, pageant, and spectacle in the age of Chaucer (Martin Stevens, Baruch College, CUNY)
 - 16) Chaucer and the friars (Penn Szitty, Georgetown U)
 - 17) Medieval literary theory and its limits (Rita Copeland, U of Texas, Austin)
 - 18) Pilgrimage as social process (Christian Zacher, Ohio State U)

Colloquium sessions, to be held in the late afternoon, will resemble the "poster session" to be used for the first time at the Spring 1987 meeting of the Medieval Academy: a *precis* of each paper (one double-spaced page) will be posted with the others of its session, and copies of each session's papers will be available next to the posting board for interested conferees to pick up and read before the session. All papers for all such sessions will be so posted and available from registration day of the Congress on. At the session, the person presiding will ask the paper-writers as a panel to devote about a half-hour to discussion of their own and each other's contributions and the common topic, then open the discussion to those attending, who will also have read the panelists' materials.

This format may be varied by the organizer, but in no case will the papers be performed by their writers at the session: the idea is rather to allow the maximum active discussion of the issues proposed. (It should be noted that this format might also allow for prior digestion of more visually complex displays than oral paper delivery does.)

In addition to the sessions listed below, there is some room for additional colloquia coordinated with the topics of paper sessions; those interested should write the program chair, Anne Middleton, U. of California, Berkeley, after April 15.

Call for Nominations

Four NCS Trustees must be elected in 1987 to serve from 1988-1992. The terms of Trustees Larry Benson, Alfred David, Jill Mann, and Charles Owen all end with the 1988 UBC Congress. Trustees Anne Middleton, A. C. Spearing, and Paul Strohm will serve until 1990.

President Robert W. Frank has appointed a nominating committee comprised of Charles Owen (chair), Mary Carruthers, Helen Cooper, David Wallace, and Winthrop Wetherbee to select eight candidates for the four vacancies. The NCS constitution specifies that to these eight shall be added nominations made by written petition signed by at least ten (10) NCS members. Nominations by petition must reach the Executive Director by 1 April 1987. The ballot will be mailed out in May. The election period will end 1 July 1987.

All signers of petitions, candidates, and elected trustees must be NCS members in good standing.

Colloquium Sessions

- C1 and 2) Teaching Chaucer and the age of Chaucer [2 sessions] (Lois Roney, U of Texas, Dallas; Ruth Hamilton, Northern Illinois U)
- C3 and 4) Work-in-progress (Lee Patterson, Duke U)
- C5) *Hous of Fame*: Visions and Revisions (Rosemarie McGerr, Yale U)
- C6) Canonicity (A.E.G. Edwards, U of Victoria, BC)
- C7) Statius and Chaucer (R.A. Shoaf, U of Florida)
- C8) Textual criticism and literary interpretation (T.W. Machan, Marquette U)
- C9) Editions and their users: the decorum of annotation (Malcolm Andrew, Queen's U, Belfast)
- C10) Wordplay in Chaucer (Dolores Frese, U of Notre Dame)

The Chaucer Newsletter, distributed twice a year to members of The New Chaucer Society, is intended primarily as a vehicle for Society business. Its ephemeral character makes it an unsuitable repository for substantive articles, but it is happy to publish discussions of research in progress and other activities of interest to Chaucerians. Deadline for the Fall issue is 1 September; for the Spring issue, 1 January. Materials should be sent to the editor, John H. Fisher, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37996

Garland Monographs in Medieval Literature

Garland Monographs in Medieval Literature is a series intended to publish outstanding recent dissertations in the Western European literatures of the Middle Ages. The editors welcome submissions representing any of the various schools of criticism and interpretation. They do not consider translations, bibliographies, editions, concordances, or other reference works. While it is expected that submissions will be recent dissertations, it is also expected that they will have undergone significant revision for publication. The editors invite contributions from the international community of medievalists, but English is the language of the series.

Authors may write to either of the series editors, but in general submissions in English and Germanic literatures should be addressed to Paul E. Szarmach and those in Romance literatures to Christopher Kleinhenz. With their initial letter of inquiry authors should send two copies of a detailed prospectus (at least five pages) and a curriculum vitae. The prospectus must include an outline of chapters and a page-count of the complete manuscript. Please do not send manuscripts along with the initial inquiry

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Toponyms

as Henry of Bolingbroke.² It is so traditional to call him Henry Bolingbroke or Bolingbroke—even more so than to call his father Gaunt—that the error might be said to be sanctified by custom; but a better name, with historical authority, is available (see below); and it is inconsistent to treat Henry's toponym differently from his father's and his royal uncles'. Like his father, Henry held several titles of nobility. From an early age he was styled earl of Derby, and until the later 1390s that is how he usually appears in

records and chronicles (cf. *Chaucer Life-Records*, pp. 91, 275), although until his father's death the earldom did not officially belong to him³; and from at least 1384 he was sometimes styled earl of Northampton. In 1397 he became duke of Hereford, and when John of Gaunt died in 1399 duke of Lancaster as well. If you know where and when you are and he was, you can call him Derby, Northampton (but hardly), Hereford, or Lancaster. And you can always call him Henry of Bolingbroke though in fact the Bolingbroke toponym is rarely found in contemporary sources. More commonly, in records either pertaining to him or emanating from him (e.g., *Life-Records*, p. 274), he is Henry of Lancaster (followed by a major title—i.e., earl of Derby or duke of Hereford). Since the name has contemporary authority and identifies him by Christian name and by house, it seems preferable to speak of the future Henry IV as Henry of Lancaster.

With the clergy, however, some of these principles of nomenclature are altered or even reversed. On ordination, a priest gave up his family name and took his birthplace as a cognomen, so that, for example, the bishop of Winchester is William of Wykeham and the St. Albans chronicler is Thomas of Walsingham. Bishops, moreover, were (and are) properly styled by their Christian names and their sees; and to identify them one must often consult such works as Powicke's *Chronology of British History*. But already in Chaucer's time custom was beginning to treat these toponyms as surnames, and as their use helps us to distinguish between clergy with the same Christian names and to identify them as they obtain or change sees, it is customary nowadays to speak of, say, Wykeham or Walsingham. This is, of course, the exact reverse of what has just been recommended for the secular nobility. Consider, therefore, the brothers Richard (1346-1397) and Thomas (1353-1414) FitzAlan. Richard, retaining the family name, became earl of Arundel. Thomas, who would become an eminent ecclesiastic, discarded the family name to become Thomas of Arundel, and, as he advances in the church, appears in contemporary records as Thomas (bishop) of Ely or Thomas (archbishop) of York or Canterbury; and we can call him Thomas Arundel. Either brother, that is, can be called Arundel, but in the earl's case it's a title and in the archbishop's case it's a toponym that, by modern

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Pilgrimage 87

PILGRIMAGE 87 is a theatrical event created to coincide with the 600th anniversary of the pilgrimage described in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, which falls in the spring of 1987. The idea of the pilgrimage is transposed to the twentieth century: medieval material is redeployed in a manner that has recently proved very popular with today's audiences, for example in the National Theatre's production of *The Mysteries*.

Paula Neuss of Birkbeck College, University of London (WC1E 7HX) has rearranged major parts of Chaucer's material into a cycle of six short (30 minute) plays in modern English. These are to be performed in sequence by a professional company of eight actors at places on the original pilgrimage route, over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, 2-3 May 1987.

The plays will be accompanied by music and dancing, some of it recruited locally, and with specially commissioned new settings of some of Chaucer's best lyrics. At each venue there will be further entertainment provided by local groups and bookstalls selling material related to Chaucer, including a set of six new pamphlets published for the occasion.

Provisional program

Friday 1 May

4:00 Introductory lecture (Birkbeck College)

Saturday 2 May

Southwark, morning. Play One, based on *The General Prologue* and *The Knight's Tale*. Greenwich, lunchtime. Play Two, based on *The Miller's Tale*.

Rochester Castle, afternoon. Play Three, based on *The Wife of Bath's Prologue*.

Faversham, evening. Play Four, based on *The Pardoner's Tale*.

Sunday 3 May

University of Kent, lunchtime. Play Five, based on *The Canon's Yeoman's Tale*.

Canterbury, afternoon. Play Six, based on *The Book of the Duchess*, with some original material.

It is hoped to arrange a special thanksgiving service at the Cathedral with which to conclude the pilgrimage.

Further information from PILGRIMAGE 87, 12 Haverstock Street, The Angel, London N1 8DL. Tel. 01-253-2894. A fully comprehensive package tour centered on the event is being arranged by Country Tours of Wingham.

The Chaucer Encyclopedia

The Variorum Chaucer is pleased to announce the undertaking of *The Chaucer Encyclopedia*, to be published in hardcover and in paper as a part of the Variorum series. This 500,000-word complement to the Variorum edition will offer a coherent treatment of matters that in the separate fascicles of the edition can be treated either not at all or only in isolation. The *Encyclopedia* will provide ready access to all information that helps to define Chaucer both as a man and as a poet: documented facts of Chaucer's life; his larger historical circumstances—political and religious, in England and on the Continent; his personal situation—the people he knew, the places he had been, the social forces that had immediate effect on him; his intellectual life, his capacity as a linguist, his use of sources, his command of the English language as an instrument of expression; his knowledge of philosophy, theology, geography, and science; and his daily experience of life as it is registered in his poetry.

In addition to general essays on Chaucer's experience and his representation of that experience, the *Encyclopedia* will provide specific discussion of significant details adduced from Chaucer's life and work. Cross-references will key readers both to general essays and to particular entries. The *Encyclopedia* will also provide basic information on manuscripts and printed editions of Chaucer's writings; on the history of Chaucer scholarship; on the reception of Chaucer's work in the centuries following Chaucer's death.

These materials will be prepared by a team of scholars under the direction of eight field editors, whose topic areas are defined below:

Malcolm Andrew
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Education, Books and Authors Named or Alluded to, Medicine and Physiology, Antifeminist Debate

David Burnley
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The University of Sheffield
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Natural Sciences, Fine Art, Manuscripts and Printed Editions, Chaucer's Influence

Sheila Delany
Department of English
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, British Columbia
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Literary Terms, Social and Economic History

George Economou
Department of English
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
Philosophy, Language, Versification, Classical Antiquity

A.S.G. Edwards
Department of English
University of Victoria
Victoria, British Columbia
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The Chaucer Canon, Apocrypha, Lost Works

Henry Ansgar Kelly
Department of English
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90024
The Roman Catholic Church

Janette Richardson
Department of Comparative Literature
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
Historical Backgrounds, Place Names, Music and Dance, Chaucer Scholarship

Chauncey Wood
Graduate Studies
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8
Astronomy and Alchemy, Architecture, The Estates, Politics, Law, the Military, Travel, Contemporary Figures

All scholars who are interested in contributing to the *Encyclopedia* should write for further information to the appropriate field editors or to the general editors, Paul G. Ruggiers and Daniel J. Ransom, Variorum Chaucer, University of Oklahoma, Norman 73019.

Toponyms

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convention, we treat as if it were a surname.

Three other matters while we're at it. The blessed martyr is properly Thomas Becket, not Thomas a Becket; the misnomer (found even in the *DNB*) is probably due to a false analogy with Thomas a Kempis. Second, the sobriquet of the Black Prince is first recorded in the sixteenth century (see the *OED*) and may, just possibly, represent an otherwise unrecorded medieval tradition; but there can hardly be any foundation to the notion that he got the name because he wore black armor, which would surely have been too hot in battle or in tournament. Even if unhistorical, the sobriquet is not only customary but useful because it distinguishes him from other Edwards, particularly his father. And finally, it does not seem to have

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"Criseyde's Choices"; *Keynote Address* Russell A. Peck, "Chaucer and the Imagination"; David Anderson, "The Fourth Temple of the Knight's Tale: Athenian Clemency and Chaucer's Theseus"; A. C. Spearing, "Al this mene I be Love"; William Askins, "The Tale of Melibee and the Crisis at Westminster, November 1387"; Thomas J. Garbáty, "Chaucer, the Customs, and the Hainault Connection"; George Kane, "'Good' and 'Bad' Manuscripts: Texts and Critics"; Monica E. McAlpine, "To Chaucer Through Middle English"; C David Benson, "Varieties of Religious Poetry in the *Canterbury Tales*"; Robert M. Jordan, "Todorov, Vainsauf, and Chaucerian Textuality"; John M. Ganim, "Bakhtin, Chaucer, Carnival, Lent"; Peggy Knapp, "Deconstructing the *Canterbury Tales: Pro*"; Traugott Lawler, "Deconstructing the *Canterbury Tales: Con.*"

been remarked that Richard II was probably named after the Black Prince's Gascon companion-in-arms, Guichard Dangle, who became one of the child's tutors after the death of his father. The name Richard, though not uncommon in the middle of the fourteenth century, seems to have increased its popularity greatly when, after the death of Richard's elder brother Edward in 1371, parents christened their sons after the new young heir apparent to the heir apparent. (Conversely, did the name decline in popularity in the United States after 1974?)

Sumner Ferris
California University of Pennsylvania

¹Before becoming dukes, Thomas had been earl of Gloucester and Edmund earl of Cambridge. Noblemen were usually referred to by their ranks and titles (e.g., the earl of Emsworth) and not as now by their titles alone (e.g., Emsworth); but modern writers use the modern convention.

²Some writers apparently derive the unhistorical form they use either directly or indirectly from the *Continuation of the Eulogium Historiarum*, which once calls him Henry Bolingbroke (but twice Henry of Bolingbroke); but the not very well informed *Continuation* was written in the late 1420s, when onomastic memories were dimming: *Eulogium Historiarum sive Temporis*, ed. F.S. Haydon (Rolls Series III, 1863): 361, "Henricum de Bolyngbrok filium ducis Lancastriae comitem Derebeie"; 366, "Henricus Bolyngbrok comes Derbeie"; 377, "Henricum de Bolyngbrok, comitem Derbeiae . . . duces Herfordiae".

³Pace the report in the same chronicle (*Eulogium*, III, 361), but not recorded elsewhere, that Henry was created earl of Derby in 1385.

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