



The Chaucer Newsletter

A Publication of the New Chaucer Society

Volume 15, Number 1

Spring, 1993

Next President and 1994 Chaucer Lecturer

Balloting by the Trustees and officers has resulted in the election of V.A. Kolve to succeed Jill Mann as next President of the Society (1994-96) and in the selection of Paul Strohm as Biennial Chaucer Lecturer at the 1994 Congress.

Travel Subventions For New Chaucerians

At the NCS congress in Canterbury in 1990, the Trustees of the Society decided that interest income accumulating from the NCS Endowment Fund should be made available to encourage and assist new Chaucerians to attend biennial congresses. Anyone who has been or will have been awarded a Ph.D. between August 1991 and August 1993 and who is interested in obtaining such a subvention in order to attend the 1994 Dublin Congress should send to the NCS Director by 1 August 1993 a brief (1-page) letter of request that also describes how his or her dissertation/thesis centrally focuses on Chaucer. At the same time, the applicant's dissertation director should write a supporting letter to the NCS Director confirming that the dissertation is completed.

Subventions (in the form of reimbursements) are meant to cover some or all travel, lodging, and registration expenses associated with the Dublin Congress; the size of subventions will depend on the number of applicants and the amount of interest income available, but every eligible applicant will receive some funding.

1994 NCS Congress Call For Papers

The Program Committee for the Ninth International Congress, to be held at Trinity College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland (Saturday, July 23 to Wednesday, July 27, 1994) announces the following topics for sessions. Papers or proposals should be sent directly to the organizer of each session, except as noted. The session organizers must receive all papers or proposals by June 1, 1993. In a few cases, as noted below, organizers must receive proposals before that date. Organizers will select papers and participants by mid-August 1993, and the names of participants and the titles of their presentations will be announced in the Fall 1993 newsletter.

The Committee has scheduled some of the same kinds of newer formats and ground rules to encourage discussion and to encourage submissions from throughout the membership as were introduced in the 1992 Congress. Members may apply to more than one kind of session, but may actually participate in only one. The constitution of the NCS mandates that participants (except for invited speakers from other fields) be members with their dues paid up; we ask you to share this announcement with graduate students, younger colleagues, and others who may not now be members of the NCS. We also urge you to inform colleagues outside of North America and the U.K. of the Congress. (Students may join the Society for two years at the student rate of \$15 per year. They should write to the New Chaucer Society for application forms. New Ph.D.'s should consult the information on travel subventions printed to the left.)

Organizers have provided a brief explanation of what they have in mind (often edited here to save space), though sessions may change in response to submissions. Because of mailing address changes, in some cases noted below submissions should be sent to the chair of the Program Committee, who will forward submissions to the organizers.

I. CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS

Generally, Concurrent Paper Sessions will contain three papers and no respondents. Each paper normally will be limited to 15 minutes to allow for ½ hour of discussion. Full drafts of papers are expected by the end of February 1994, and will be circulated to other speakers.

1. *Dissent and Textuality in the Later Middle Ages.* Possible topics include the media of dissent; the creation, readership, or function of literary and other texts, and their possible unofficial uses. Steven Justice, English, U of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Phone: (510) 642-4268; Fax: (510) 642-8738.

2. *Chaucer and the New Art History.* How recent developments in art history and theory inform our understanding of Chaucer's relation to the medieval visual arts. Daniel Rubey, Library, Herbert Lehman College, Bronx, NY 10468. Fax: (212) 960-8952; E-mail: danLc@cunyvm

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(Call, cont'd)

3. *Audience, Allusion and Reception: Making Chaucer "Historical."* Chaucer's real and imagined readership, Chaucer as a reader, and the ways in which modern scholarship has constructed that readership. Analogies and evidence from trecento Italy and 15th-century British Isles. Leonard Koff, 1250 South Beverly Glen #110, Los Angeles, CA 90024. Phone: (213) 825-4174.

4. *Chaucer and Joyce.* Papers may deal with Chaucer and other modern Irish writers. Prof. Dr. Willi Erzgraber, Sonnenbergstrasse 18 b, 7800 Freiburg i. Br. Germany.

5. *Chaucer and the Political Problematic.* Consideration of the relation of Chaucer's work to political power and political theory, political authority and the status of the individual subject. Papers exploring modern, postmodern, medieval, or classical contexts and approaches are invited. Yasunari Takada, English, U of Tokyo, Komaba, Meguro, Tokyo 153 Japan, Fax: 03-3467-6530; and Richard Neuse, Box 195, Kingston, RI 02881.

6. *Feminist Chaucer Studies.* Dialogue among and about late twentieth-century feminists addressing both the difference that feminist theory and practice has made to the changing face of academic Chaucer and the differences among feminist Chaucerians today. Elaine Hansen, English, Haverford College, Haverford, PA 19041. Phone: (215) 896-1156; Fax: (215) 896-1495.

7. *Queer Chaucer.* Lesbian and Gay criticism and theory and Chaucer and Chaucer studies. Carolyn Dinshaw, English, U of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Phone: (510) 642-4350; Fax: (510) 642-8738. E-mail: 22caroL@cmsa.berkeley.edu

8. *Chaucer and Spain.* Spanish literary and cultural connections to Chaucer. Patricia Shaw, Yela Utrilla 2, Oviedo 33007, Spain. Fax: 985-228642 or 985-104513.

9. *Chaucer and Cosmology.* Chaucer and the laws which govern the universe as a whole. **Note deadline:** papers should be submitted before May 16, 1993. Sigmund Eisner, English, U of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. Phone: (602) 621-1836; Fax: (602) 296-6404; E-mail: seisner@ccit.arizona.edu

10. *Chaucer and Japanese Classical Literature.* Contrastive and anagogical approaches. Papers on Chaucer and other non-Western courtly literatures are invited. Toshiyuki Takamiya, English, Keio U, Mita, Minatoku, Tokyo 108, Japan.

11. *Chaucer and Medieval Ireland.* Anglo-Irish relations in the 14th century. Send abstracts or papers to John Ganim, English, U of California, Riverside, CA 92521 (Phone: (909) 787-2280; Fax: (909) 787-3967; E-mail: ganim@ucrvms or ganim@ucrac1.ucr.edu), who will forward papers to the organizer.

12. *Contextualizing Women's Voices in Chaucer's Problematic Tales.* Why certain of Chaucer's stories, especially those in which women figure centrally as characters or narrators, are so problematic for modern readers, but not necessarily for medieval audiences. Social and historical contexts, source studies, manuscript studies, and reception studies are all invited. Carolyn Collette, English, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075. In Britain, papers may be sent to Felicity Riddy, Medieval Studies Centre, King's Manor, U of York, York YO1 2EP, England.

13. *Chaucer and the Classics.* The implications of receiving an authoritative culture--antiquity--that is nevertheless multiple and even contradictory in terms of the media and languages of its transmission. Christopher Baswell, English, Barnard College, New York, NY 10027. Phone: (212) 854-3453; Fax: (212) 854-7491.

14. *The Social Environment of Chaucer's Complaints.* The audience, popularity, and social significance of Chaucer's complaints. Alfred David, English, Indiana U, Bloomington, IN 47405. Phone: (812) 855-8224.

15. *Chaucerian Orientalism.* Occidental perceptions of the Orient as they occur in Chaucer, including the use and misuse of Eastern locations, events or characters; the representation of Muslims, Jews and other non-Christians; references to mercantile, missionary, or military endeavors; relations to Arabic science and literature. Sylvia Tomasch, English, Hunter College, New York, NY 10021. Phone: (212) 772-5079.

16. *Chaucer's Poetry, Christian Traditions, Late Fourteenth-Century Culture and Modern Criticism.* Session will explore these terms in relation to each other and what kinds of Christianity Chaucer's poetry may negate and sustain. Papers are also invited that address recent attempts to deploy conflicting varieties of feminist criticism in this area. David Aers, English, U of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, England. Fax: (0603) 507728.

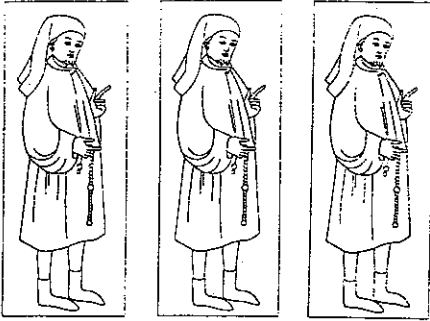
17. *Chaucer and Late Medieval Philosophy.* Alistair Minnis, Centre for Medieval Studies, U of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 2EP England. Fax: (0904) 433372.

18. *Chaucer, Medicine and Gender: the Science of Sexuality in the Later Middle Ages.* Papers on gynecology, medical definitions of gender and the history of sexuality in relation to Chaucer and his contemporaries. Mary Wack, English, Stanford U, Stanford, CA 94305-2087. Fax: (415) 725-7355; E-mail: wack@LeLand.stanford.edu

Until March 15, 1993, inquiries may be sent to Mary Wack, Stanford Center, 65 High Street, Oxford OX1 4EL, England (Fax: (0865) 728782; E-mail: stanfac@vax.oxford.ac.uk), but copies of proposals and papers should be sent to the Stanford, USA address.

19. *Open Topics.* Members whose research is not represented by the paper sessions listed above or the colloquia and special group sessions listed below may submit abstracts or papers for several open sessions. These sessions will be organized as ten-minute paper sessions. Send abstracts or papers to John Ganim, English,

U of California, Riverside, CA 92521 (Phone: (909) 787-2280; Fax: (909) 787-3967; E-mail: ganim@ucrvms or ganim@ucrcl1.ucr.edu), who will forward papers to the organizers.



II. CONCURRENT COLLOQUIA

In order to allow for different kinds of sessions, more discussion, and wider participation, each afternoon, and at least one morning, of the 1994 congress will consist of 2-hour colloquia. The number of panelists may vary from 6 to 10 participants, depending on the topic and format. Colloquia will vary somewhat in format, depending on the topic. In most cases, the format would be that of a series of short position statements by the participants, followed by round-table discussion. Organizers will strive to avoid converting colloquia into paper sessions. Where it is absolutely necessary to have formal speakers assigned in colloquia, speakers will be limited to a 5-minute statement or position paper.

The distribution of papers by panelists ahead of time to the members intending to attend these sessions, either by mail, electronic mail or by packets available at the registration desk of the Congress, is encouraged. Common suggested reading lists, either for panelists, audiences or both, are also encouraged.

Members wishing to participate as panelists should send proposals or descriptions of their research to organizers listed below.

1. *Historicizing Reading Communities.* Historical (including literary) representations of reading and literacy and their functions among different social, regional and professional groups in the later Middle Ages. Rita Copeland,

English, U of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0134. Fax: (612) 624-8228.

2. *Theorizing Reading Communities.* Discussions of theoretical, sociological and historiographic methods as they bear upon literary, cultural and political formations of specific communities and community identities in the later Middle Ages, including such communities as religious women. To be coordinated with "Historicizing Reading Communities," described above. David Lawton, English, U of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart, Tasmania 7001 Australia. Phone: (02) 202348; Fax: (02) 207631.

3. *The Study of Manuscripts and the Study of Chaucer's Poetry.* What the manuscripts of Chaucer tell us that we need to know in reading his poetry. Relation of revision, scribal variation and authorial recomposition. How manuscript study informs issues of intention and the role of author, scribe, book-maker, annotator and reader in the making of meaning. Derek Pearsall, English, Harvard U, 11 Prescott Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Phone: (617) 496-6030; Fax: (617) 496-8737.

4. *Global Chaucer.* A discussion of the issues, problems and advantages involved in Chaucer teaching and research outside of North America and the U.K. How Chaucer is changed by these changed contexts. Erik Hertog, Vestinglaan 46 2860 St. Katelyne-Waver, Belgium. Phone: 32-3-2250640. Fax: 32-3-2313060.

5. *Psychoanalysis and Chaucer: The Next Century.* Relation of recent psychoanalytic theories to historicizing impulses in Chaucer studies. What are the horizons of psychoanalysis, feminism and gender studies and how do they intersect with constructions of identity in Chaucer's world? What are the relations of psychoanalytic discourses and various medieval cultural discourses, such as penitential discourse? R.A. Shoaf, English, U of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2036. Phone: (904) 371-7149; Fax: (904) 374-2473; E-mail: exempLa@nervm.bitnet

6. *Gothic Chaucer and Gothic Music.* A panel discussion of Chaucer's poetry from the perspectives of medieval music. Illustrations of musical ideas and prac-

tices during the Gothic period are encouraged. The colloquium will be coordinated in part with a concert to be scheduled separately. Thomas Campbell, English, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN 47933-0352. Phone: (317) 364-4290; Fax: (317) 364-4295.

7. *The Role of the Parson's Tale.* Brief presentations on a variety of points of view on the *Parson's Tale*, followed by a round-table discussion to include panelists and audience. Linda Holley, English, North Carolina State U, Raleigh, NC, 27695-8105. Phone: (919) 515-4144.

8. *Chaucer and the Fabliau Legacy.* The aims of this colloquium are to present a variety of perspectives on the Old French fabliau and European analogues as genre, discourse and cultural artifact and to assess the nature and import of Chaucer's appropriations or versions of fabliau. R.W. Hanning, English and Comparative Literature, 602 Philosophy Hall, Columbia U, New York, NY 10027. *Note:* submissions to this panel should be blind. Members should include their names and addresses and phone numbers in an attached sealed envelope.

9. *Troilus and Criseyde.* A reconsideration of the questions we have asked about the *Troilus* in the wake of post-modern theory, feminist criticism and theory, and the New Philology. James Dean, English, U of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716. Phone: (302) 292-3657; E-mail: dean@brahms.udel.edu

10. *Teaching Chaucer in the 1990s.* It has been over a decade since the publication of the MLA Volume on "Approaches to Teaching the Canterbury Tales." In that time, the centrality of feminism, New Historicism and critical theory on the one hand and the revision of the canon and the decline of periodization as a structuring principle in the English curriculum have created new problems and opportunities in the teaching of Chaucer. This is a forum to report on and explore these problems and opportunities. Christine Rose, English, Portland State U, Portland, OR 97207-0751. Phone: (503) 725-3504; Fax: (503) 725-4882.



III. SPECIAL GROUP SESSIONS

Special group sessions will be 1-hour seminars devoted either to (a) special topics of teaching and other pedagogical issues, or (b) small group discussions of very narrowly defined, highly technical topics of Chaucerian scholarship. Normally only the organizer and one other person will be listed in the program, and they will be responsible for structuring and leading the discussion on the topic at issue. Members interested in organizing and leading small group discussions described under (b) above should contact John Ganim, English, U of California, Riverside, CA 92521 (Phone: (909) 787-2280; Fax: (909) 787-3967; E-mail: ganim@ucrvms or ganim@ucr.ac1.ucr.edu) as soon as possible. Descriptions of pedagogical sessions follow, and anyone interested in learning more about these sessions may contact the organizers.

1. The Chaucer Syllabus: Practices and Rationales. An exchange of practical information on contemporary Chaucer courses including such issues as specific content, pedagogical strategies, and assignments. Syllabi with brief comments or annotations are particularly welcome. For a copy of the session proposal with suggested points of discussion, contact Julian Wasserman, English, Loyola U, New Orleans, LA 70118. Phone: (504) 865-2277; E-mail: juLian@Loynovm

2. Teaching Chaucer's Other Texts. Focuses on courses in which Chaucer is only one of several units, such as survey courses and humanities courses. How instructors may make use of works other than the Canterbury Tales. Faye Walker-Pelkey, English, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057. Phone: (507) 646-3439.

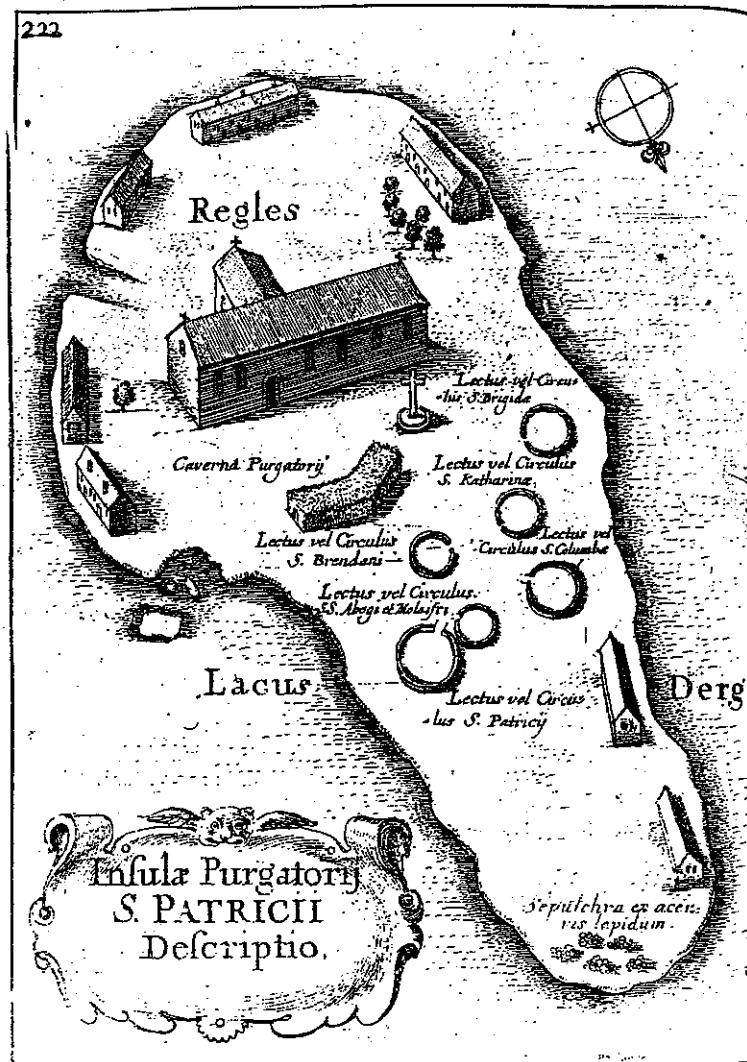
3. Chaucer in the Secondary School. Discussion of how to assist our secondary school colleagues in introducing Chaucer into the new multicultural classroom. How interdisciplinary connections can contribute to that effort. Lillian Bisson, School of Arts and Sciences, Marymount U, Arlington, VA 22207. Phone: (703) 284-1563; Fax: (703) 284-1693.

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Nominations for New Trustees

The Nominating Committee, chaired by David Wallace (U of Minnesota), has submitted its recommendations for new Trustees. The membership must now choose three names from the six listed below to succeed Mary Carruthers, Helen Cooper, and Winthrop Wetherbee, whose terms as Trustees will end with the 1994 Dublin congress. The nominees are John Ganim, Thomas Hahn, Peggy Knapp, A.J. Minnis, Paul Strohm, and Toshiyuki Takamiya.

Ballots containing these names will be mailed to NCS members later this month; the election period will end on April 1, as stipulated in Article VIII of the Constitution.



Map of St. Patrick's Purgatory, from James Ware's *De Hibernica* (1654).

Upcoming Conferences

Fifteenth Century In Minnesota

The Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota will hold a conference entitled "Intersections: History and Literature in the Fifteenth Century" on April 9-11, 1993. Speakers will include Sarah Beckwith ("Ideology and Corporeal Identity in the York Cycle"), Rita Copeland ("William Thorpe: Dissent and the Construction of Identity"), Gail McMurray Gibson ("The Sun and the Moon Shall Not Burn Them": The Churching of Women in Late-Medieval Ritual Theater"), Ralph Hanna ("Brewing Trouble"), Barbara Hanawalt ("The Child of Bristowe and Other Young Paragons of Virtue"), Felicity Heal ("Reciprocity and Exchange in the Fifteenth-Century Household"), Ruth Mazzo Karas ("Two Cultures? Sexual Mores in Theory and Practice"), Seth Lerer ("The Culture of Spectatorship in Late Fifteenth-Century England"), Marjorie McIntosh ("Responses to the Poor and Order in Fifteenth-Century England: Ideas and Actions"), and Miri Rubin ("Images of the Body: Whole and Vulnerable in Late Medieval England").

For more information, write to the Center for Medieval Studies, Walter Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Chaucer in the Twentieth Century

Professor Martin Stevens of the CUNY Graduate School will offer an 8-week NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers on "Chaucer in the Twentieth Century" at Columbia University from June 14 to August 6, 1993. NEH Summer Seminars are limited to 12 participants whose primary duties lie in undergraduate teaching or who are independent scholars. The application deadline is March 1, 1993. The stipend for participation is \$4,000. Housing assistance for those who need it will be provided by Columbia University.

The seminar is designed to provide an intensive re-examination of the Canterbury Tales with two objectives in mind: the first is for the participants to see how, in relation to previous periods of criticism, this century has reinvented the Canterbury Tales to suit the needs and sensibilities of its dominant critical and historical perspectives; the second is to examine a variety of post-modern theoretical approaches to Chaucer's major and culminating narrative poem. The seminar consequently is designed, first, to examine the theoretical and critical base for the study of Chaucer's poetry, and, second, to make accessible for its participants a wide body of diverse, often exciting scholarship with which to re-examine their own theoretical assumptions and critical practices and to see with which approaches to pursue their scholarly research and pedagogy.

For information and an application, write to Professor Martin Stevens, Summer Session, Columbia University, 418 Lewisohn Hall, New York, NY 10027.

Medieval Academy

The 1993 annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America will be held in Tucson, Arizona, April 1-3. It is a joint meeting with the Medieval Association of the Pacific. The University of Arizona is the host institution. The program will include plenary lectures by Sabine McCormack, Barbara Newman, and Philippe Contamine; the presidential address will be given by V.A. Kolve. Also scheduled on the program is a visit to the mission of San Xavier del Bac, the "white dove of the desert." For information, contact the Medieval Academy of America, 1430 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Medieval Irish Settlements

Members planning to attend the 1994 NCS congress in Dublin may wish to note the conference, "Settlement and Society in the Medieval Atlantic Littoral,"

sponsored jointly by Pennsylvania State University, the National Museum of Ireland, and the Shannon Development Corporation. To be held the week of June 20-27, 1993, the international conference focuses on the mercantile centers which arose along the navigable waterways used by the Celtic peoples of Ireland, Britain, and the continent from the time of Roman and Scandinavian settlements through the times of Gaelic and Anglo-Norman control. Attendees will explore these settlements through lectures delivered at Dublin on Scandinavian influence in early Ireland, the Norman settlements in Ireland, the romance of settlement, and the medieval calendar tradition.

In addition to exhibits of Celtic, early Christian, and Viking art and artifacts, and concerts of Irish music in both Limerick and Galway, the conference includes a medieval banquet in Knappogue Castle near Shannon.

For additional information, contact Travel One (Attn: Charlotte Feldman), 157 West Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, PA 19003 (1-800-523-2786).

International Langland Conference

For the first time an international conference, modelled on the Chaucer Society Meetings, is being held on Piers Plowman. It will be at Queens' College Cambridge (U.K.) from July 30 to August 1, 1993. The plenary speakers are Robert Adams, David Aers, Anne Hudson, George Kane, Jill Mann, Anne Middleton, and Derek Pearsall. Discussion groups on such topics as editing, social and political contexts, and literary traditions will each be led by a principal speaker and respondents. Scholars (including graduates, for whom funds might be available) are invited to apply to the organizers, who are John Alford (Michigan State University), Charlotte Brewer (Hertford College, Oxford), James Simpson (Girton College, Cambridge), and Anna Baldwin (149 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DH, U.K.) for details.

Newsletter Submission

The New Chaucer Society accepts both computerized and traditional printed submissions to the *Chaucer Newsletter*. If computerized, the submission must be ASCII text; it must be stored on diskettes using IBM-compatible or Macintosh-compatible diskette formats; either 5.25" or 3.5" diskettes are accepted. Computerized submissions should be accompanied by a copy of the printed text. Please include with any type of submission your address (and E-mail address, if available), phone number, and fax number (if available).

The *Chaucer Newsletter*, distributed twice a year to members of the New Chaucer Society, intended primarily as a vehicle for Society business. Its ephemeral nature makes it unsuitable for substantial articles, but we are happy to publish discussions of research in progress and other activities of interest to Chaucerians. The deadline for the Fall issue is 1 September; for the Spring issue, 1 January. Send materials to Christian Zacher, Editor, at the address given below. You may reach us at the NCS office (614-292-2061) or by fax (614-292-1599).

The New Chaucer Society



The New Chaucer Society

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