



THE CHAUCER NEWSLETTER

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Translating Chaucer into French, a continuation

Emerson Brown's note in the fall '82 *Newsletter* brings to light a somewhat forgotten bright French anglicist and pays tribute to his contribution to knowledge of Chaucer in France (we should add "and French speaking communities"). In fact, the epigraph chosen by Gomont clearly establishes the goal he had set himself:

Chaucer a eu le sort de tous les écrivains qui ont montré du génie dans les premiers temps de la renaissance des lettres. On l'admire et on le loue beaucoup; mais on le lit peu.

(*Bibliographie Universelle*, CHAUCER)

We cannot but thank E. Brown for drawing our attention to Chatelain's forerunner; on the other hand we have to forest his final statement concerning the lack of French translations of Chaucer's works. In fact there is no real gap in the tradition.

The most important landmark is a collective translation of all the *Canterbury Tales*, published at the same time by *La Revue Germanique* (1906-1908) and by Alcan (Paris), under the direction of E. Legouis. The success met by Pasolini's film led *Le Livre de Poche* to publish a new complete translation (J.-P. Foucher, *Les Contes de Cantorbéry*, 1974), partly based on the Alcan. Without trying to be exhaustive in the present notes, we must also mention two line-by-line translations along with the English text (P. Pinsseau, *Les Contes de Canterbury*. Traduction juxtapuée du Prologue, Paris, L. Arnette, 1921, and Delattre/Cazamian/Huchon/Delcourt/Cestre, Chaucer, *Les Contes de Canterbury*, *The Canterbury Tales*: Introduction, General Prologue, Clerk's Tale, Miller's Tale, Nun's Priest's Tale, Paris, 1942); *Le Conte du Meunier* (an adaptation) (Sabine de Bonneval, in H. Bokanowski, *Nouvelles Anglaises*, Paris, Seghers, Marabout, 1963, Collection Melior, pp. 33-41); as well as J.-R. Simon's *Troile et Criseide* (*Troilus and Criseyde*), extraits, presentation, traduction [en alexandrins] et notes, Paris, Aubier Montaigne, Bibliothèque de Philologie germanique, XXIII, 1970, 190 pp.). The first volume was never followed by its companion volume because of the author's untimely death.

My translation (Ghent, Story-Scientia, *Ktemata* 5, 1977, vol. I) is thus definitely not alone. Even if it must be noted that new translations generally come out about every

fifty years, a clear acceleration has been observed during recent years. This is probably to be connected with a new interest in the Middle Ages. I am using "new" here with a double meaning: it is a new phenomenon, but at the same time the approach is new. A study of the aims of my forerunners deserves a long treatment, and would throw much light on the theory of translation. If we leave aside the extremes of free adaptation and philological translation *stricto sensu*, we are confronted mostly with translations aiming at giving their texts a historical dimension. Some translators seem to believe that if they do not give their language an archaic flavour, Chaucer's own style and historical context will be missed. They adopt an artificial dictionary language understandable by educated readers but having nothing in common with Chaucer's own language. They seem to forget that even if Chaucer is not our contemporary, he did have contemporaries and that would reduce the distance between his language and that of his audience.

Of course, Chaucer sometimes deviates from the common idiom. The translator must be aware of it and try to interpret such divergences as well as possible. The different pilgrims obviously use words differently, qualitatively as well as quantitatively. A translator should try to preserve such distinctions, and if a word appears as a neologism or malapropism in Chaucer's text he ought to find some equivalent in French. What is true of a lexicon is also true of diction. It is typical of a certain trend in translation to adopt a grandiloquent tone even for colloquial dialogue. More space would be necessary to give examples, and yet examples would make all this matter much clearer. Let us remember the Reeve's words at the end of his Prologue:

Or donc, messires, dit Oswald l'intendant, je vous demande en grâce à tous qu'il ne vous peine que je réponde et lui baille quelques nasardes; car opposer la force à la force, c'est justice.

(*La Revue Germanique*)

translating

"Now, sires," quod this Osewold the Reve,

"I pray yow alle that ye nat yow greve, Thogh I answeve, and somedeel sette his howve;

For leveful is with force force of-showve."

(Robinson I. 3909-12)

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1984 Congress

The outstanding program for the NCS Congress next summer is printed in this issue. The final program, containing information about housing, will be mailed to members along with registration material in January.

A special volume of *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* is planned to publish selected papers from the Congress. Participants are urged to send their papers to the Chair of the Program Committee, Paul Strohm, or to the Director, John Fisher. Members may subscribe for the volume at a reduced price at the time of registration.

Much credit is due for assembling such an interesting program to the Program Committee, Paul Strohm (chair), Florence Ridley, and Derek Pearsall.

Paul Strohm reports: "Serving on the Program Committee has been an exhilarating experience. People responded early and energetically to our initial invitation to propose entire sessions, or at least clusters of related papers, rather than separate papers. In fact, we received roughly twice as many session proposals as we could accommodate; and had to turn some excellent ones down. But the happy result is that the fifteen scheduled sessions will have a high degree of internal focus on particular issues.

"Our regular sessions will conclude at 4:00 or 4:30 each afternoon. After some discussion, we have chosen 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on Wednesday and Friday as the best times for the principal occasions of the Congress, the Biennial Lecture and the Presidential Address. To supplement our daytime sessions, the Committee has also planned several optional evening events which will be available without charge to members and friends of the Society. Christopher Page will direct a program of Medieval Music on Tuesday evening, Wolfgang Iser will lecture on a theoretical issue of importance to Chaucerians on Wednesday evening, and Terry Jones will present a slide lecture on Chaucer's Knight on Thursday evening. We believe that these events—as well as the Thursday tour of Yorkshire Abbeys—will richly augment our other sessions.

"The program is truly 'international' in scope. The affiliations of our 90 participants well represent the breadth of Chaucer studies: 42 US, 32 UK, 5 Canada, 3 Germany, 2 Australia, 2 Italy, 1 Belgium, 1 France, 1 Ireland, 1 New Zealand."

The New Chaucer Society
Fourth International Congress
6-11 August 1984
The University of York

Monday, 6 August

- 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration
 6:00 p.m. Reception
 7:00 p.m. Dinner
 8:30 p.m. Welcoming Session (Lyons Concert Hall)

Tuesday, 7 August

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
 8:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. PLENARY SESSION I
 CHAUCER AT WORK, chaired by A.J. Minnis (University of Bristol)
 A.J. Minnis, "The Past a Poet Makes: Chaucer's Gentle Gentiles in *The Franklin's Tale*"
 Alfred David (Indiana University), "Recycling *Anelida and Arcite*: Chaucer as a Source for Chaucer"
 Barry Windeatt (Cambridge University), "Chaucer at Work in the *Troilus*"
 Charlotte Morse (Virginia Commonwealth University), discussant
 Derek Pearsall (University of York), discussant
 10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Coffee
 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS 1, 2, 3, 4
1. CHAUCER AND THE CONTINENT: FRANCE, chaired by Piero Boitani (University of Perugia)
 Charles Muscatine (University of California, Berkeley), Introduction to sessions 1 and 5
 A. Crépin (Amiens), "French Rhymes and Chaucer's Wit"
 James Wimsatt (University of Texas), "Froissart, Chaucer, and the Pastourelles of the Pennsylvania Manuscript"
 J.O. Fichte (University of Tübingen), "Chaucerian Parody of the Love Complaint"
 David Wallace (Cambridge University), "Chaucer: Avignon and Naples"
 2. CHAUCER AND HIS SOURCES, chaired by John J. McGavin (Southampton University)
 Peter W. Travis (Dartmouth College), "The Education of Chauntecleer; or, *The Nun's Priest's Tale* as Grammar-School Primer"
 Bella Millett (Southampton University), "For as myn auctour seyde, so sey I': Chaucer and 'Lollius'"
 The papers will be followed by a general discussion
 3. SEX AND GENDER IN AND AROUND CHAUCER'S WORK, chaired by Sheila Delany (Simon Fraser University)
 Richard F. Green (University of Western Ontario), "Chaucer and the Craft of Love"
 Jill Mann (Girton College, Cambridge), "Chaucer's Concept of 'Wommanly Pitee'"
 Louise O. Fradenburg (Dartmouth College), "The Wife of Bath and Errant Textuality"
 Sheila Delany, "Obscenity as Rhetorical Tactic in the Legends of Good Women"
 4. THE BOOK OF THE DUCHESS, chaired by A.C. Spearing (Queens' College, Cambridge)
 Paula Neuss (Birkbeck College, London), "'For y am sorwe,

- and sorwe ys y': Reversal in *The Book of the Duchess*"
 Helen Phillips (University of Lancaster), "*The Book of the Duchess*: Metre and Punctuation"
 A.C. Spearing, "Literal and Figurative in *The Book of the Duchess*"
 Anna Baldwin (University of York), discussant
 Gregory Roscow (University of Keele), discussant
 12:30 p.m. Lunch
 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS 5, 6, 7, 8
5. CHAUCER AND THE CONTINENT: ITALY, chaired by Piero Boitani
 Howard Schless (Columbia University), "Chaucer and the Assumption of Dante"
 Nicholas Havely (University of York), "Filostrato, Troilus, and Dante"
 E. Giaccherini (Pisa), "Chaucer, Boccaccio, and the Fabiliaux"
 Piero Boitani and Charles Muscatine, Discussion of sessions 1 and 5
 6. EDITING CHAUCER, chaired by A.S.G. Edwards (University of Victoria)
 Jeremy Griffiths (St. John's College, Oxford), *The Canterbury Tales*
 Ralph Hanna (University of California, Riverside), The Minor Poems
 Jennifer Fellowes (Cambridge), *The Parliament of Fowles*
 N.F. Blake (University of Sheffield), discussant
 7. CHAUCER AND MEDICINE, chaired by Lorraine Y. Baird (Youngstown State University)
 Vern Bullough (State University College, Buffalo), "Chaucer, Sex, and Medicine"
 C.H. Talbot (Wellcome Institute, London), 'Nercotikes and opie of Thebes fyn': Did Palamon Use *Dwale*?'
 Ynez Violé O'Neill (University of California, Los Angeles), "The Influence of Italian Surgery on Chaucer's Descriptions"
 Laurel Braswell (McMaster University), "The Moon and Medicine in Chaucer's Time"
 Beryl Rowland (York University, Toronto), "Chaucer and Clinical Description"
 8. THE CANTERBURY TALES: THE DRAMATIC THEORY RECONSIDERED, chaired by C. David Benson (University of Connecticut)
 C. David Benson, "The Limitations of the Dramatic Theory"
 John M. Fyler (Tufts University), "Surrogates and Doubles in *The Canterbury Tales*"
 H. Marshall Leicester, Jr. (University of California, Santa Cruz), "Chaucer's Subject, or What the *Canterbury Tales* is About"
 Robert W. Hanning (Columbia University), discussant
 David Lawton (University of Sydney), discussant
 6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
 7:00 p.m. Dinner
 8:30 p.m. MUSICAL PROGRAM: Christopher page and the "Gothic Voices"

Wednesday, 8 August

- 9:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. PLENARY SESSION II
THEORIZING HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP, chaired by Lee Patterson (Johns Hopkins University)
Lee Patterson, "The Problematics of Historical Criticism"
J.A. Burrow (University of Bristol), "Re-constructing Sir *Thopas*"
David Aers (University of East Anglia), "Political Engagement in Historical Criticism"
- 10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Coffee
- 11:00 a.m. BIENNIAL CHAUCER LECTURE
Larry D. Benson (Harvard University), "The Quaint Puns of Chaucer's Critics"
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. CONCURRENT PAPER SESSION 9, 10, 11, 12
9. CHAUCER AND CHAUCER CONTEMPORARIES, chaired by Florence Ridley (University of California, Los Angeles)
Florence Ridley, "Chaucer and Chaucerians: Defining Dunbar"
Elizabeth Kirk (Brown University), William Langland
A.S.G. Edwards (University of Victoria), John Lydgate
Robert Yeager (Warren Wilson College), "*Pax Poetica*: The Pacifism of Chaucer and Gower"
Anne Hudson (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford), discussant
10. MANUSCRIPT ILLUSTRATION, chaired by Kay Gilliland Stevenson (University of Essex)
Lesley Lawton (Sudbury Upper School), "Illustrations of Chaucer"
Kate Harris (New Hall, Cambridge), "An Occasion for Illustration: Morgan 126"
Julia Bolton Holloway (Institute for Advanced Study, University of Colorado), "Aspects of Pilgrimage in the Ellesmere Portraits"
V.A. Kolve (University of Virginia), "Chaucer's Wheel of False Religion: Iconography in *The Summoner's Tale*"
Donald K. Fry (State University of New York, Stony Brook), discussant
11. CHAUCER AND SCIENCE, chaired by Linda Ehram Voigts (University of Missouri-Kansas City)
Klaus Bitterling (Free University of Berlin), "Chaucer and the Language of Science"
Joseph E. Grennen (Fordham University), "Chaucerian Science Defined and Applied: *The Book of the Duchess* as Exemplar"
Peter Brown (University of Kent at Canterbury), "An Optical Theme in *The Merchant's Tale*"
Sigmund Eisner (University of Arizona), "Chaucer's Experiments in the *Treatise on the Astrolabe*"
A panel discussion will follow, involving: Lister Matheson (*MED*, University of Michigan), James Rhodes (Southern Connecticut State University), Linda Tarte Holley (North Carolina State University), and John Reidy (*MED*, University of Michigan)
(Note: Presentations will be confined to short summaries of papers. Copies of papers will be available from Professor Voigts after May 1, 1984.)
12. RHETORICAL THEORY AND CHAUCERIAN NARRATIVE, chaired by Robert M. Jordan (University of British Columbia)
Glending Olson (Cleveland State University), "Rhetorical Circumstances and the Canterbury Storytelling"
Stephen Knight (University of Sydney), "Rhetoric and Cash: The Socio-economic Progress of Chaucer's Pardoner"
Robert M. Jordan, "Vision, Pilgrimage, and Rhetorical Composition"
Denis Walker (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) "Contentio: The Structural Paradigm of *The Parliament of Fowls*"

- John H. Fisher (University of Tennessee), discussant
6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:30 p.m. FEIGNING IN FICTION: A lecture by Wolfgang Iser (University of Constance)

Thursday, 9 August

- 9:00 a.m. YORKSHIRE ABBEYS. A day-long bus tour, with lunch included. Guides to sites in York provided for those who choose not to go on the tour.
- 6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:30 p.m. CHAUCER'S KNIGHT. A slide presentation by Terry Jones
A meeting of those interested in the Chaucer Bibliography will also be held at this time, to be convened by Lorraine Baird and A.J. Colaianne. Other collateral meetings may be subsequently announced.

Friday, 10 August

- 9:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. PLENARY SESSION III
CHAUCER AND CHIVALRY, chaired by Anne Middleton (University of California, Berkeley)
Anne Middleton, "Chivalry and Marriage in Chaucer"
J. Anthony Tuck (University of Durham), "Carthusian Monks and Lollard Knights: Religious Ideas at the Court of Richard II"
Laura Kendrick (Rutgers University), "Fame's Fabrication"
Terry Jones (London), discussant
- 10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Coffee
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Derek Brewer (Emmanuel College, Cambridge), "The Reconstruction of Chaucer"
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. DIRECTIONS IN CHAUCER SCHOLARSHIP
1. WORK IN PROGRESS: BRIEF REPORTS, chaired by Charles Muscatine (University of California, Berkeley)
Robert E. Lewis (University of Michigan), "The *MED*: Present and Future"
Jane Chance (Rice University), "Chaucer and Mythography"
V.J. Scattergood (University of Dublin), "Political and Social Issues in Chaucer"
David Burnley (University of Sheffield) "Chaucer through his Language"
Betsy Bowden (Rutgers University, Camden), "The Chaucer Tapes"
Judson B. Allen (University of Florida), "Reading and Looking Things Up in Chaucer's Time"
Traugott Lawler (Yale University), "Jankyn's Book of Wikked Wyves"
Juliette de Caluwé-Dor (University of Liège), "Chaucer's French Loan-Words and the Use of French in Fourteenth-Century England"

(Coffee, 3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.)

2. DIRECTIONS IN CHAUCER SCHOLARSHIP: A PANEL DISCUSSION, chaired by Charles Muscatine, joined by:
Janet Coleman (Exeter University)
Susan Dannenbaum (Rutgers University)
Roy J. Percy (University of Oklahoma)
- 6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. BANQUET

Saturday, 11 August

- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting

Constitution of The New Chaucer Society

The revised constitution was approved by the Board of Trustees 28 May 1983. Members will be asked to vote on the constitution on their election ballots, which will be circulated in the spring of 1984.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND LOCATION

The name of the corporation is "The New Chaucer Society," hereafter referred to as "the Society." The principal office of the corporation shall be located at a place determined by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS

"Society" shall mean and refer to The New Chaucer Society, its successors and assigns, "Member" shall mean and refer to those persons who pay dues to the Society. Honorary Members are excused from such payment.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSES

The purposes of the Society shall be:

- a. to promote interest in Chaucer and to advance Chaucer studies.
- b. to make accessible to all Members by means of publications approved by the Society, information of common interest, especially concerning the teaching of and research in Chaucer.
- c. to hold international congresses and other meetings for the purpose of exchanging ideas and techniques pertinent to the proper study of Chaucer and his times.
- d. to promote the publication of research and texts in Chaucer and related fields.
- e. to promote the teaching of Chaucer and related areas at all appropriate levels of education.
- f. to sponsor long-range projects of importance to Chaucerian scholarship.
- g. to operate and maintain the Society exclusively for educational purposes. None of its Members shall enjoy any pecuniary profits from its operation.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

As defined in Article II, and upon application to the office of the Executive Director, membership is open to all concerned with the study of Chaucer and of related topics. In addition, the Board of Trustees shall have the power to elect honorary Members whose work relates to Chaucer studies.

Each member in good standing shall have the right to cast a vote in open meetings, elections, and other activities of the Society when a vote of the membership is called.

Dues to the Society shall be paid on or before 1 October of the preceding membership year. However, dues may be paid for a longer period. A member in default of dues two (2) months after second billing of dues has been mailed shall forfeit membership.

The dues shall be established by the Board

of Trustees as recommended by the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees may in certain circumstances reduce or waive dues.

Members who have retired from their institutional appointments, provided that they have been Members of the Society for a five-year period, shall, on application, pay one-half the regular dues.

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, shall have the power to determine whether libraries, affiliated associations, and centers should be required to pay an annual subscription fee, and if so, to fix the amount.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

An international congress of the Society shall be held at intervals of two (2) years in a place to be recommended to the Board of Trustees by the Executive Director. Each congress shall be devoted to the study of Chaucer and related topics.

Written notice of each biennial congress shall be given by, or at the direction of, the Executive Director, by mailing or publishing a copy of such notice, postage prepaid, at least sixty (60) days before the meeting to each Member in good standing, addressed to the Members' address last recorded in the office of the Society or supplied by such Member to the Society for the purpose of notice.

Only Members of the Society shall have the right to propose papers to the Congress Program Committee for its consideration. Other persons may attend a congress subject to the payment of a registration fee or by invitation within the limits of the accommodations available and other considerations.

Each international congress shall include a business meeting, at which the Executive Director shall report to the Members on the administrative and financial affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE VI: RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The voting of the Society shall be conducted through written mail ballot. All Members in good standing may vote by mail ballot on such issues as shall arise for the consideration of and presentation to the membership. Such ballots shall be prepared, mailed, and tabulated by the Executive Director in accordance with instructions from the Board of Trustees.

Resolutions, if approved by the Resolutions Committee, must be submitted by the Resolutions Committee to a mail ballot of the

Members six (6) weeks before the biennial meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director shall report the results of all mail ballots at the biennial business meeting.

All resolutions must directly uphold the purposes of the Society. The Resolutions Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Trustees, and include two (2) or more other Members of the Society. The Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Society and shall serve for not more than two (2) years. The Committee may transact its business by mail and telephone if necessary.

ARTICLE VII: TRUSTEES

The Society shall be managed by seven (7) Trustees elected by the membership, and two (2) Officers: a President elected by the Trustees, and an Executive Director appointed by the Trustees. These nine (9) Officers and Trustees shall constitute the Board of Trustees, with one (1) vote apiece. Insofar as possible, the composition of the Board of Trustees should reflect the international character of Chaucerian studies and the variety of the membership of the Society.

The Trustees shall be elected biennially by the membership for staggered terms of four (4) years extending from the end of one biennial congress through the end of the second (four years later) after their election.

The President shall be elected by a majority (at least 5) of the Trustees to serve for two (2) years, from the end of one biennial congress through the end of the following congress (two years later).

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President and Trustees to serve for a term of six (6) years.

The President and the Trustees shall not normally succeed themselves without the lapse of one (1) term between elections. The Executive Director may be appointed for two (2) successive terms.

All Officers and Trustees must be Members of the Society at the time of election or appointment.

In the event of the resignation or death of the President, the Executive Director, or a Trustee, a successor shall be selected by the Board of Trustees to serve for the unexpired term.

The President and Trustees shall receive no compensation for their service to the Society. However, they may be compensated for expenses incurred in connection with such service. The Executive Director may receive

compensation as determined by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VIII: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall be elected in alternating groups of three (3) and four (4) in the years of the biennial congresses. Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee chaired by a member of the Board of Trustees and including four (4) other Members of the Society—a total of five (5). The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President to serve for two (2) years between one biennial congress and the next.

Nominees to the Board of Trustees must be Members of the Society at the time of nomination. The Nominating Committee shall place upon the ballot names equal to at least twice the number of Trustee positions subject to election.

Nominations may also be made by written petition from at least ten (10) Members to the Executive Director. A call for nominations shall be published in the Society newsletter in the fall preceding the election. Nominations by petition shall be placed on the ballot automatically unless the Nominating Committee finds a constitutional reason for disqualification. Nominations by petition must reach the Executive Director by 1 January, one (1) month prior to the beginning of the election period. Normally ballots will be mailed to the membership in February and the election period will end 1 April.

Voting will be by signed ballot, with the Executive Director tallying the votes. The ballot shall consist of nominations made by the Nominating Committee plus nominations made by written petition, all arranged in alphabetical order. The candidates with the largest numbers of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of tie votes, the election shall be decided by the Board of Trustees. All ballots shall be kept on file for one (1) year.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

Meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at least biennially in conjunction with the biennial congress.

Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the President, by the Executive Director, or by a majority (at least 4) of the elected Trustees.

The Executive Director shall inform the Officers and Trustees of the time and place of any meeting in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.

Five (5) of the nine (9) Officers and Trustees shall constitute a quorum at a called meeting. Action by the majority of Trustees at a called meeting shall be regarded as action by the entire Board.

The Executive Director may act between meetings of the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Society. On matters affecting policy or finance, the Executive Director shall consult with the President and the Trustees by mail or by telephone. Any action approved in writing by a majority (at least 5) of the nine (9) Officers and Trustees shall have the same

effect as though taken at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE X: DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall have the authority to:

- a. adopt and publish rules and regulations governing the Society.
- b. exercise for the Society all powers, duties, and authority vested in or delegated to this Society and not reserved to the membership by other provisions of this Constitution, or Articles of Incorporation.
- c. designate an annual stipend for the Executive Director.
- d. appoint a Program Committee (with the Executive Director and the President as *ex officio* members) to design and arrange the program for each international congress.
- e. choose the Biennial Chaucer Lecturer.
- f. employ a manager, an independent contractor, or such other employees as they deem necessary, and prescribe their duties.

The Board of Trustees shall have the duty to:

- a. cause to be kept a complete record of all its actions and corporate affairs and to present a statement thereof to the Members when such a statement is requested in writing by one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the Members who are entitled to vote.
- b. supervise all officers, agents, and employees of the Society, and to see that their duties are properly performed.
- c. require from the Executive Director an annual budget and an annual report on fiscal income and expenditures for that year, to be submitted to the Board at appropriate dates.

ARTICLE XI: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The President shall have the duty to:

- a. preside at meetings of the Board of Trustees and at meetings of the membership. In the President's absence, such meetings shall be chaired by the Executive Director.
- b. serve as an *ex officio* member of the Program Committee for the biennial international congress.
- c. appoint, with the advice of the Trustees, all committees necessary to carry out the purposes of the Society.
- d. chair and appoint the Search Committee to nominate the Executive Director when the occasion arises.

The Executive Director shall have the duty to:

- a. prepare the agenda for meetings of the Board of Trustees and of the membership.
- b. cause to be recorded and implemented the actions from such meetings.
- c. give notice of meetings of the Board of Trustees, the biennial congresses,

- d. and of meetings of the membership. maintain records of current addresses and dues payments by Members, and be responsible for mailing to the Members their publications and other materials.
- e. be responsible for organizing the international biennial congresses and other meetings of the Board of Trustees and the membership.
- f. serve as Treasurer and receive and deposit the monies of the Society, pay bills, and keep proper accounts. The books of the Society shall be audited by a committee appointed by the President, consisting of one (1) Trustee and one (1) other person, at the end of each fiscal year, and the report submitted to the Board of Trustees.
- g. submit an annual budget and an annual financial report of income and expenditures to the Board of Trustees.
- h. make reports to the Internal Revenue Service and handle all of the other business affairs of the Society.
- i. serve as an *ex officio* member of the Program Committee for the biennial international congress.

With the approval of the Trustees, the Executive Director may arrange for such assistance as may be necessary to conduct the business of the Society.

ARTICLE XII: PUBLICATIONS

The Society shall publish regularly a scholarly publication and newsletter. The form of these two publications shall be proposed by the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Trustees. These two publications shall be sent to all Members. In addition, the Trustees may from time to time authorize special publications by the Society. Editors for all Society publications shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Editors shall be responsible for content and editorial control; the Executive Director shall be responsible for manufacture and distribution.

ARTICLE XIII: INSPECTION OF RECORDS

The books, records, and papers of the Society shall at all times during reasonable business hours be subject to inspection by any Member upon petition to and approval by the Board of Trustees. The Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution of the Society shall be available for inspection by any Member of the Society. The Executive Director shall print the entire Constitution in one of the Society's publications at least once every four years.

ARTICLE XIV: TERMINATION

If for any reason the New Chaucer Society is terminated, the existing assets of the Society shall pass to the Medieval Academy of America after the satisfaction of all existing indebtedness.

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ARTICLE XV: INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES

The Board of Trustees may appoint International Secretaries to assist in the purposes and efforts of the Society. Each country is entitled to one (1) such Secretary, who should be chosen from among outstanding Chaucerians in that nation. International Secretaries shall be Members of the Society, shall serve for a four (4) year term, and may succeed themselves. International Secretaries will assist in recruiting new Members, encourage library subscriptions for Society publications, advise on publications and congresses, communicate information to and from the Society, and perform other functions deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XVI: SPONSORED PROJECTS

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Society may sponsor or co-sponsor projects, such as publications, travel, special purchases, etc., so long as such projects directly uphold the purposes of the Society.

ARTICLE XVII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Constitutional amendments may be proposed to the Board of Trustees by written petition from any Member of the Society. If the Board of Trustees approves such an amendment, it shall direct the Executive Director to submit it to the Membership in a mail ballot. A simple majority of the Members submitting votes shall constitute approval.

Actions of the Trustees of the New Chaucer Society Meeting of 27-29 May 1983, Knoxville, Tennessee

Present: *President* Derek Brewer; *Trustees* Robert W. Frank, Donald K. Fry, Donald R. Howard, Derek Pearsall, Florence Ridley, Chauncey Wood; *Director* John H. Fisher; *International Secretaries* Juliette De Caluwé, Tadahiro Ikegami, Beryl Rowland; *1984 Program Chair* Paul Strohm; *Editor SAC* Thomas J. Heffernan; *Bibliographer* Lorraine Baird; *Secretary for Membership and Finance* Jane L. Fisher; *Observer* Joseph Trahern.

Absent: *Trustee* Paul Ruggiers; *International Secretaries* K. H. Göller, Stephen Knight, Barry Windeatt.

- 1) *1984 Congress Report* The Trustees approved the program for the 1984 Congress at York as presented by Paul Strohm, Derek Pearsall, Florence Ridley, and John Fisher.
- 2) *Proceedings volume* The Trustees authorized a supplementary volume of *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* for 1985 to publish selected papers of the York congress. This supplement will be made available to registrants and members at graded prices.
- 3) *Site of the 1986 Congress* The Director was instructed to explore the possibility of meeting in early April 1986 in an east coast city in the United States. [It has subsequently been determined that the 1986

Nominations by Petition for Trustees 1986-90

Your attention is invited to Article VIII of the Constitution printed in this issue. At the end of the 1984 Congress the term on the NCS Board of Trustees of Robert Frank, Donald Fry, Donald Howard, and Paul Ruggiers will come to an end. Derek Pearsall, Florence Ridley, and Chauncey Wood will continue to serve until the end of the 1986 Congress.

The 1984 Nominating Committee (Chair, Florence Ridley, John Fleming, V.A. Kolve, Anne Middleton, James Wimsatt) will submit eight nominations for the four 1984 vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Nominations may also be made by written petition. Read Article VIII carefully. Nominations signed by ten members should be mailed to the Executive Director (John H. Fisher, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37996) before 1 January 1984. Assurance must be provided by nominees that they are willing to serve. Both nominees and signees must be members of the NCS in good standing. Nominations by petition will be put on the ballot in addition to nominations by the Nominating Committee.

Congress will be held in the Philadelphia Hilton Hotel, on the University of Pennsylvania campus, 20-22 March 1986.]

- 4) *Approval of the Constitution* The NCS constitution was approved as revised. The revised version will be submitted to a mail ballot of the membership in the spring of 1984.
- 5) *Editorial Policies* Reports by Thomas Heffernan on *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* and Lorraine Baird on the Annual Bibliography were received and discussed. Professors Baird and Heffernan were commended for their efforts.
- 6) *Special Projects* Sponsorship of the Variorum Chaucer was reconfirmed. The Trustees voted approval in principle of the bibliographical data base being proposed by A. J. Colaianne and R. M. Piersol. The Director was instructed to negotiate with them further about possible coordination of this activity with the NCS Annual Bibliography. The Trustees voted that the directors of sponsored projects be asked to provide progress reports for the biennial Trustees' meetings.
- 7) *Appointments and Elections* Beryl Rowland was elected NCS president, to succeed Derek Brewer at the end of the 1984 York Congress. Florence Ridley was appointed chair of the 1984 Nominating Committee to provide a slate of candidates for the four vacancies on the Board of Trustees that will occur in 1984. Nominations by petition will be invited in the October Newsletter. Donald Fry was appointed chair of the 1984 Resolutions Committee.

The Chaucer Bibliographies and the Chaucer Data Base

A book review caught my notice recently, solely on the strength of its opening sentence: "Bibliographies are literary junk-yards."¹ The comparison is apt, and its author goes on to add two important points. First, no matter what we call bibliographies, we cannot ignore them: "They invariably contain some rare and valuable things." At the same time, however, such treasures typically "have to be dug out of a mass of detritus." Such comments raise precisely the issues Tony Colaianne and I have been grappling with as General Editors of the *Chaucer Bibliographies*.

The *Chaucer Bibliographies* involve some twenty scholars in the production of annotated bibliographies of twentieth-century Chaucer scholarship.² Project contributors are at work on a series of fascicles which cover scholarship on specific works by Chaucer as well as topics central to the modern study of Chaucer's art (e.g., Chaucer and Rhetoric, Chaucer and the Visual Arts). During the past eighteen months we have been exploring ways of using even more productively the wealth of bibliographical information the project is beginning to generate. We decided in 1982 to incorporate into our editorial procedures a computerized storage and retrieval system, adapted from the data base developed by John B. Smith and Harrison Meserole for the *World Shakespeare Bibliography*. While this decision presents a whole range of technical challenges from which we were once happily immune, the undertaking promises in time to ease the burden of Chaucerians who must dig deep in-

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- 8) *Next Trustees Meeting* The NCS Trustees will next meet 4-5 August 1984, in York, immediately preceding the 1984 Congress.
 - 9) *Finance and Administration* The financial report of Jane Fisher was accepted as audited by Donald Fry and Joseph Trahern. In the interests of administrative efficiency and control the director was instructed to secure from Oklahoma all NCS financial and legal records and to request assurance that no further business will be transacted at Oklahoma in the name of the New Chaucer Society. NCS regular dues and library orders were increased to \$30, beginning in 1984. Student dues, available for two years, remain at \$15.

Jane L. Fisher was approved as Secretary for Membership and Finance. The meeting noted that NCS finances do not, as yet, make it possible to pay for NCS administration and expressed appreciation to John and Jane Fisher and to the English Department of the University of Tennessee for their support in the general administration of the New Chaucer Society and for their assistance in making this three-day meeting so pleasant and so productive.

Chaucer Data Base *Continued*

to the ever-accumulating mass of Chaucer research in order to discover those "rare and valuable things" for which scholars are always searching.

Any item, whether it be a bibliographical citation or a car headlamp, is "junk" only until someone finds a use for it. One of the most important features of the *Chaucer Bibliographies* is the annotation which contributors are providing for each entry, and the only reason for this policy is to enable users to determine whether a given item is worth consulting—whether, in effect, it is likely to be of any use.³ Once the data base becomes a working component of the *Bibliographies* (within the next few months), we expect that researchers will be able to work their way with even greater assurance and profit through this most intriguing of literary "junk-yards."

The immediate difference is likely to appear in the published fascicles themselves. Fascicles produced with the aid of programs in the computer system will embody the highly detailed indexing capacities of the system—a benefit to be gained from the system itself and not at the expense of additional labor by individual contributors.

From a broader perspective, we see much potential in a growing "master file" of Chaucer bibliography. While it is a matter of record that the costs of computer-assisted publication are significantly lower than those of conventional typesetting, there is no doubt that the cost will be a major factor in deciding how to build and maintain a storage system for thousands of bibliographical records. Nevertheless, the outlook is promising. For example, the annotations for the *Chaucer Bibliography* fascicles now in preparation will almost certainly be too expensive to hold indefinitely in a constantly expanding data base. But it would be a simple procedure to eliminate the annotations from computer records once a given fascicle has been processed and published, while retaining the rest of each record—complete with extensive cross-references and index terms—in the data base. Plans are also actively underway to use the system in processing materials for the Annual Bibliography of *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, beginning with volume 7 in 1985. This cooperative effort is based, again, on assumptions about the economy and efficiency of the systems at the editorial and formatting stages.

The development of a Chaucer Data Base suggests other possibilities, too, which can be followed up in response to the needs of Chaucerians in future years. To mention two ideas of possible interest: a volume of indexes cross-referenced among all fascicles of the completed series of *Chaucer Bibliographies*; a one-volume enumerative bibliography of modern Chaucer scholarship, unannotated but fully indexed and cross-referenced, following the data base taxonomy rather than the arrangement of materials in individual *Bibliographies* fascicles.

In the midst of such speculation, it helps

Translating Chaucer *Continued*

I cannot but agree with J.-P. Foucher's statement concerning the edition published by *La Revue Germanique/Alcan*; according to him it is "de lecture difficile sinon décourageante" (p. 6). The reading of Foucher's version is definitely less difficult and it is even possible to take pleasure in it if one does not know anything of Chaucer's text. Foucher does not play his translator's part fairly. What he entitles "une traduction" is not an adaptation, but is not a translation either. When—I am tempted to say whenever—he encounters a problem he simply avoids it through a literary side-step. Besides, he often drops lines or words. It is thus hard to find connexion between his French and the English. His translation of the Reeve's words is:

Or donc, messires, dit Oswald, l'intendant, je vais régler son affaire à cet ivrogne de meunier qui nous a conté comment fut roulé le charpentier.

(*Le Livre de Poche*, p. 133)

I started my own translation of the *Canterbury Tales* since because of the nature of the translation given by *Le Livre de Poche* there is no reliable French translation now available. This makes E. Brown's statement that there is no French translation ultimately true. My view was repeatedly confirmed by other people; all of them thought it strange that they could not buy any decent translation of Chaucer's best known work in French. The reviews of my first volume confirm my belief that such a work is needed.

My double experience of the difficulties met by French-speaking students and by French specialists in other fields, when they are confronted with Chaucer's texts, made me adopt a basically philological method, a line-by-line prose translation meant to be used in conjunction with Robinson 2 (Fisher's edition was not

to remember that bibliographers do something fundamentally different from the work of scholars and critics. Bibliographers identify and describe, as comprehensively and accurately as possible, the available materials in a field of study. It is up to the users of the resulting bibliographies to make judgments about the materials—to distinguish, in light of their particular needs, the "junk" from the treasures.

R.M. Piersol
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Notes

¹William Thomas, review of *Bibliography of Works on John Stuart Mill*, by Michael Laine, *TLS*, 15 April 1983, p. 387.

²The first volume of the series is Russell Peck, *Chaucer's Lyrics and Anelida and Arcite: An Annotated Bibliography, 1900-1980*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1983.

³On annotated bibliography, see A.J. Colaianne, "The Aims and Methods of Annotated Bibliography," *Scholarly Publishing*, 11 (1980), 321-31.

Resolutions

Your attention is called to Article VI of the Constitution printed in this issue. The 1984 Resolutions Committee is composed of Donald Fry, ch., Sigmund Eisner, and Russell Peck. Mr. Fry has requested that resolutions reach him by 15 December (English Department, SUNY, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794), so that if necessary he can call the Committee together at MLA.

available when I started). *Traduttore, Traditore*. It is impossible to superimpose two ultimately different texts with exact precision. I had to deliberately sacrifice various aspects of Chaucer's style (rhythm, rhymes, . . .) in order to concentrate on the meaning. But this choice did not always provide clear-cut solutions. The major problems were the puns—overt, but also covert!—*double entendre*, and different cultural connotations. But Chaucer's English being often closer to French than to present day English (a.o., his vocabulary and sentence structure), in some cases I felt my task far lighter than if I had had to translate into English. In inextricable situations, I explained my unfaithful translations by explanatory footnotes. I hope to convince the editor of my following volumes that such notes are central. My other ambition is to discover style and words parallel to Chaucer's and to restore Chaucer's various levels of diction.

It is impossible not to feel both encouraged and frightened by one's predecessors' shortcomings. If it is comparatively easy to avoid falling into the same traps, it is quite difficult not to reflect the judgments of contemporary criticism. How will the following generation judge all this?¹

¹To be continued! Much more space would be necessary to analyze my method. I hope to deal with all this at greater length another time.

Juliette De Caluwé-Dor
University of Liège

Fourth Biennial New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The conference will be held 9-10 March 1984 at New College in Sarasota, Florida. Proposals for papers (one-page abstracts) should be sent by 1 December 1983 to Lee D. Snyder, Program in Medieval-Renaissance Studies, New College, Sarasota, Florida, 33580. The period covered by the conference is 1000-1600. Special interests are urban studies, courtly culture, and the drama, in Europe and the Mediterranean basin. There is a contest for the best undergraduate paper submitted. These papers must be submitted by 1 February; those interested should write to Mr. Snyder for information.

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