

# THE NEW CHAUCER SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

NCS mid-year 2024 (41.1)

[newchaucersociety.org](http://newchaucersociety.org)

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is now only about six weeks before many of us will meet in Pasadena for our Biennial Congress. This is always a very intense period of work for our Society. Our program committee and our local arrangement committee are working hard to ensure everything goes smoothly, paying attention to tiny details, and trying to anticipate problems before they arise. Congress delegates are anxiously writing papers (or putting off writing them till next month); making travel plans; looking forward to catching up with friends; worrying about the expense of travel or child-care arrangements while they are away from home; worrying about what to wear and how to pack; and all the other joys and tribulations of academic life. Many of us, too, will be experiencing the sadness and frustration of not being able to travel to California; or in my own case, at least, thinking about all the things we haven't done since the last Congress.

I think many members of NCS take pride in thinking of our Congress as a relatively friendly and welcoming meeting. At the same time, we are all aware that such meetings often fall short of the Platonic ideal where ideas, theories, readings, and a love of our material might be shared in a sequence of democratic and generous exchanges, free from anxiety about the way we perform for each other and the ways we might enhance or diminish our place in the field. In a shrinking humanities sector, it's not possible to set aside our professional anxieties, whether these are individual concerns about our place in a highly competitive sector, or structural concerns about the future of Chaucer and medieval studies.

The Society acknowledges that intellectual, physical, and financial resources are not distributed equally in the higher education sector; and seeks to do what it can to mitigate some of those inequities. Like many such groups, we are introducing a tiered structure of membership fees, for example. Over the last few years, too, we have experimented with different forms of hybrid and online participation: in 2024, our Program Committee has devised a post-Congress "RoundUp",

featuring short videos from participants. This will give all our members a chance to hear about the work of our colleagues in panels we are not able to attend.

There are other things we can all do, too, to make our Congress a more welcoming environment. While it is very tempting to make plans with our friends, it's equally important to reach out to newcomers to the field; and indeed, to model the kind of generous scholarly behaviour we would like to see everywhere in our discipline, both in our formal presentations and our social interactions. This year we have added another dimension to our mentoring program. In addition to the traditional kinds of pairings between more and less experienced delegates, we are also opening up the scheme to a form of "peer mentoring," where we invite individuals to meet up with someone they don't know, working in a similar area of Chaucer or medieval studies. This scheme might be especially helpful for delegates who are the "lone medievalist" in their programs.

It has been a great privilege to serve as President of NCS for the last two years. One of the most striking things I have learned over this time is a humbling sense of the tremendous capacity and willingness of the membership to serve the Society. I would like to extend my personal thanks to our two Executive Directors Tom Goodmann and from July last year, Sif Ríkharðsdóttir; the chair of our Congress local committee Jen Jahner; our program chairs Andrea Denny-Brown and Aditi Nafde; our hard-working Trustees; and all the other NCS members who have stepped up so readily to serve on these and other committees. I'm also thrilled to extend congratulations and thanks to our incoming President, Candace Barrington, whose term will commence at the end of our Congress next month.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Pasadena!

Stephanie Trigg

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I realise that it may seem frivolous to be celebrating small victories amidst some of the chaos many of us have been witnessing, both personally and on a societal and global scale. Yet, it is perhaps precisely the reason we should be celebrating each and every small victory. And while things may seem somewhat bleak, the NCS has indeed seen some small victories and much more of course in the work everyone is engaged with on a daily basis to support, engage with and promote the field.

We have indeed had a productive first half of the year at the NCS. We voted in the new bylaws with an overwhelming majority early in the year and the bylaws have now formally replaced the previous Constitution as the set of rules and regulations to guide the officers and the Society at large as we move onward. I would like to extend my thanks to Kellie Robertson, Robert Meyer-Lee, and Seeta Chaganti who worked alongside me on the bylaws committee, with Kellie and Bobby doing some amazing work in guiding the process. The bylaws committee was initially put together in 2020 by then President Anthony Bale and Tom Goodmann to revise the Constitution and update it to conform to federal and state guidelines for non-profit organisations such as the NCS, and I would like to thank them as well for the hard work on making the bylaws a reality.

Shortly thereafter we held the NCS election and have now welcomed four new trustees, Jonathan Hsy, Catherine Sanok, Sebastian Sobecki, and Claire M. Waters, who will be taking over from our outgoing trustees, Robert Meyer-Lee, Aditi Nafde, Kellie Robertson, and Myra Seaman at the end of the upcoming Congress in July. We similarly have a new President-elect, Candace Barrington, who will be taking over from Stephanie Trigg as her term comes to an end following the Congress in Pasadena. I look forward to working with them all. I am sure it will be every bit as enjoyable as it has been to work with their soon-to-be predecessors.

We have also had two early career fellowship competitions and I am glad to report that we had an outstanding pool of applicants with very strong applications and one can only be hopeful with

such promising early career scholars coming into the field! This made our work, of course, particularly difficult as we had to select a candidate out of the pool of such promising candidates, and I can say to those who applied and their supervisors and mentors that we were quite sorry we could not fund more of you given the quality of the work and the candidates. We hope to have the opportunity to do so again later. We will be welcoming our first NCS Early Career Fellowship at the Huntington Library, Charlotte Ross, doctoral student at the University of Oxford, who will take up her fellowship in September, directly following the NCS Congress in Pasadena. Charlotte Ross will be working on her project entitled 'A Circulation, Transmission, and Reception History of Thomas Hoccleve's *The Regiment of Princes*'. I would like to extend my thanks to trustee Richard Newhauser and NCS President Stephanie Trigg, who joined me on the selection committee.

The NCS awarded its Early Career Fellowship at the Bodleian Library in the spring as well. Thomas C. Sawyer, postdoctoral adjunct at the University of Chicago, will be the 2024-2025 NCS Early Career Fellow at the Bodleian Libraries. Dr Sawyer will be working on a project entitled 'Goliardic Networks', which forms a key early component of his second book project, which bears the working title *Codicological Categories in Medieval England*. I would like to extend my thanks to trustees Carissa Harris and Myra J. Seaman, who joined me on the selection committee. We will be posting a short account by each fellow of the fellowship and its outcomes on the website following the completion of their residencies. This will enable members to read about their fellowship, what they have learned, and how they have implemented their newly acquired knowledge to have a sense of how our support is directly impacting the field and life of our early career members. I want to also thank all of those who applied and those who supported them and recognise the work that went into this. We hope indeed we may have the chance to support you at some point in the future.

Another long-standing initiative has now also been brought to completion. As many of you will remember we have had an ongoing collection for the Edith Rickert Fund to provide her grave with a headstone. Professor Rickert died in 1938 and the NCS decided in the late 1990s to provide her grave with a headstone acknowledging her contribution to the field of Chaucer studies. The project has now been successfully completed through the dedicated work of Richard Newhauser and Elizabeth Scala. The generous donations by members – particularly in the last half a year – have exceeded expectations and we have now covered almost the entire cost of the headstone, which will be put up in the next few weeks. Thanks to everyone who so generously donated to support this initiative and to Richard and Liz for carrying it through!

Finally, it has not passed anyone by, I hope at this point, that the NCS Congress will be held in Pasadena in just a few weeks! We have a host of colleagues who are presently hard at work making sure everyone will feel welcome and that all amenities are ready to receive us once we descend upon Pasadena! Jennifer Jahner and the Local Organising Committee have worked tirelessly to ensure everything is ready and Andrea Denny-Brown and Aditi Nafde and the

Programme Committee continue to work to make sure the programme (and all of its various presenters!) are ready for launch. Last but not least, many thanks to all who sent in notices of publications, events, calls, or other newsworthy information appearing hereafter. It is much appreciated, and I encourage all to send us materials you would like to see appear in the Newsletter!

I hope to see many of you in Pasadena and to those who will not be making it to the Congress this time around I send my warmest wishes for a lovely summer (to those of us in the Northern Hemisphere) and for a lovely winter or cold season (to those in the Southern Hemisphere),

Sif

Sif Ríkharðsdóttir  
Executive Director

## RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Bartlett, Robyn A. "[On Chaucer, \*Raptus\*, and the \*Physician's Tale\*](#)." *Exemplaria* 35.4 (2023): 259-283.

Bradbury, Nancy Mason, *Rival Wisdoms: Reading Proverbs in the Canterbury Tales* (Philadelphia: Penn State University Press, 2024)

Cawsey, Kathleen & Elizabeth Edwards, [The Broadview Anthology of Medieval Arthurian Literature](#) (Ontario: Broadview, 2023).

Davies, Daniel and R.D. Perry eds. [Literatures of the Hundred Years War](#) (Manchester University Press, 2024)

Elias, Marcel, [English Literature and the Crusades: Anxieties of Holy War, 1291-1453](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Fulmer, Alice. "The t4t Gift Economy and Its Romance within the Middle English Lai *Sir Launfal*", *Comitatus* 54 (2023): 51-70

Mann, Jill (ed. and trans.), *Nigel of Longchamp, Speculum Stultorum* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2023)

Mitchell, Allan J., [Instrumentality: On Technical Objects and Orientations in the Later Middle Ages](#) (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2024).

Nakley, Susan & Karla Taylor, "[What We Think of When We Think of the Prioress's Tale](#), " a special issue of the *Chaucer Review* 59.3 (July 2024).

Perry, R. D., *Coterie Poetics and the Beginnings of the English Literary Tradition From Chaucer to Spenser* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024) [For a 30% discount use the code PENN-RDPERRY30.](#)

Runstedler, Curtis, [Alchemy and Exemplary Poetry in Middle English Literature](#) (Cham: Palgrave, 2023)

Sawyer, Daniel, [\*How to Read Middle English Poetry\*](#) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024)

Wagner, Erin K. *The Language of Heresy in Late Medieval English Literature*. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024)

Windeatt, Barry, *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: 'Troilus and Criseyde'*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023)

### *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* Vol. 44 (2022)

*Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, the yearbook of the New Chaucer Society, publishes articles on the writing of Chaucer and his contemporaries, their antecedents and successors, and their intellectual and social contexts. More generally, articles explore the culture and writing of later medieval Britain (1200-1500). SAC also includes an annotated bibliography and reviews of Chaucer-related publications.

All volumes of *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* are available electronically on [ProjectMUSE](#).

#### Submissions & Subscriptions

- [Subscription info](#)
- [Submission guidelines](#)
- [SAC Early Career Essay Prize](#)

### *New Chaucer Studies: Pedagogy and Profession* Vol. 4.2 (2023)

*New Chaucer Studies: Pedagogy and Profession* is a forum by and for twenty-first-century medievalists and others interested in the Middle Ages on topics related to both pedagogy and profession, broadly conceived, written from a wide range of contributors, including primary, secondary school teachers and independent scholars. The journal also aims to be geographically inclusive in order to provide a global perspective on these topics.

- [General Guidelines](#)
- [Journal Policies](#)
- [Author Guidelines](#)

## Awards

### *New York Medieval Society Teaching Award*

The **New York Medieval Society Teaching Award** will support educators who have designed a pedagogical program to introduce students to the Middle Ages. This might involve organizing trips for students to visit museum and library collections, designing a series of lectures, seminars, or reading groups for students, or developing extracurricular activities intended to edify students in any area of medieval studies. The NYMS will consider applications from teachers (K-12) and faculty in higher education, and will encourage proposals focused on inclusivity and widening educational opportunities for students who might benefit from increased guidance and more frequent occasions to study the Middle Ages. Recipients of the award will receive up to \$3,000. [More details here.](#)

### *New York Medieval Society Book Subvention Award*

The **New York Medieval Society Book Subvention Award** is designed for authors who require subventions to ensure publication of their books. The NYMS will award up to \$5,000 to each recipient in subventions on a competitive basis. Applicants must have already secured provisional contracts from presses. [More details here.](#)

## CONFERENCES AND OTHER CALLS

### *Boydell and Brewer Chaucer Studies Series*

Boydell and Brewer welcomes proposals for monographs or essay collections for its [Chaucer Studies Series](#). Projects should be substantially concerned with Chaucer but may consider other authors and texts as well. If you are interested in submitting a proposal please contact Caroline Palmer, Editorial Director, at [cpalmer@boydell.co.uk](mailto:cpalmer@boydell.co.uk). You may also reach out to any of the series editors: Helen Cooper, Isabel Davis, Robert Meyer-Lee, and William T. Rossiter.

### *Job post: Stephen Knight Lecturer in Medieval Literature at the University of Melbourne*

Join us as the Stephen Knight Lecturer in Medieval Literature, a position made possible by a generous donation from the Pimlico Foundation, honouring Professorial Fellow Stephen Knight's remarkable contributions to teaching, research, and public engagement in medieval and modern literary studies. This role aims to build on the University's distinguished record of innovation and excellence in medieval literature. For further details see the advertisement [here](#).

### *The Early Book Society*

A link to the Newsletter of the Early Book Society with related information can be found here: [The Early Book Society Newsletter](#).

## IN MEMORIAM

*Jenni Nuttall*

It is with great sadness that we convey the news of the passing away of a colleague and Chaucerian scholar Dr Jenni Nuttall, Lecturer in English at Exeter College, University of Oxford. She published, among many other things, *A Readers' Guide* to Geoffrey Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* (2012) that many of us will have used in our teachings. Please find below a few words written in memoriam by her colleagues: <https://english.web.ox.ac.uk/article/dr-jenni-nuttall>

*Dolores Warwick Frese (1936-2024)*

We are sad to announce the passing of Dolores Warwick Frese. Below are a few words in her memory from her colleagues.

In Memoriam Dolores Warwick Frese (April 9, 1936–May 30, 2024). Professor of English and Fellow of the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame, Dolores was a courageous trailblazer for women's rights in the academy and honored as such in 2009 by the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship and the Institute of Women Today. Her monographic study, *An Ars Legendi for Chaucer's Canterbury Tales* (1991), was awarded the Hans Rosenhaupt Prize by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation for distinguished scholarship in the humanities. She co-edited two essay collections: *Anglo-Saxon Poetry, Essays in Appreciation* (with Lewis E. Nicholson) and *The Book and the Body* (with Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe). Her essays appeared in such journals as *The Chaucer Review*, *Mediaevalia*, *Philological Quarterly*, and *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*. She received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A member of the famous Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa, Dolores was also a novelist and poet. In addition to her teaching at Notre Dame, she held invited Visiting Professorships at the University of California—Berkeley and at the University of Northern Michigan. The Medieval Institute at Notre Dame hosted a symposium in her honor in 2014, when there were also sessions honoring her at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. Her devoted husband and three sons mourn her passing, as do her friends, colleagues, and many students. Vale atque vale.

## The New Chaucer Society

**President:** Stephanie Trigg  
**Executive Director:** Sif Ríkharðsdóttir

### Trustees

**2020-2024:** Karma Lochrie (2020-2023), Robert Meyer-Lee, Sif Ríkharðsdóttir (2020-2023), Kellie Robertson, Aditi Nafde (2023-2024), Myra Seaman (2023-2024)

**2022-2026:** Carissa Harris, Richard Newhauser, Sarah Salih

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