

Chaucer: A Rough Draft Listing The First 85 Titles to Know

First of All: Some General Bibliographic Tools

1. Allen, Mark and John H. Fisher. *The Essential Chaucer: An Annotated Bibliography of Major Modern Studies* (London, 1987).
2. Baird, Lorraine Y. *A Bibliography of Chaucer, 1964-1973* (Boston, 1977).
3. Baird-Lange, Lorraine Y. and Hildegard Schnuttgen. *A Chaucer Bibliography, 1974-1984* (Hamden, Conn., 1988).
4. Crawford, William R. *Bibliography of Chaucer 1954-1963* (Seattle and London, 1967).
5. Hammond, Eleanor Prescott. *Chaucer: A Bibliographic Manual* (New York: 1908). Has much commentary. Out of date, but of historical interest.
6. Griffith, Dudley David. *Bibliography of Chaucer 1908-1953* (Seattle, 1955).
7. Leyerle, John and Anne Quick. *Chaucer: A Bibliographic Introduction*. Toronto Bibliographies (1986). Good for beginners to use while getting feet wet.
8. Morris, Lynn King. *Chaucer Sources and Analogue Criticism: A Cross-Referenced Guide* (New York and London, 1985).
9. *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*. This journal produces an annual annotated bibliography, 1979-present. You can use it to find recent items not in the older bibliographies.

See also Eckhardt's bibliography under the *Canterbury Tales* section, below.

Editions of Chaucer:

1. Benson, Larry D., ed. *The Riverside Chaucer*. Based on Robinson's Edition. 3rd edition. Boston, Houghton M., 1987. The standard scholarly edition for citation. Use it if you intend on publishing papers on Chaucer or presenting material at an academic conference.
2. Robinson, F. N. Ed. *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1st ed. 1933, 2nd ed. 1957. Though it is now superseded by Benson's edition, if you find an old copy of the 1933 version, do pick it up. Benson's edition is the most thorough in its scholarship, but Robinson shows great poetic subtlety in his editing. His version is also much more portable than Benson's.
3. Ruggiers, Paul G., ed. *The Variorum Edition of the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Norman, OK: U of Oklahoma P, 1982.

Dictionaries:

For discovering the extra meanings and alterations in vocabulary that separate Middle English from Modern English, take the time to look up Middle English vocabulary you don't know (and that you may mistakenly think you know) in one or both of these resources. The Oxford English Dictionary is much more thorough, but the Middle English Dictionary is more concise and provides you with cross-references to other vocabulary. You can get happily lost browsing in either one for days if you aren't careful!

1. *The Middle English Dictionary*
2. *The Oxford English Dictionary*

Generally Useful Chaucer Materials:

1. Besserman, Lawrence. *Chaucer and the Bible: A Critical Review of Research, Indexes, and Bibliography* (New York: Garland, 1988). Absolutely indispensable. Contains indexes of every known biblical allusion in Chaucer.
2. Brewer, Derek. *A New Introduction to Chaucer*, 2nd ed. (1998). Supersedes Brewer's *An Introduction to Chaucer* from 1984. Really nice, solid introduction.
3. ---. *Toward a Chaucerian Poetic*, Sir Israel Gollancz Lecture, PBA 60, 1974.
4. ---, ed. *Geoffrey Chaucer: Writers and Their Background*. 1974. A slim little paperback that focuses on literary influences on Chaucer.
5. De Weever, Jacqueline. *Chaucer Name Dictionary: A Guide to Astrological, Biblical, Historical, Literary, and Mythological Names in the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* (Garland, n. date). Very useful for determining etymologies and connotations of medieval names.
6. Rooney, Anne. *State of the Art: Geoffrey Chaucer. A Guide Through the Critical Maze* (Bristol, England, 1989). Covers Canterbury Tales as a whole, although not individual tales. Surveys history of criticism on the minor works as well as *Troilus and Criseyde*, etc.
7. Rowland, Beryl, ed. *Companion to Chaucer Studies*. rev. ed. (NY: Oxford UP, 1979).
8. Spurgeon, Caroline F. *Five Hundred Years of Chaucer Criticism and Allusions: 1357-1900* (Cambridge, 1925). This is the place to look for Chaucer's influence on later writers.
9. Tatlock, John S. P. and Arthur G. Kennedy. *A Concordance to the Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* 2nd edition 1927 (rpt. 1963).

Biography:

Given that the evidence surrounding Chaucer's life has been pieced together from textual fragments, any attempt to turn those facts into a chronological narrative involves some

controversy. Both Howard and Gardner below have produced very popular biographies, but they have been critiqued heavily for the speculation involved in each version. Biographies are good beginnings for putting Chaucer in social context, but double-check *all* sources and references before quoting them.

1. Crow, Martin M., and Clair C. Olson, eds. *Chaucer Life Records. From materials Compiled by John M. Manly and Edith Rickert, with the Assistance of Lilian J. Redstone and Others*. Oxford, Clarendon, 1966. Not particularly readable--it reproduces with a little commentary all those documents that mention Chaucer and his family. It's what serious scholars refer to, but it's less useful for folks wanting a basic introduction.
2. Gardner, John. *The Life and Times of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Entertaining, but use with caution!
3. Howard, Donald R. *Chaucer: His Life, His World, His Works*. NY: Dutton, 1987. My particular favorite of the Chaucerian biographies.

Language and Pronunciation:

1. Brunner, Karl. *An Outline of Middle English Grammar*. trans. Grahame, K. W. Johnston, 1963.
2. Burnley, J. David. *A Guide to Chaucer's Language* (1983).
3. Mossé, Ferdinand. *Handbook of Middle English*, trans. James A. Walker (1952). Good for linguistic discussion in particular.
4. Kökeritz, Helge. *A Guide to Chaucer's Pronunciation* (1962, rpt. 1978). Especially useful with her recorded Chaucer Readings. The most thorough discussion--be warned that reading page after page of phonetic transcription can try even the toughest scholar.

Troilus and Criseyde

1. Windeatt, Barry. *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: Troilus and Criseyde*. Oxford: Clarendon P, 1992. Many useful notes. Indispensable.
2. Lewis, C. S. "What Chaucer Really Did to Il Filostrato." *Essays and Studies* 17 (1932): 56-75. Useful for those interested in Italian influences on Chaucer.

Canterbury Tales (General material and the General Prologue)

1. Bowden, Muriel. *A Commentary on the General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*. NY: Macmillan, 1948. A classic for putting Chaucer's pilgrims in their historical background. Now mostly superseded by Lambdin, below.
2. Cooper, Helen. *The Structure of the Canterbury Tales*. London,: Duckworth, 1983.
3. Eckhardt, Caroline D. *Chaucer's General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales: An Annotated Bibliography, 1900-1982* (Toronto, 1990).

4. Howard, Donald R. *The Idea of the Canterbury Tales*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1976. Everybody's favorite.
5. Lambdin, Laura C. and Robert T. Lambdin. *Chaucer's Pilgrims: An Historical Guide to the Pilgrims in the Canterbury Tales*. Westport, Connecticut; London: Praeger, 1996. Excellent discussion of each pilgrim and summary of older scholarship. Indispensable.
6. Lawler, Traugott. *The One and the Many in the Canterbury Tales*. Hamden, CT: Archon, 1980.
7. Lumiansky, Robert M. *Of Sundry Folk: The Dramatic Principle of the Canterbury Tales*. Austin: U of Texas P, 1955. An older but influential reading that treats each pilgrim's story as a dramatic revelation of the pilgrim's personality--much like an actor on stage during a soliloquy.
8. Mann, Jill. *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire: The Literature of Social Classes and the General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*. Cambridge [Eng.] University Press, 1973. Out of print in 2001, but indispensable if you get your hands on a copy. Discusses the stereotypical presentations of different classes and occupations in medieval literature, rather than in historical records, and notes where Chaucer deviates from this.
9. Olson, Paul A. *The Canterbury Tales and the Good Society*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton UP, 1986.
10. Owen, Charles A., Jr. *The Manuscripts of the Canterbury Tales* (1991). Very short little book--not definitive, but good overview.
11. ---. *Pilgrimage and the Story-Telling in the Canterbury Tales: The Dialectic of "Ernest" and "Game."* Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 1977.
12. Patterson, Lee. *Chaucer and the Subject of History*. Madison, U of Wisconsin P, 1991. Not for the timid! A thorough New Historicist discussion of Chaucer and selected tales. Profoundly influential in the 1990s and still quoted by Chaucerians worth their salt.
13. Ruggiers, Paul G. *The Art of the Canterbury Tales*. Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 1965.
14. Strohm, Paul. *Social Chaucer*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard UP, 1989. Strohm is interested in Chaucer's audience(s) and how he adapts his work for them, moving in both aristocratic and scholarly circles.
15. Traversi, Derek. *The Canterbury Tales: A Reading*. Newark: U of Delaware P, 1983.

Canterbury Tales: Specific Tales

1. Beidler, Peter G. and Elizabeth M. Biebel, *Chaucer's Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale: An Annotated Bibliography, 1900-1995* (Toronto, 1998).

2. Burton, T. L. and R. Greentree. *Chaucer's Miller's, Reeve's and Cook's Tales: An Annotated Bibliography, 1900-1992* (Toronto, 1997).
3. Cooper, Helen. *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1989. Reprint 1991, 1996. Gives readings of every single tale. Very good.
4. Kolve, V. A. *Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative: The First Five Canterbury Tales*. Stanford, CA: Stanford UP, 1984. Focuses on Fragment I of the *Canterbury Tales*--reads these as an organized descent from order to chaos. Very influential.
5. Leicester, H. Marshall. *The Disenchanted Self: Representing the Subject in the Canterbury Tales*. Berkeley; Los Angeles; Oxford: U of California P, 1990. Takes on those most perplexing and abstract questions about individual identity, personality, and a sense of the self in Chaucer's literature.
6. McAlpine, Monica E. *Chaucer's Knight's Tale: An Annotated Bibliography, 1900-1985* (Toronto, 1991).
7. Pearsall, Derek. *The Canterbury Tales*. London, Allen and Unwin, 1985.
8. Sutton, Marilyn. *Chaucer's Pardoner's Prologue and Tale: An Annotated Bibliography, 1900-1995* (Toronto, 1999).

Chaucer's Sources--Italian, French and Latin:

1. Barry, Windeatt. *Chaucer's Dream Poetry: Sources and Analogues*. Cambridge: Brewer, 1980.
2. Boitani, Piero, ed. *Chaucer and the Italian Trecento*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1983.
3. Bryan, W. F. and Germaine Dempster, eds. *Sources and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1941. Soon to be replaced by Correale, below, but serviceable in a pinch for reviewing the well-known analogues.
4. Correale, Robert M. and Mary Hamel, eds. *Sources and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales*. *Boydell and Brewer, 2001*. One of the two volumes is now finished and available. The other volume is still under work as of 2004.
5. Ginsberg, Warren. *Chaucer's Italian Tradition*. U of Michigan, 2001. Ginsberg suggests that Chaucer's time in Italy introduced him to a Renaissance culture alien to his own medieval and English tradition, and discusses how Chaucer adapted it to his own purposes. Along with Boitani, above, Ginsberg is one of the heavy-hitters in Italian scholarship in connection with Chaucer.
6. Morris, Lynn King. *Chaucer Source and Analogue Criticism: A Cross-Referenced Guide*. NY: Garland, 1985.

Minor Poems:

1. Bennett, J. A. W. *Chaucer's Book of Fame: An Exposition of the House of Fame*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1968.
2. Delany, Sheila. *Chaucer's House of Fame: The Poetics of Skeptical Fideism*. (1977)

Medieval Background:

1. Astell, Ann W. *Chaucer and the Universe of Learning* (1996). Gives sense of intellectual climate around 1400
2. Baugh, Albert C. *History of the English Language*, 4th edition. (n. date) contains good discussion of the state of the English language in the fourteenth century.
3. Burrow, A. J. *Medieval Writers and Their Work: Middle English Literature and Its Background, 1100-1500*. 1982. A nice, then little paperback that gives a couple of pages discussion on major 14th century writers.
4. ---. *Ricardian Poetry: Chaucer, Gower, Langland and the Pearl Poet*. New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 1971. Focuses in particular on the ubiquitous frame-narrative in Middle English literature during the last half of the 14th century.
5. Ginsberg, Warren. *The Cast of Character: The Representation of Personality in Ancient and Medieval Literature*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1983. An older work from my old teacher. Check it out.
6. Lewis, C. S. *The Allegory of Love* (1936). Oxford: Galaxy Books, 1958.
7. ---. *The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval Literature* (1964; rpt. 1971).
8. Miller, Robert P., ed. *Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds*. NY: Oxford UP, 1977.
9. Minnis, A. J. *Chaucer and Pagan Antiquity*. Cambridge, Brewer, 1982.
10. *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (New York, 1967-74). 16 vols. + supplement. Look here for medieval saint's days, connotations of saints, and changes in religious practice up through the reformation and Vatican II. Available online at some college campuses.
11. Robertson, D. W., Jr. *A Preface to Chaucer: Studies in Medieval Perspectives*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1963. From the crankiest and most reviled of conservative, exegetical critics, Robertson has been taken to task by many subsequent writers for his monolithic view of the medieval world, but nobody can deny his influence. In particular, he argues against the existence of realism in the medieval period.

12. Severs, J. Burke and Albert E Hartung, eds. *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English, 1050-1500*. Absolutely indispensable. Contains bibliographies on major Middle English poets and lists of the best scholarly editions of those texts. Multivolume set varies greatly in up-to-date-ness, however.

Eleven Journals Every Chaucer Student Should Know: Scholarly journals are peer-reviewed (judged by other scholars before publication) to weed out stupidities and insanities as much as possible. They are usually more up-to-date than books, which often take two or more years after being written to come to press. You can find articles from these journals in various bibliographies and request them via interlibrary loan if your library doesn't have them. Many may be available in databases like JSTOR or Literature Resources Online. Ask your local librarians for help after bribing them with chocolate cookies.

Chaucer Review

Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Medievalia et Humanistica

Medium Aevum

Medieval Studies

Neuphilologische Mitteilungen (It's not just in German; many articles are in English).

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

Philological Quarterly

Reading Medieval Studies

Speculum

Studies in the Age of Chaucer