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

First of All: Some General Bibliographic Tools


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:


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 Though it is now superseded by Benson's edition, if you find an old copy of the 1933 version, do pick it up.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.

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:


3. ---. Toward a Chaucerian Poetic, Sir Israel Gollancz Lecture, PBA 60, 1974.


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.


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.


**Language and Pronunciation:**


**Troilus and Criseyde**


**Canterbury Tales (General material and the General Prologue)**


**Canterbury Tales: Specific Tales**


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


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.

Minor Poems:

Medieval Background:
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.

**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*