

*The Cambridge Introduction to
Chaucer*

Geoffrey Chaucer is the best known and most widely read of all medieval British writers, famous for his scurrilous humour and biting satire against the vices and absurdities of his age. Yet he was also a poet of passionate love, sensitive to issues of gender and sexual difference, fascinated by the ideological differences between the pagan past and the Christian present, and a man of science, knowledgeable in astronomy, astrology and alchemy. This concise book is an ideal starting point for study of all the major poems, particularly *The Canterbury Tales*, to which two chapters are devoted. It offers close readings of individual texts, presenting various possibilities for interpretation, and includes discussion of Chaucer's life, career, historical context and literary influences. An account of the various ways in which he has been understood over the centuries leads into an up-to-date, annotated guide to further reading.

ALASTAIR MINNIS is the Douglas Tracy Smith Professor of English at Yale University, President of the New Chaucer Society (2012–14), and a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. His most recent books are *Fallible Authors: Chaucer's Pardoner and Wife of Bath* (2007) and *Translations of Authority in Medieval English Literature: Valuing the Vernacular* (2009).

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ALASTAIR MINNIS



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Abbreviations

<i>The Riverside Chaucer</i>	<i>The Riverside Chaucer</i> , general ed. Larry D. Benson, 3rd edn with a new foreword by Christopher Cannon (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) (All Chaucer references are to this edition.)
Boethius, <i>Consolatio</i>	Boethius, <i>De consolazione philosophiae</i> , in <i>The Theological Tractates and The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , ed. and tr. E. F. Stewart, E. K. Rand and S. J. Tester (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1973), pp. 130–435
ChR	<i>The Chaucer Review</i>
Dante, <i>Comedy</i>	Dante Alighieri, <i>The Divine Comedy</i> , tr. Charles S. Singleton, 3 vols. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1970–5)
DNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> (Oxford University Press); online edn at www.oxforddnb.com
Gower, <i>Confessio Amantis</i>	John Gower, <i>Confessio Amantis</i> , ed. Russell A. Peck and Andrew Galloway, 3 vols. (Kalamazoo, Mich.: TEAMS, 2000–4)
Havelly, tr., <i>Chaucer's Boccaccio</i>	N. R. Havelly, tr., <i>Chaucer's Boccaccio: Sources of Troilus and the Knight's and Franklin's Tales</i> (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 1980)
MED	<i>Middle English Dictionary</i> , ed. Hans Kurath et al. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1952–2001); online edn at www.hti.umich.edu/mec
<i>Roman de la Rose</i>	Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, <i>Le Roman de la Rose</i> , ed. Félix Lecoy, 3 vols. (Paris: Champion, 1965–70)

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S&A	Robert M. Correale and Mary Hamel, eds., <i>Sources and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales</i> , 2 vols. (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2002–5)
SAC	<i>Studies in the Age of Chaucer</i>
Windeatt, tr., <i>Chaucer’s Dream Poetry</i>	Barry A. Windeatt, tr., <i>Chaucer’s Dream Poetry: Sources and Analogues</i> (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1982)