

Geoffrey Chaucer
The House of Fame
Second Edition

Edited with an introduction, notes and glossary by
Nick Havely

The first version of this edition appeared in 1994 and was described by reviewers as “a considerable advance over the work of earlier editors” (*Journal of English and Germanic Philology*); “essential reading for those planning to write about the *House of Fame*” (*Speculum*); and “an edition which will be useful and informative to both students and Chaucer scholars alike” (*Review of English Studies*).

Critical interest in *The House of Fame* has since continued to develop, and a re-issue of this edition by PIMS has provided an opportunity to acknowledge and support that interest. The Introduction and Commentary have thus been thoroughly revised to take account of recent scholarship on the poem; glossing in footnotes to the text and at the end of the volume has been extended; and a number of minor errors have been corrected.



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GEOFFREY CHAUCER

The House of Fame

Second Edition

Edited with an introduction, notes and glossary by

NICK HAVELY



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MANUFACTURED IN CANADA

Of fame.

And once alle the honours Angles
po ful of warring (and of jangling
Of merces of pecc of marriages
Of restes and of labours (of wages
Of a hood of dooth (of lyfe
Of love of hate (acorde of stryfe
Of loss of love (and of wynnynge
Of hole of solenoss (of bilynges
Of fane wyndes (and oth of compasses
Of qualme of folke (and oth of hostes
Of dyvers transmutacions
Of states (and oth of regions
Of trust of drede (of solenysse
Of we of wynnynge (of folys
Of plenty (and of grete famyne
Of chere of sorthe (and of myne
Of goodiez mys-governour
Of fire (and of dyvers accident
And loe thys hono (of which I write
Byt he be ye hit nas not hys
He hit was sixty myle of lengthe
Alle was the tymber (of no strengthe
yet hit is founde (to endure
Whyle that hit lyst (to anenture
that is the moder (of tydynge
As the see of welles (and of springes
And hit was shapon (lyke a cage
Cortys quod y. m. al myn ago
No fanght y. siche (an hono as this
And as y wondred. me y mys
ypou this hono (the war was y
how that myn egte (fast by
was pched hys (ypou a stoon
and I san strenght (to hym gon
and seyde thys (y prey the

Lines 1959–93 of *The House of Fame* in MS Fairfax 16, f. 181r, reproduced by permission of the Bodleian Library, Oxford. See Commentary on ll. 1961–76.

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Acknowledgments

An edition – even a second one – of *The House of Fame* is never finished. This one would never have been started without the encouragement and advice of the general editor of the series, John McKinnell, whose patience and meticulous attention to detail have been invaluable in preparing the volume for re-issue. It would not have been carried through without the support and guidance of a number of friends and colleagues. Two of these have themselves been engaged in projected editions, past and future, of *HF*. Meg Twycross collaborated with the late J.A.W. Bennett on a projected edition, and the glossary she compiled has been particularly valuable as a model for my own. Tony Edwards, co-editor of the forthcoming Variorum *HF*, has given substantial help in the form of off-prints and a photocopy of the Vienna text of Caxton's *HF*, and the influence of his work on the text of the poem will be readily apparent from the notes to my Introduction. A preceding Chaucer edition in this series, the *Book of the Duchess* (1982), has set a standard for this kind of work, and conversations with its editor, Helen Phillips, have been helpful in innumerable ways.

My work on the first edition was much indebted to colleagues who were at the time engaged in critical studies of *HF*. I was grateful to have had the opportunity then to read and discuss chapters in the subsequently published books by Chris Baswell (1995) and by Alastair Minnis (1995). Reviews of the first edition – particularly those by David Burnley (1996), Janet Cowen (1997) and Tony Edwards (1996) – have been particularly helpful in identifying errors and inconsistencies.

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The final process of revising this edition was given impetus by two recent events. Discussion of editorial problems took place at the York Medieval Seminar in June 2010, and I am particularly grateful for contributions made by Cristina Figueredo, James Robinson, Kate Thomas and Debs Thorpe on that occasion. An invitation to give a plenary address on “Editing the *House of Fame*” at the Fourth London Chaucer Conference on 8 April 2011 also helped to clarify some of the issues, and for that thanks are due to Isabel Davis, Alfred Hiatt and Catherine Nall (organizers of the conference), and to Julia Boffey, Ardis Butterfield, Will Rossiter and Marion Turner, the discussants in the final round-table discussion of this *queynt* and *crafty* poem.

Finally, at the copy-editing stage the whole text has benefited from careful checking by series editor John McKinnell and by Megan Jones, associate editor at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

N.R. Havely
University of York
April 2013

Abbreviations

<i>AA</i>	Ovid, <i>Ars Amatoria</i>
<i>A & A</i>	Chaucer, <i>Anelida & Arcite</i>
<i>Astr</i>	Chaucer, <i>Treatise on the Astrolabe</i>
<i>Aen</i>	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i>
B	Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 638
<i>BD</i>	Chaucer, <i>The Book of the Duchess</i>
Ben.	J.A.W. Bennett, <i>Chaucer's Book of Fame</i> (Oxford, 1968)
BL	British Library
<i>Boece</i>	Chaucer's translation of Boethius's <i>De Consolatione Philosophiae</i>
<i>CA</i>	Gower, <i>Confessio Amantis</i>
Ch	Chaucer
<i>ChauR</i>	<i>Chaucer Review</i>
<i>CL</i>	<i>Comparative Literature</i>
<i>Cl Prol</i>	Chaucer, <i>Prologue to the Clerk's Tale</i>
<i>Cl T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Clerk's Tale</i>
<i>Cons</i>	Boethius, <i>De Consolatione Philosophiae</i>
<i>Conv</i>	Dante, <i>Il Convivio</i>
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i>
<i>CT</i>	Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>
CUL	Cambridge University Library
Cx	Caxton's print of <i>The book of Fame</i> (1483)
<i>CY Prol</i>	Chaucer, <i>Prologue to the Canon's Yeoman's Tale</i>
<i>CYT</i>	Chaucer, <i>Canon's Yeoman's Tale</i>
<i>De propr rer</i>	Bartholomaeus Anglicus, <i>De proprietatibus rerum</i>
<i>Dec</i>	Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i>
<i>DVE</i>	Dante, <i>De Vulgari Eloquentia</i>
EETS	Early English Text Society
<i>ELH</i>	<i>Journal of English Literary History</i>
<i>ELN</i>	<i>English Language Notes</i>
<i>E & S</i>	<i>Essays and Studies</i>
<i>Est</i>	<i>English Studies</i>
F	Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Fairfax 16

<i>Fkl T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Franklin's Tale</i>
<i>Fri T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Friar's Tale</i>
<i>Geneal</i>	Boccaccio, <i>Genealogiae Deorum Gentilium</i>
<i>Gen Prol</i>	Chaucer, <i>General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales</i>
<i>GGK</i>	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>
<i>Heath</i>	H.F. Heath, edition of <i>HF</i> in <i>The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer</i> (London, 1898)
<i>Her</i>	Ovid, <i>Heroides</i>
<i>HF</i>	Chaucer, <i>The House of Fame</i>
<i>Inf</i>	Dante, <i>Inferno</i>
<i>JEGP</i>	<i>Journal of English and Germanic Philology</i>
<i>JMRS</i>	<i>Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i>
<i>Kn T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Knight's Tale</i>
<i>LGW</i>	Chaucer, <i>The Legend of Good Women</i>
<i>LGW Prol</i>	Chaucer, <i>Prologue to the Legend of Good Women</i> [both F and G versions are cited]
<i>MÆ</i>	<i>Medium Ævum</i>
<i>Mc T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Manciple's Tale</i>
<i>ME</i>	Middle English
<i>MED</i>	<i>Middle English Dictionary</i>
<i>MedSt</i>	<i>Mediaeval Studies</i>
<i>Merch T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Merchant's Tale</i>
<i>Met</i>	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>
<i>Mil T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Miller's Tale</i>
<i>Mk T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Monk's Tale</i>
<i>ML Intr</i>	Chaucer, <i>Man of Law's Introduction</i>
<i>MLN</i>	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MLT</i>	Chaucer, <i>Man of Law's Tale</i>
<i>NPT</i>	Chaucer, <i>Nun's Priest's Tale</i>
<i>OCD</i>	<i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i>
<i>Od</i>	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>
<i>OE</i>	Old English
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>OF</i>	Old French
<i>OLD</i>	<i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i>
<i>P</i>	Cambridge, Magdalene College, MS Pepys 2006
<i>Par</i>	Dante, <i>Paradiso</i>
<i>Pard T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Pardoner's Tale</i>
<i>Pars T</i>	Chaucer, <i>Parson's Tale</i>

PF	Chaucer, <i>The Parliament of Fowls</i>
PL	J.-P. Migne, <i>Patrologia cursus completus, Series latina</i> , 221 vols. (Paris, 1841–79)
PMLA	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Society of America</i>
PPl	Langland, <i>Piers Plowman</i>
PQ	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
Purg	Dante, <i>Purgatorio</i>
REL	<i>Review of English Literature</i>
RES	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
Riv.	<i>The Riverside Chaucer</i> , gen. ed. L.D. Benson (3rd ed., Oxford, 1988)
Rob.	F.N. Robinson, <i>The Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer</i> (2nd ed., Oxford, 1957)
Rom	Chaucer, <i>Romaunt of the Rose</i>
RR	Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, <i>Le Roman de la Rose</i> , ed. F. Lecoy
Rv T	Chaucer, <i>Reeve's Tale</i>
S & A	W.F. Bryan and G. Dempster, eds., <i>Sources and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales</i> (Chicago, 1941; repr. New York, 1958)
SAC	<i>Studies in the Age of Chaucer</i>
SATF	Société des anciens textes français
Shipm T	Chaucer, <i>Shipman's Tale</i>
ShipmPri link	Chaucer, link between <i>Shipman's</i> and <i>Prioress's Tales</i>
Sk.	W.W. Skeat, ed., <i>The Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer</i> , vol. 3 (Oxford, 1900)
SNT	Chaucer, <i>Second Nun's Tale</i>
SP	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
Spec	<i>Speculum</i>
Sq T	Chaucer, <i>Squire's Tale</i>
STC	<i>A Short Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad</i> (2nd ed., London, 1976–91)
STh	Aquinas, <i>Summa theologica</i>
Sum Prol	Chaucer, <i>Prologue to the Summoner's Tale</i>
Sum T	Chaucer, <i>Summoner's Tale</i>
Th	William Thynne's print of <i>The House of Fame</i> in <i>The workes of Geffray Chaucer</i> (1532)
TC	Chaucer, <i>Troilus & Criseyde</i>
Tes	Boccaccio, <i>Teseida</i>

<i>Theb</i>	Statius, <i>Thebaid</i>
<i>Thop</i>	Chaucer, <i>Tale of Sir Thopas</i>
<i>TSLL</i>	<i>Texas Studies in Literature and Language</i>
<i>UTQ</i>	<i>University of Toronto Quarterly</i>
<i>VC</i>	Gower, <i>Vox Clamantis</i>
<i>WB Prol</i>	Chaucer, <i>Prologue to the Wife of Bath's Tale</i>
<i>WBT</i>	Chaucer, <i>Wife of Bath's Tale</i>
<i>YES</i>	<i>Yearbook of English Studies</i>