

Constitution of the New Chaucer Society
Revised Fall 1996

Article I: Name and Location

The name of the corporation is "The New Chaucer Society," hereafter referred to as "the Society." The principal office of the corporation shall be located at a place determined by the Board of Trustees.

Article II: Definitions

"Society" shall mean and refer to The New Chaucer Society, its successors and assigns; "Member" shall mean and refer to those persons who pay dues to the Society. Honorary Members are excused from such payment.

Article III: Purposes

The purposes of the Society shall be:

- a. to promote interest in Chaucer and to advance Chaucer studies.
- b. to make accessible to all Members, by means of publications approved by the Society, information of common interest, especially concerning the teaching of and research in Chaucer.
- c. to hold international congresses and other meetings for the purpose of exchanging ideas and techniques pertinent to the proper study of Chaucer and his time.
- d. to promote the publication of research and texts in Chaucer and related fields.
- e. to promote the teaching of Chaucer and related areas at all appropriate levels of education.
- f. to sponsor long-range projects of importance to Chaucerian scholarship.
- g. to operate and maintain the Society exclusively for educational purposes.

None of its members shall enjoy any pecuniary profits from its operation.

Article IV: Membership

As defined in Article II, and upon application to the office of the Executive Director, membership is open to all concerned with the study of Chaucer and of related topics. In addition, the Board of Trustees shall have the power to elect honorary Members whose work relates to Chaucer studies.

Each member in good standing shall have the right to cast a vote in open meetings, elections, and other activities of the Society when a vote of the membership is called.

Dues to the Society shall be paid on or before 1 October of the preceding membership year. However, dues may be paid for a longer period. A member in default of dues two (2) months after second billing of dues has been mailed shall forfeit membership.

The dues shall be established by the Board of Trustees as recommended by the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees may in certain circumstances reduce or waive dues.

Members who have retired from their institutional appointments, provided they have been Members of the Society for a five-year period, shall, on application, pay one-half the regular dues.

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, shall have the power to determine whether libraries, affiliated associations, and centers should be required to pay an annual subscription fee, and if so, to fix the amount.

Article V: Meetings of the Membership

An international congress of the Society shall be held at intervals of two (2) years in a place to be recommended to the Board of Trustees by the

Executive Director. Each congress shall be devoted to the study of Chaucer and related topics.

Written notice of each biennial congress shall be given by, or at the direction of, the Executive Director, by mailing or publishing a copy of such notice, postage prepaid, at least sixty (60) days before the meeting to each Member in good standing, addressed to the Member's address last recorded in the office of the Society or supplied by such Member to the Society for the purpose of notice. Only Members of the Society shall have the right to propose papers to the Congress Program Committee for its consideration. Other persons may attend a congress subject to the payment of a registration fee or by invitation within the limits of the accommodations available and other considerations.

Each international congress shall include a business meeting, at which the Executive Director shall report to the Members on the administrative and financial affairs of the Society.

Article VI: Resolutions and Other Business

The voting of the Society shall be conducted through written mail ballot. All members in good standing may vote by mail ballot on such issues as shall arise for the consideration of and presentation to the membership. Such ballots shall be prepared, mailed, and tabulated by the Executive Director in accordance with instructions from the Board of Trustees.

Resolutions, if approved by the Resolutions Committee, must be submitted by the Resolutions Committee to a mail ballot of the Members six (6) weeks before the biennial meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director shall report the results of all

mail ballots at the biennial business meeting.

All resolutions must directly uphold the purposes of the Society. The Resolutions Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Trustees, and include two (2) or more other Members of the Society. The Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Society and shall serve for not more than two (2) years. The Committee may transact its business by mail and telephone if necessary.

Article VII: Trustees

The Society shall be managed by seven (7) Trustees elected by the membership, and two (2) Officers: a President elected by the Trustees, and an Executive Director appointed by the Trustees. The nine (9) Officers and Trustees shall constitute the Board of Trustees, with one (1) vote apiece. Insofar as possible, the composition of the Board of Trustees should reflect the international character of Chaucerian studies and the variety of the membership of the Society.

The Trustees shall be elected biennially by the membership for staggered terms of four (4) years extending from the end of one biennial congress through the end of the second (four years later) after their election.

The President shall be elected by a majority (at least 5) of the Trustees to serve for two (2) years, from the end of one biennial congress through the end of the following congress (two years later).

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President and Trustees to serve for a term of six (6) years.

The President and the Trustees shall not normally succeed themselves without the lapse of one (1) term between elections. The Executive Director may be appointed for two (2) successive terms.

