

Ballades.

Oz thoughe a man of high oz lowe degre
Of Cullius had the sagred eloquence
Oz of Seneca the great moralite
Oz of Caton the forsyght and prouidence
The coquest of Charles, Britnes magnificēce
Yet for al, that trust right wel this
Some wycked tonge wol say of him amis

The wyfely trowth of Penelope
Though they it had in her possessyon
Holynesse, beaurtie, the kyndnesse of Medee
The lyfe unfayned of Marcia Caton
Oz of Alcest the trewe affection
Yet dare I say, and trust right wel this
A wycked tonge wol say of her amis

Chan se then it is so, no man may eschewe
The swerde of tonge, but it kerue and byte
Ful harde it is a man for to remewe
Out of their daunger hym for to aquyte
Wd to the tonges that hem so delyte
To hynder oz selauder, & let their study i this
And their pleasaunces to do and say amis

Molte noble princes, cheryshers of bertue
Remembzeth you of hygh discretion
The first bertue and molte pleyng to Iesu
(By the wrytynge and sentence of Caton)
Is a good tonge in his opinyon
Chastite the reuerse, and of wisdom do this
Withdraywe your heringe fro al þe sayd amis.

Et sic est finis.

Thus endeth the woorkes of
Geffray Chaucer.

Imprynted at London by Robart
Cory, dwelling in Paules chur-
che yerde at the sygne of the
Bell.

Cum priuilegio ad imprimen-
dum solum.

Epitaphiū Galfredi Chaucer, per poetā lau-
reatum Stephanum Surigonum Des-
diolanensem in decretis licenciatum.



Perides muse si possint nu-
mia ferus
fundere, diuinas atq; rigare
genas.
Galfredi batis chaucer crude-
lia fata

Plaque: ne lachrynis abstinuisse nequas,
Vos coluit viues: at vos celebrate sepulchrum
Reddatur merito gracia digna bito.
Grāde decus vobis est docti musa Maronis
Qua didicit melius lingua latina loqui.
Grāde, nouūq; decus chaucer, famāq; parauit
Hec quātum fuerat prisca Byzantia rudis
Reddidit insignē maternis versibus, ut iam
Aurea splendet, ferrea facta prius.
Hunc latuisse vitā nil, si tor opuscula vertes,
Dixeris, egregiis que decorata modis,
Socratis ingenium, vel fontes philosophiæ,
Quicquid et archani dogmata sacra ferūt.
Et quascūq; velis, tenuit dignissimus artes
Hic vates, paruo conditus hoc tumulo.
Ab laudis quātum preclara Byzantia perdis,
Dum rapuit tantum mores odiosa vitum,
Crudeles parce, crudelia fila sorores,
Non tamen extincta corpora, fama perit.
Viuat in eternum, bivent dum scripta poete:
Viuant in eterno tot monumenta die.
Si qua bonos tāgit pietas, si carmine digno
Carmina qui cecinit tot cumulata modis,
Hec sibi marmoreo scribātur verba sepulchro
Hec maneat laudis sacra summa sue.
Galfredus Chaucer vates, et fama poetis
Materna, hac facta sum tumulatus humo.

Post obitum Casion voluit te viuere cura
Willelmi, Chaucer clare poeta tui,
Nam tua non solū cōpessit opuscula formis
Has quoq; sed laudes iussit hic esse tuas.

I John ...

Handwritten notes in a cursive script, including the name 'John' and various illegible phrases.

Chaucer, Geoffrey, d. 1400.

The workes of Geffray Chaucer newly printed, with dyuers workes whiche were
neuer in print before: as in the table more playnly dothe appere. Cum priuilegio.

[London: Nicholas Hill, [1550?]].

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