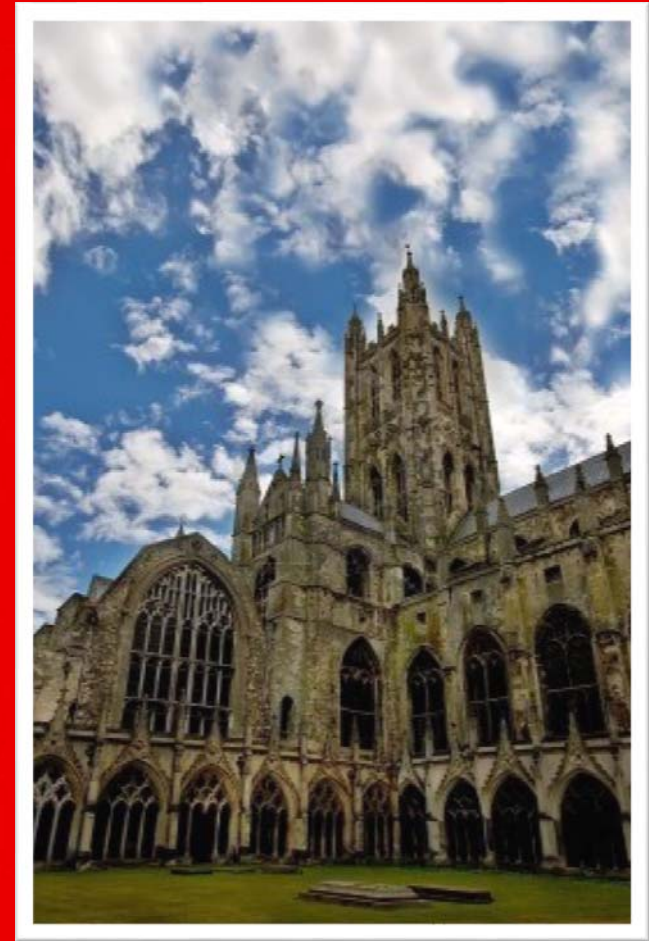


# Geoffrey Chaucer & *The Canterbury Tales*



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# Chaucer's Life

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- He was born in London (c. 1343)
- He had middle-class origins
- He was a diplomat at Edward III's Court
- He was captured by the French in 1359
- He went to the Flanders and to Italy
- He was buried in Westminster Abbey (1400)





# Chaucer's Works

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Chaucer's production can be divided into three phases:

1. The French phase
2. The Italian phase
3. The English phase



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# 1. The French Phase

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- His poetic models were long and allegorical poems about courtly love
- He translated ***Le Roman de la Rose*** in English





## 2. The Italian Phase

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- ***Troilus and Criseyde*** (c. 1385)
- This work is a rendering of Boccaccio's *Filostrato*
- It shows great technical ability
- Discussion about human love's nature



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# 3. The English Phase

- ***The Canterbury Tales***

(c.1386 -1393)

- It is a collection of verse tales
- It is one of the major works in English Literature



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# The 'father of English Poetry'

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- He established the East Midlands and London dialect
- He introduced the **iambic pentameter**, a five-stress line

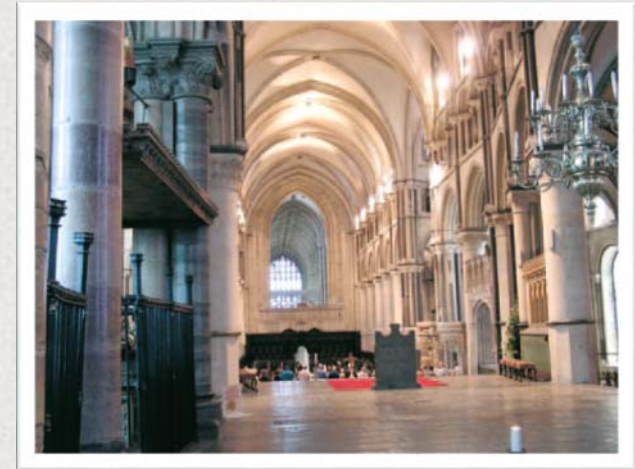
*A wòrthy wòman fròm besìde Bath cìty*



# *The Canterbury Tales*

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- A collection of sketches of life told in verse
- The framework is the pilgrimage to Thomas Becket's shrine in Canterbury
- The work is indebted to Boccaccio's *Decameron*
- It is written in couplets of iambic pentameters



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# Chaucer's Pilgrims

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- They are both **individuals** and **stock types**
- They suggest a portrait of the middle-class England in the late XIV century
- Nobles and peasants are excluded from the group of pilgrims
- **Chaucer is himself a pilgrim**
- Fine irony



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