

CHAUCER, GEOFFREY. *The Canterbury Tales* [1476-1477]

[a]2^a wHan that Apprill with his shouris sote

And the droughte of marche hath poid y rote

And badidz euery veyne in suche licour

Of whiche vertu engendridz is the flour...

[aa]5^a, l. 24 ... To that lyf he vs brynge that bought ll with his
precyous bloodz Amen. ll Explicit Tractatus Galfrydi Chaucer
de ll Penitencia vt dicitur pro fabula Rectoris.

[aa]5^b. nOw pray I to hem alle that herkene this litil tretyse
ll or rede l. 27, END: ... so that I may be one of hem at the
day of dome ll that shal be sauidz. Qui cū patre et spū scō viuut
et regnat ll deus. Per omnia secula seculoꝝ Amen.

Folio. [a-z A-I⁸ K¹⁰; L-Q⁸ R⁶ S-Z⁸ aa⁶]. 374 leaves, [a]1, [K]10,
[aa]6 blank.

[a]3^a: 29 lines of verse, 196 × 103 mm;

[L]2^a: 29 lines of prose, 196 × 125 mm.

Type 2: 135B.

Initial spaces with guide-letters.

Paper: stocks 11-26.

Hain 4921. Blades 12. De Ricci 22. Duff 87. GW 6585. STC 5082. Cx 17.

Dating: The sequence of paper stocks shows that the completion of the
present edition of the *Canterbury Tales* must have taken place before that of
the undated *History of Jason* (Duff 245, see p. 00) and *The Dicts or Saying
of the Philosophers*, dated 1477 (Duff 123, see p. 00 and Duff 123^a). The
latter copy bears the date 18 November 1477, added later.

Contents:

1	[a]1	blank
2 ^a -16 ^b , l. 17	[a]2 ^a -[b]8 ^b	Prologue
16 ^b , l. 18-54 ^b , l. 11	[b]8 ^b -[g]16 ^b	Knight
54 ^b , l. 12-67 ^a , l. 25	[g]16 ^b -[i]3 ^a	Miller
67 ^a , l. 26-75 ^b , l. 6	[i]3 ^a -[k]3 ^b	Reeve
75 ^b , l. 7-77 ^a , l. 19	[k]3 ^b -5 ^a	Cook
77 ^a , l. 20-97 ^a , l. 23	[k]5 ^a -[n]1 ^a	Man of Law
97 ^a , l. 24-109 ^a , l. 16	[n]1 ^a -[o]5 ^a	Squire
109 ^a , l. 17-130 ^a , l. 6	[o]5 ^a -[r]2 ^a	Merchant
130 ^a , l. 7-152 ^a , l. 7	[r]2 ^a -[t]8 ^a	Wife of Bath
152 ^a , l. 8-159 ^a , l. 1	[t]8 ^a -[u]7 ^a	Friar
159 ^a , l. 2-169 ^b , l. 25	[u]7 ^a -[y]1 ^b	Summoner
169 ^b , l. 26-190 ^b , l. 28	[y]1 ^b -[A]6 ^b	Clerk
190 ^b , l. 29-191 ^a , l. 8	[A]6 ^b -7 ^a	words of the Host
191 ^a , l. 9-206 ^b , l. 15	[A]7 ^a -[C]6 ^b	Franklin
206 ^b , l. 16-216 ^a , l. 21	[C]6 ^b -[D]8 ^a	Second nun
216 ^a , l. 22-232 ^a , l. 13	[D]8 ^a -[F]8 ^a	Canon's Yeoman
232 ^a , l. 14-237 ^a , l. 10	[F]8 ^a -[G]5 ^a	Doctor of Physic
237 ^a , l. 11-249 ^a , l. 1	[G]5 ^a -[I]1 ^a	Pardoner
249 ^a , l. 2-256 ^b , l. 4	[I]1 ^a -8 ^b	Shipman
256 ^b , l. 5-261 ^a , l. 6	[I]8 ^b -[K]5 ^a	Prioress
261 ^a , ll. 7-27	[K]5 ^a	link
261 ^a , l. 28-264 ^b , l. 22	[K]5 ^a -8 ^b	Sir Thopas
264 ^b , l. 23-265 ^b	[K]8 ^b -9 ^b	link
266	[K]10	blank
267 ^a -293 ^b , l. 4	[L]1 ^a -[O]3 ^b	Melibeus
293 ^b , l. 5-308 ^a , l. 14	[O]3 ^b -[Q]2 ^a	Monk
308 ^a , l. 15-319 ^b , l. 8	[Q]2 ^a -[R]5 ^b	Nun's priest
319 ^b , l. 9-325 ^b , l. 25	[R]5 ^b -[S]5 ^b	Manciple
325 ^b , l. 26-373 ^a	[S]5 ^b -[aa]5 ^a	Parson
373 ^b	[aa]5 ^b	Chaucer's retraction
374	[aa]6	blank

IMEV 4019, Ringler 86 and Ringler(1988). IPMEP 18.1, 482,1, 529.1. text
editions: Manly and Rickert (1940). Robinson, 2nd.ed. (1957), pp. 17-265.

For a list of manuscripts and printed editions see IMEV 4019, Ringler 86
and Ringler (1988).

The first edition, printed from a manuscript, in the subsequent edition
condemned by Caxton as containing a corrupt version of the text. See Duff
88, p. 00.

All recorded manuscripts are discussed in Manly and Rickert (1940), cf.
Ringler. Caxton's present version belongs to their 'b' group of manuscripts
(see vol. 1, pp. 25, 79-81; vol. 2, pp. 485-6).

The order of the tales is in the present edition, using the traditional sigla:

A B¹ F¹ E² D E¹ F² G C B² H I.

This was changed in subsequent editions, see below Duff 88, pp. 00 and
Duff 90, p. 00.

Laid out in single columns for verse as well as for prose. In the prose
passages the line-endings are uneven.

Copy for the present edition was apparently divided between the verse
prologue to Melibeus and the prose Tale of Melibeus for concurrent
composition and printing. Quire [K], containing the prologue, consists of 10
leaves instead of the regular 8, its final leaf a blank. The Tale of Melibeus
proper then begins on the first leaf of a fresh quire [L]. This coincides with
a division in the sequence of paper use. Quires [L-Z, aa] begin with a run of
stock 15, and end with a mixture of stocks 17, 20, 23-25, in an approximate
parallel of the paper stock sequence of quires [a-z, A-K] of the first part.

In the following copies press variants have been noted:

A.	British Library 167.c.26
B.	British Library G.11585
C.	Oxford, Merton College
D.	John Rylands University Library
E.	Lilly Library
F.	Pierpont Morgan Library
G.	H. E. Huntington Library
H.	Folger Shakespeare Library
I.	Yale Center for British Art
J.	Wormsley Library, formerly Fitzwilliam

[c]3^a, l. 3: fight (A, C) / flight (B, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)

l. 9: doyse (A, C) / deuyse (B, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)

[e]1^a, l. 28: gr [...] (A, H) / grace (B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J)

[k]6^b, l. 21: vnkid (G) / vnkind (A, B, C, D, E, F, H, I, J)

[t]8^a, l. 25: sowpnour (turned m) (B, G, H) / sompnour (A, C, D, E, F, J)

[K]4^a, l. 24: dide (G) / deide (A, B, C, D, E, F, H, I, J)

[O]8^b, l. 5: Baltasar (A) / Balthasar (B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J)

271 × 189 mm. Without the blanks. Leaf 11 has been
mutilated along the outer margin, and the text, which is
only affected on the verso, supplied in pen-and-ink facsimile.
Leaves [a]1-8, [I]1 and [aa]2-4 are hinged, and leaf [aa]5
inlaid. Rubricated. The name 'Anthony Huggett' is written on
[a]2^a in a 17th-century hand, and the inscription 'H T 1556'
is written on a fly-leaf from an earlier binding at the end of
the volume. Two moral sentences beginning 'A woman is lesse
pittifull than a man' and 'Blynd ...' are written on [a]2^a in a
16th-century hand, and three in the same hand have been
written on the end flyleaf, together with a fourth sentence
and part of a formal letter in two other 16th-century hands. A
proverb 'fortior est qui se quam qui fortissima vincit / menia
nec virtus altius ire potest' (no. 9817 in Walther (1964))
is written in the bottom margin of [aa]5^b in another 16th-
century hand. Several items which were formerly bound in a
copy of *Chaucer's Works* printed by Thomas Godfray, 1532
(lot 2275 in J. West sale-catalogue, 29 March 1773) are now
tipped in at the beginning of the volume as follows: (1) two
letters, dated 21 and 29 April 1746, from Abraham Joseph
Rudd of St. John's College, Oxford, to Joseph Ames, giving
bibliographical information concerning the volume in the

library of that college containing Caxton's editions of Chaucer's *Troilus and Creseyde* (De Ricci 26: 1), the *Canterbury Tales*, second edition (De Ricci 23: 1) and *Quattuor Sermones*, first edition (De Ricci 85: 2, cf. Ames-Herbert, vol. 2, and about the volume Bone (1932)); (2) an illuminated portrait of Chaucer, on vellum, apparently an 18th-century copy of an original otherwise unknown, but closely related to the portrait in British Library MS. Add. 5141, which itself derives from the Hoccleve portrait in Harl. 4866, fol. 91 (see Spielmann (1900), Plates I and III). The facsimile copy of the lease of Chaucer's house in Westminster, 1399, published by Richard Rawlinson in 1752, also from the Godfray edition, which was still bound in the volume when seen by Blades, has now been removed to a tract collection (Cup. 645.e.1(5)).

The volume was purchased by James West for £15 at Baker and Leigh's sale of part of the library of an anonymous collector, 29 April-4 May 1771 (see sale-catalogue S.C.-S 12 (with buyers and prices) lot 1000 and Herbert's annotated copy of Ames (1749), (C.60.o.5, p. 54). An autograph note signed by West which has been bound in at the end states: 'It is the first Edition of Chaucer printed by Caxton, is the only perfect one known in England. The Earles of Pembroke and Oxford told me after the utmost enquiry, they never could see one...'. The volume was purchased by G. Nicol for King George III at James West's sale, 29 March 1773, lot 2274, for £47 15.6. With the King's Library press-mark 167.c.26. De Ricci 22: 1.

Bound in 18th-century brown russia tooled in gold, an insect roll along the border and arms of George III subsequently added in the centre. The same roll occurs on Palladio's *Fabrice Antiche*, ed. Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington, London 1730 (62.i.6) which came from the collection of Consul Joseph Smith (*Bibliotheca Smithiana*, 1755, p. 346). The original back strip (a vellum fragment of an ecclesiastical work in an early 14th-century hand) was removed when the volume was rebacked and is now bound in at the end.

Provenance:

H.T. (inscription 1556).

Anthony Huggett (inscription, 17th century).

'A scarce collection', sold at Baker and Leigh, 29 April-4 May 1771, lot 1000, purchased by James West.

James West (his sale, March 1773, lot 2274, G. Nicol for King George III).

King George III's copy (167.c.26).

IB. 55009.

Another copy.

283 × 202 mm. Imperfect; wanting leaves [a]2, 7, 8 and [aa]3-5 which have been supplied in pen-and-ink facsimile. Without the blank leaves. Leaves [a]3 and [aa]1 are mutilated, the missing text being supplied in pen-and-ink facsimile. Rubricated. The volume has been washed but traces of early marginal marks can be discerned on several leaves. There are a few traces of manuscript quiring in red from [x]4^a in the form of a letter and arabic numeral.

De Ricci 22: 3.

Bound in gold-tooled blue morocco with the arms of Thomas

Grenville in the centre; gold-tooled blue morocco doublures.

Grenville copy (G. 11585).

IB. 55010.

Another copy.

Two fragments, consisting of (1) the lower part of leaf [Q]1, comprising lines 19-29, mounted verso uppermost, measuring 107 × 75 mm; (2) the lower part of leaf [R]5, mutilated, comprising lines 18-21 and parts of lines 22-29, mounted verso uppermost, measuring 106 × 81 mm.

Bagford Ballads.

C.40.m.9(23).

CHAUCER, GEOFFREY. *The Canterbury Tales*. Second edition. * [1483]

a2^a. *headline* Prohemye III gRete thankes lawde and honour / ought to be gylluen vnto the clerkes / poetes / andȝ historiographers II that haue wreton many noble bokes of wysedom...a2^b, l. 25. ... Andȝ also that alle we that shal see andȝ rede II therin / may so take andȝ vnderstōde the goodȝ andȝ vertuous taIIles / that it may so prouffyte / vnto the helthe of our sowles / that II after thys short and transitorye lyf we may come to euerlastyng II lyf in heuen / Amen III COLOPHON: By Wylliam Caxton a3^a. *headline* Prologue III wHan that Apryll wyth hys shouris sote The droughte of marche hath percydȝ the rote Andȝ bathydȝ euery veyne in suche lycour Of whyche vertue engendrydȝ is the flour ... <L3^b, l. 9. Explicit Tractatus Galfridi Chaucer de II Penitencia vt dicitur pro fabula Rectoris III NOW praye I to hem alle that herken thys lityl tretise or II rede / ...L4^a, l. 5, END: ... so that I may II be one of hem at the day of dome that shal be sauȝdȝ / Qui cum II patre et spiritu sancto viuut et regnat deus / Per omnia secula II seculorum AMEN / >

Folio. a-t⁸v⁶; aa-hh⁸ ii⁶; A-K⁸ L⁶. 314 leaves, the first and two last blank. Signed to the fold with letter and roman numeral.

a8^a: 38 lines of verse, with headline, 190 (202) × 86 mm.

A5^a: 38 lines of prose, with headline, 190 (202) × 124 mm.

Types 2: 135B^a, headlines, colophon; 4: 95 (100) B^a, text.

Initial spaces with guide-letters. 23 woodcuts (24 repeats).

23/47 woodcuts.

Paper: stocks 112-116, 191-125.

Hain 4922. Blades 57. De Ricci 23. Duff 88. GW 6586. STC 5083. Cx 55.

The above collation is derived from the copy in the library of St. John's College, Oxford (De Ricci 23: 1), which lacks only the first and last blank leaves, and corrects other descriptions in which the last quire is stated to have four leaves (L⁴). Transcription of the missing leaves is from the St. John's copy.

Dating:

Nine of the twelve paper stocks (112, 113, 115, 116, 119-123) are also found in the second edition of *The Chronicles of England*, dated 8 October 1482 (Duff 98, see above p. 00). Production of the *Canterbury Tales* probably followed immediately, but there may have been some concurrent production of the two books. It seems likely that the *Canterbury Tales* was completed early in 1483.

Contents:

1	a1	blank	
2 ^a -2 ^b	a2 ^{a-b}	Caxton's Prohemye	
3 ^a -21 ^a	a3 ^a -c5 ^b	General Prologue	
22 ^a -51 ^b , l. 11	c6 ^a -g3 ^b	Knight	}
51 ^b , l. 12-61 ^b , l. 22	g3 ^b -h5 ^b	Miller	} A
61 ^b , l. 23-68 ^a , l. 25	h5 ^b -i4 ^a	Reeve	}
68 ^a , l. 26-70, l. 3	i4 ^a -i6 ^a	Cook	}
70, l. 4-87 ^b , l. 18	i6 ^a -17 ^b	Man of Law	B ¹
87 ^b , l. 19-103 ^b	i7 ^b -n7 ^b	Merchant	E ²
104 ^a -113 ^b , l. 11	n8 ^a -p1 ^b	Squire	F ¹
113 ^b , l. 12-126 ^b	p1 ^b -q6 ^b	Franklin	F ²
127 ^a -143 ^b	q7 ^a -s7 ^b	Wife of Bath	}
144 ^a -149 ^b , l. 9	s8 ^a -t5 ^b	Friar	} D
149 ^b , l. 10-158 ^b	t5 ^b -v6 ^b	Summoner	}
159 ^a -177 ^a , l. 22	aa1-cc3 ^a	Clerk	}
177 ^a , l. 23-77 ^b , l. 28	cc3 ^a -cc3 ^b	Lenvoy de Chaucer	} E ¹
177 ^b , l. 29-178 ^a , l. 4	cc3 ^b -cc4 ^a	Words of the Host	}
178 ^a , l. 5-186 ^b	cc4 ^a -dd4 ^b	Second Nun	} G
187 ^a -199 ^b	dd5 ^a -ff1 ^b	Canon's Yeoman	}
200 ^a -204 ^a , l. 6	ff2 ^a -ff6 ^a	Doctor of Physic	}
204 ^a , l. 7-204 ^b , l. 18	ff6 ^{a-b}	Words of the Host	} C
204 ^b , l. 19-213 ^b , l. 10	ff6 ^b -gg7 ^b	Pardoner	}
213 ^b , l.11-219 ^b , l. 13	gg7 ^b -hh5 ^b	Shipman	}
219 ^b , ll. 14-33	hh5 ^b	Words of the Host	}
220 ^a -223 ^b	hh6 ^a -ii1 ^b	Prioress	}
224 ^a -227 ^a	ii2 ^a -ii5 ^a	Sir Thopas	}
227 ^b -228 ^a	ii5 ^b -ii6 ^a	Words of the Host	} B ²
228 ^b	ii6 ^b	blank	}
229 ^a -248 ^a	A1 ^a -C4 ^a	Melibeus	}
248 ^b -261 ^b	C4 ^b -E1 ^b	Monk	}
262 ^a -271 ^b , l. 7	E2 ^a -F3 ^b	Nun's Priest	}
271 ^b , l.8 8-227 ^a , l. 15	F3 ^b -G1 ^a	Manciple	H
277 ^a , l. 16-331 ^b , l. 10	G1 ^a -L3 ^b	Parson	I
311 ^b , l. 11-312 ^a , l. 7	L3 ^b -L4 ^a	Chaucer's retraction	
312 ^b , 313, 314	L4 ^b , L5, L6	blank	

IMEV 4019. IPMEP 18.2, 273.1, 482.2, 529.2. IPMEP 18.2. Text edition: Manly and Rickert (1940). Robinson, 2nd.ed. (1957), pp. 17-265. Crotch (1928), pp. 90-91. Blake (1973) pp. 61-3. Facsimile: Bennett (1972).

As shown by Dunn (1939), Caxton's second edition was printed from a copy of his first edition, with significant textual corrections, and several changes in the sequence of the tales, derived from a borrowed manuscript. For further discussion see Blake (2000), pp. 138-40. A purchaser of the first edition (Caxton states in his Prohemye) complained that it was not 'accordyng in many places unto the book that Gefferey chaucer had made'. His father owned a manuscript 'that was very trewe and accordyng unto hys [Chaucer's] owen first book by hym made', which he was willing to lend to Caxton. The manuscript is no longer extant, but has been shown to belong to either the version known as 'group a', or to what is now identified by P. Robinson as 'group O' (Blake (2000), p. 148).

Caxton's main concern when editing the text was to add lines of verse that had been omitted in his first edition (to a total of 277 lines) and to take out or replace lines which he now rejected as spurious (to a total of 89 lines, see Dunn pp. 39-41; Blake (2000), p. 138). He made a small number of textual corrections, partly derived from his manuscript source and partly independent, in thirteen of the Tales: Knight, Miller, Man of Law, Merchant, Franklin, Wife of Bath, Clerk, Canon's Yeoman, Pardoner, Shipman, Prioress, Monk and Nun's Priest. Ten Tales in verse and the two prose sections remained practically untouched: Reeve, Cook, Squire, Friar, Summoner, Second Nun, Physician, Sir Topas, Melibeus and Parson, with very little interference in the Tales of the Nun's Priest and the Manciple.

Caxton rearranged the order of the Tales, thus putting textual links to their correct use. The order of the Tales in relation to the first edition is:

CT I	: AB ¹ F ¹	E ² DE ¹	F ²	GCB ² HI
CT II	: AB ¹	E ²	F ¹ F ² DE ¹	GCB ² HI

Five verse sections (the Tales of the Man of Law, Clerk, Second Nun, Prioress and Monk) were printed as stanzas in the second edition, the Monk's Tale with a change in order of the stanzas. Caxton improved the typographical layout further by providing headlines and illustrations which both serve to clarify the structure of the text.

Copy for the second edition of the *Canterbury Tales* was divided for concurrent production. As in the first edition, a division was made at the beginning of the prose Tale of Melibeus which was left unedited ([L]1^a in the first edition, A1^a in the second). The compositor of quires A-L is distinguishable from the one who set quires a-v by his use of capitals as guide-letters, and by headlines in the form 'The Prologue' rather than (for example) 'The marchauntes prologe'. See also Blake (2000), pp. 145-6. A parallel sequence of paper stocks confirms the division and the order of concurrent production. When the second compositor had completed the section ending with L4 (the end of the book) another division of copy was made, between the Summoner's Tale and the Clerk's Tale; the second compositor began to set the Clerk's Tale and following tales with a new set of signatures running from aa to ii. The second division between compositors occurs within quire [y] in the copy-text, where the Clerk's Tale begins on [y]1^b l. 26. The successive divisions of copy resulted in almost equal assignments to the two compositors: 310 pages to the first (a-v), 314 pages to the second (A-L, aa-ii).

Headlines are printed on recto and verso pages. Some irregularities show that two-page formes were made up at a time, and that headlines were used as skeletons, e.g. a turned n in the headline 'The marchauntes tale' is found on the first four verso pages of quire m. Similarly the headline 'The Frakeleyns tale' first occurred on the last four verso pages of quire p, to be carried over to q1^a, q2^a, q5^b and q6^b.

Two accidents in the headlines illuminate the order of completion of formes: on i4^a the headline is 'The Myllers tale' instead of 'The Reues tale' and on i5^b 'The Reues Tale' instead of 'The Cokis tale'; the pair of headlines of forme i4^a.5^b reading 'The Reues Tale - The Myllers tale' was taken over from the outer formes hi^a.8^b and h2^a.7^b where they were used correctly. The headline on o5^a is 'The squyers Prologe' instead of 'The Squyers tale'. The first (and correct) use of this headline was on n8^a where it reads: 'The squyer Prologe'. On o5^a (where an s had been inserted) there is a damaged u in the word 'squyers' which occurs in the same position on n8^a and can also be observed on o6^a, 07^a and o8^a which all read 'The squyers Tale', thus showing that the line had been corrected after it was printed on o5^a. The order of completion of the formes must therefore have proceeded from the inner forme of the middle sheet outward, an order also indicated by the headlines error on i4^a.5^b where the headline was taken from h1^a.8^b which must have immediately preceded it at press.

Leaf i4 is unsigned in the copy in St. John's College, Oxford, but signed in the present copy.

Illustrations:

For a detailed discussion of the disposition of the woodcuts see Blake (2000), pp. 140-1.

a3 ^b	Hodnett	214;
a4 ^b		215;
a5 ^a		216;
a5 ^b		217;
a6 ^b		218;
a7 ^b		219;
a8 ^b		220;
b1 ^a		221;
b1 ^b		222;
b2 ^a		220 ² ;
b3 ^a		223;
b3 ^b		224;
b4 ^a		225;
b4 ^b		226;
b5 ^b		227;
b6 ^a		226 ² ;
b7 ^a		228;
b7 ^b		229;
b8 ^a		230;

b8 ^b	231;
c1 ^b	220 ³ ;
c2 ^b	232;
c4 ^a	233;
c5 ^b	214 ² ;
g4 ^b	229 ² ;
h6 ^b	231 ² ;
i5 ^a	224 ² ;
i7 ^b	222 ² ;
l8 ^a	220 ⁴ ;
n8 ^b	215 ² ;
p2 ^b	230 ² ;
q6 ^b	227 ² ;
s8 ^b	219 ² ;
t6 ^b	220 ⁵ ;
aa2 ^a	221 ² ;
cc6 ^a	234;
dd7 ^b	225 ² ;
ff2 ^a	226 ³ ;
ff8 ^b	232 ² ;
gg7 ^b	225 ³ ;
hh6 ^b	217 ² ;
ii2 ^b	235;
A1 ^a	235 ² ;
C6 ^a	218 ² ;
E3 ^a	236;
F5 ^b	230 ³ ;
G2 ^b	226 ⁴ ;

260 × 195 mm. Imperfect; wanting leaves i7, p1, quire ii, leaves A1, B2, B3, quire K, and leaves L3, L4 which have been supplied in pen-and-ink by Harris, on Grenville's commission, from the copy in St. John's College, Oxford. Without the blanks. Leaf aa1 is mutilated in the lower right-hand corner, containing the signature only. Leaf a2 is hinged. Rubricated. A short and inaccurate manuscript account of Chaucer in a 16th-century hand is inserted at the beginning with the note: 'the above was cut out from a very antient binding of this Book'.

De Ricci 23: 3.

Bound in gold-tooled blue morocco with doublures, and with the arms of Thomas Grenville.

Grenville copy (G. 11586)

IB. 55094.

Another copy.

274 × 190 mm. Imperfect; wanting leaves a-1, leaves m1, 4, 5, n4, 5, 8, and quires p, q, E, I and L. Leaves aa1 and dd6 are mutilated. Leaf m8 has been misbound, verso uppermost, before m6, G8 is bound after H8. Rubricated. Bought by Hans Sloane from John Bagford in 1704 (see the entry in Bagford's account book, MS Harl. 5998, f.9, where it is described as 'Chaycers works y first edition by Caxton'); in Sloane's own catalogue, Sloane Ms. 3972C, vol. III, p. 662, the volume is described as 'H.36. The Tale of Chaucer...Caxton'. An early manuscript foliation, of which a few traces still remain after cropping, must have been added while the copy was still in the original order (e.g. bb1 = clxvi, C6 = ccxlix, F2 = cclxix, K3 = cccij), but by the time that Sloane acquired the book it was bound in the order A1 (the 'Tale of Chaucer') - K8, followed by m2 - ii6, as may be seen from the lists of contents in Sloane's hand on the verso of the front fly-leaf. Sloane's autograph press-mark 'H.36' is written on the recto of the front fly-leaf and two former Museum press-marks '8 Ni' and '3 Gk' appear on A1^a. The contents have now been restored to the original

order.

De Ricci 23: 2.

Bound in 18th-century sprinkled calf with the Museum Britannicum monogram on the spine.

Provenance:

John Bagford, 1704.

Sir Hans Sloane, 1704-1753.

From the Old Library.

IB. 55095.