Prefatory Note

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This *Draftings* project results from a request by a group of students in my course on Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* for a follow-up course on Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*. Already having read the most important general studies on Chaucer's works, they were ready to proceed with semi-independent research.

Rather than writing a loosely-connected collection of papers, however, they decided to produce a coherent set of essays systematically studying the influence of various writers upon Chaucer's *Troilus*. Our course focused on the work itself, and on Chaucer's translation of Boethius' *De Consolatione Philosophiae*, which preceded it. The research on the primary sources Chaucer had available "on his writing desk" was carried out independently by the students. The result of their work is truly impressive: a volume of studies which represents a full spectrum of the major influences which stand behind Chaucer's most beautiful and important finished poem.

I commend the essays which comprise this volume as sincere and meaningful scholarly work. In all instances, they indicate the promise of a bright future in the field of early English literature.

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