

Vachek, Josef

[Chaucer, Geoffrey. Ausgewählte Canterbury Erzählungen: englisch und deutsch mit Einteilung und Erklärungen]

Sborník prací Filozofické fakulty brněnské univerzity. A, Řada jazykovědná.
1963, vol. 12, iss. A11, pp. 216-

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/100097>

Access Date: 22. 02. 2024

Version: 20220831

Terms of use: Digital Library of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University provides access to digitized documents strictly for personal use, unless otherwise specified.

articulations, the interesting remarks on the interplay of pitch, stress, quality and quantity in bringing about prominence. Of special interest are the innovations in R.P. (The quality of /ɔ:/ is getting closer; short /ɔ/, transcribed as *v*, is nearing to /a:/; so is the beginning of the diphthong (au), transcribed as *av*; the beginning of the diphthong (ou), transcribed as *əv*, has assumed a centralized quality; etc.) It would not have been a bad idea to issue one or two gramophone records illustrating at least some of the variants and some other important phenomena dealt with by the book.

To sum up, Mr. A. C. Gimson's *Introduction to the Pronunciation of English* is a highly valuable contribution to the study of both English phonetics and English phonemics.

Jan Firbas

Geoffrey Chaucer: Ausgewählte Canterbury Erzählungen englisch und deutsch. Mit Einleitung und Erklärungen herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Martin Lehnert. Halle (Saale), VEB Verlag Sprache und Literatur, 1962. Pp. XVI + 192 + *189.

German students of English cannot complain of insufficient supply of handbooks and textbooks published by their own scholars. Prof. M. Lehnert, of the Humboldt University of Berlin, has devoted much time and energy to providing such handbooks. After his well-known anthology of Old English prose and poetry, his small but very efficient grammar of Old English, and his little *Beowulf* reader,¹⁾ Prof. Lehnert is now producing a volume which will be just as welcome as the above-enumerated handbooks but at the same time outsteps the limits of a mere students' manual. His anthology of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* contains the General Prologue and eight of the tales, most illustrative for the social relations and general atmosphere of Chaucer's period: *The Miller's Tale*, *the Reeve's Tale*, *The Cook's Tale*, *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, *The Friar's Tale*, *the Summoner's Tale*, *the Pardoner's Tale*, and *the Shipman's Tale*.

The text is given in two parallel versions, in Middle English and in Modern German: as the two versions are regularly placed on the opposite pages, the corresponding passages can be comfortably compared. Numerous footnotes explain both less known lexical items and such contextual passages as are difficult to grasp for the present-day reader. The German version of the text was modelled on W. Hertzberg's translation of as early as 1866, but also later translations were consulted, (such as A. v. Düring 1886, and J. Koch 1925), and in some instances—which, unfortunately, have not been identified in the text—Prof. Lehnert's own modern translation was attempted. The editor also provided the Preface containing not only valuable information about the literary aspects of the book but also an apt outline of the social context in which Chaucer's heroes lived and acted. A selected bibliographical list of post-1945 books and papers concerned with Chaucerian problems increases the usefulness of the volume.

Josef Vachek

¹⁾ The last-mentioned two manuals were published in the well-known Göschen collection and reviewed by the present reviewer in the *Časopis pro moderní filologii* 42, 1960, pp. 49–50.