

CHAUCER

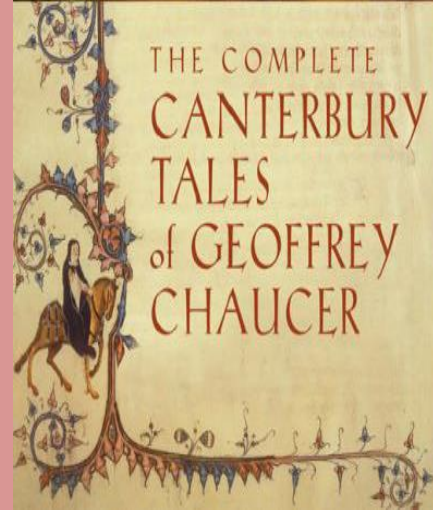
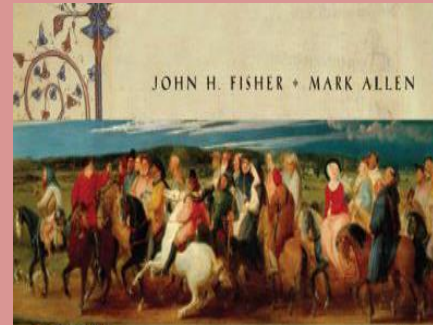
Chaucer was born in London, around 1345, in a family of wine-merchants. As a young teenager, he was taken into an aristocratic household. Still in his teens, he fought in Edward's third army in France. During an attack on Rheims, Chaucer was taken prisoner, but released after a ransom was paid.

By 1367, he had entered the royal service. When the duke's wife died, Chaucer composed the *Book of the Duchess* in her memory - his first known poem.

The *Canterbury Tales* was the most popular book, with over 80 copies.

He was an inspiration for other writers and artists.

Chaucer died in 1400.



JOHN KOLONIS