

# Guide to the Papers of The Chaucer Guild

By Jack James Kabrel Edited by R. Wolk

Archives and Special Collections, Cheng Library  
William Paterson University

---

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** The Chaucer Guild

**Title:** Guide to the Papers of The Chaucer Guild

**Dates:** 1930 – 2005

**Abstract:** The Chaucer Guild is the Oldest Poetry Society in New Jersey. This collection is only but a small amount of the material that was produced during seventy-five years of its existence. The material contained in this collection provides a wonderful running narrative of a small group of poets through photographs, letters, newsletters and various collections of poems.

**Quantity:** 2 folders

**Collection No.:**

---

## Biographical Sketch

*The Chaucer Guild* was originally organized as the Mittru Chapter of the Chaucer Guild in 1930 by James Gabelle. A small group of six citizens from Paterson New Jersey met in November 1930 to form what would eventually become the oldest poetry society in New Jersey. Present at the meeting was Gabelle, Louis Ginsberg, Frances Hamilton Archer, Isabelle V. Hayward, Christie Jeffries and John Piekema. The purpose of *The Chaucer Guild* is to promote the writing of good poetry, appreciate fine poetry and to encourage young upcoming poets.

In 1935 the Guild officially changed its name to *The Chaucer Guild*, but the stated purposes of the Guild never changed. The Guild published four anthologies; *Blue Shadow* (1935), *This Fair Company* (1970), *Feathers Glittering as Gold* (1981), *Pilgrims Passing Through* (1985) and *The Chaucer Guild Anthology for 2004-2005* (2005).

---

## Scope and Content Note

The photographs in the collection cover the years 1930-1989. The pictures were mostly taken during meetings of the Guild, and are both formal and informal in their content. The news clippings cover the entire span of the Guilds existence and give a fine narrative of the ongoing events of the poetry society. Printed invitations are an example of the events and activities sponsored by the Guild. They illustrate the range and scope of the organization, and provide a chronology of activities.

Special Note: Included within The Chaucer Guild collection is a series of four photographs of **Louis Ginsberg** and his family (including **Allen Ginsberg**). Louis Ginsberg was a founding member of the Chaucer Guild and his son, Allen Ginsberg was a prominent Beat Generation poet during the later half of the Twentieth Century.

---

## Arrangement Note

The photographs, news clippings, invitations, correspondences and schedules of The Chaucer Guild are separated into two folders; one folder is labeled **The Chaucer Guild, 1930 – 1969**, and the other is labeled **The Chaucer Guild, 1970 – 2005**. A third folder contains four anthology publications from the Chaucer Guild; **Feathers Glittering as Gold, 1981**, **Pilgrims Passing Through, 1985**, **Bittersweet: An Anthology of Poetry by**

**Mildred Farrar Davidson, 1986 and The Chaucer Guild Anthology for 2004 – 2005.** The contents of each folder are arranged chronologically.

---

Name and Subject Index Terms

**Personal Names**

Archer, Frances Hamilton  
Argiroff, Louise  
Blocsberg, Bertha  
Chaffee (Wood), Eleanor Alletta  
Connors, May R.  
Constantine, Karen Phillips  
Davidson, Mildred Farrar  
Demers, Rita  
Dercar, Mary Lou  
Donahue, Doris  
Gabelle, James  
**Ginsberg, Allen**  
**Ginsberg, Louis**  
Hall, Lloyd G.  
Hayward, Isabelle V.  
Haywood, Matilda S.  
Haywood, William F.  
Holderith, W.J.  
Jeffries, Christie  
Jones, Dr. George Elwood  
Kelley, Bernice C.  
Le Schack, Cathy Devereux  
Neville, Richard  
Piekema, John  
Pratt, John Sterling  
Quinzer, George  
Rood, Marilyn Kingsley  
Shubert, Reinold  
Stempel, Lillian F.  
Tiffany, Marguerite B.  
Von Den Deale, Ellen P.  
Weiss, Alfred  
Wiegel, Evelyn M.

---

## Subjects

Bloomfield College  
Chaucer Guild, The  
Colleges and Universities – New Jersey  
Colleges and Universities – Faculty  
Expression, The Garen Magazine  
Garen Magazine, The  
Literature  
New Jersey Poets  
Paterson (City)  
Paterson State College  
Poetry  
Poetry – Beat Generation  
Ramapo College  
Rutgers University  
William Paterson College