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"Criticism of Chaucer's Legend of Good Women
From 1965 to the Present"

This paper is a summary and evaluation of criticism written on Chaucer's Legend of Good Women in recent years, specifically on criticism written on the subject after 1965. The concentration in this paper will be mostly on summarizing and paraphrasing what the critic's have said, attempting to shy away from the temptation to exercise my own pendentic aesthetics. I feel it is necessary to present some quotes of the different critics before I comment on their work. The critics we will be looking at are all expert in Chaucerian criticism, and about all I can do as a novice undergraduate student of Chaucer is try to develop some sort of sane overview of the different critical visions of the Legend. This developing of an overview will put me in the position of a judge, but for the most part I will be trying to order the different criticisms in a way that will keep like concerns, and criticism of individual legends, together.

Recent criticism on the Legend of Good Women is sparse, but not due to a recent movement away from the work. It is generally ignored, because it is traditionally thought of as fragmentary, and because the Canterbury Tales, written directly after the Legend, is more fertile critical ground and traditionally taken as the most representative of Chaucer's work in his last period. What I have to work with is a single book length analysis and five essays (three from Chaucer Review, one from JEGP, and one

Valid approach