THE SCHOOL OF CULTURAL INQUIRY

WARMLY INVITES YOU ATTEND THE LAUNCH OF

CHAUCER’S LANDSCAPES AND OTHER ESSAYS

by Ralph W.V. Elliott
edited by J.K. Lloyd Jones

Thursday 25 November, 2010
6.00 pm

To be launched by Dr Bruce Moore, Head of the Australian National Dictionary Centre, in the Common Room, University House, Australian National University

ALL WELCOME

The launch will be followed by an informal dinner in the Fellows’ Bar and Café, University House.

Note that to celebrate the launch of Chaucer’s Landscapes, a symposium entitled “The Lighter Side of the Middle Ages” will be held on Friday November 26th 2010 9am-5pm in the School of Cultural Inquiry Conference Room, 1st floor A.D. Hope Building, ANU. All are welcome.

For program and more details, see website:


Email and all enquiries should be sent to Dr Jan Lloyd Jones at jan.lloyd-jones@anu.edu.au

Chaucer’s Landscapes presents a variety of essays, speeches, and reviews by renowned medievalist and philologist Ralph W.V. Elliott, Emeritus Professor of English at the Australian National University. During an academic career of more than fifty years, Professor Elliott has made major contributions to English literary studies, particularly on the subjects of Runes, the Gawain poet, Chaucer, and Thomas Hardy.

The essays and speeches collected in Chaucer’s Landscapes reflect these principal interests, as well as offering glimpses of other interests and passions. They discuss works that span a thousand years and encompass many languages. By turn serious and playful, learned and waggish, they guide the reader easily over terrain that it would otherwise be impossible for him to traverse without a lifetime of study. Topics include the magical and everyday uses of runic inscriptions, the origins of the great heroic poem The Battle of Maldon, the location of Sir Gawain’s Green Chapel, and the many voices Chaucer adopts in The Canterbury Tales. The volume also includes a memoir entitled “A Kilted Kraut”, in which the professor tells his own extraordinary tale – how he escaped from Nazi Germany to Edinburgh and eventually went on to make his career and reputation in the study of English, a language that he knew little of (except for “darling” and “bugger”) when he first crossed the Channel at the age of fourteen. It is a tale full of irony, and it touches on the great tragic world events of last century; but it is told lightly, engagingly, and with that flair for language and for story that characterises Ralph Elliott’s style and that derives from a lifetime devoted to catching the overtones and nuances of those very fleeting things – words.

The views expressed at this event are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.