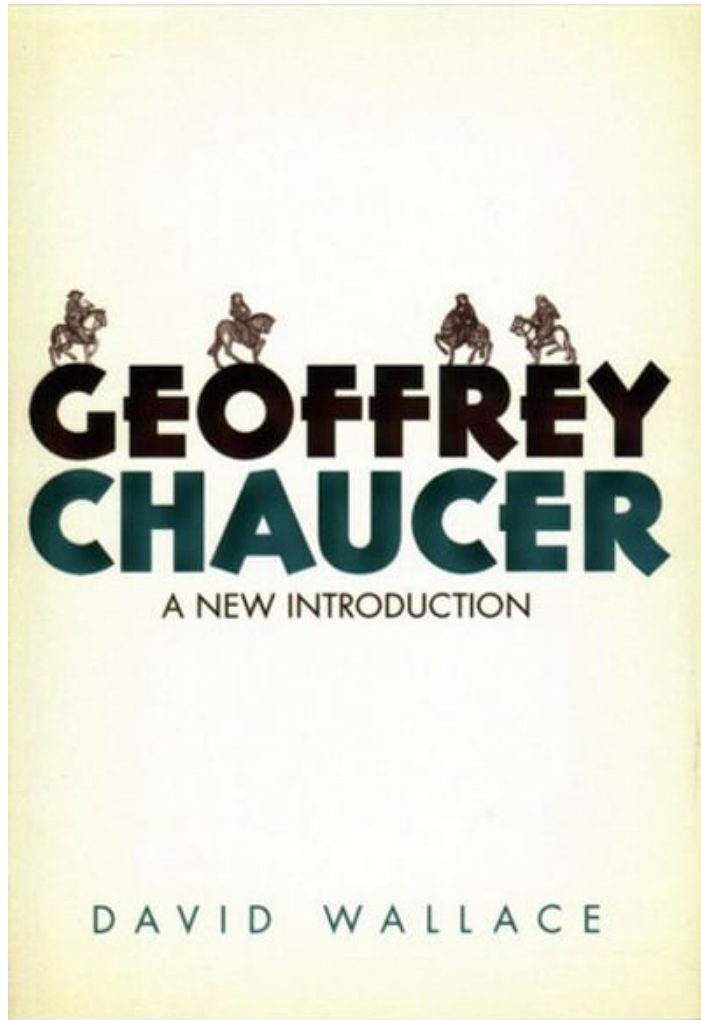


Nine-Tenths A Loaf: A Review of Geoffrey Chaucer: a New Introduction

by James Como (January 2018)



Geoffrey Chaucer: a New Introduction

by David Wallace

Oxford University Press, 172pp

This slim, but by no means slight, book might have been part of the Very Short Introduction series that Oxford has been publishing the past several years (the editors of that series and of this book are the same, and so this full disclosure: I'm writing the VSI on C. S. Lewis). I say 'might have been' because it is some eight thousand words longer than books in that series (which are limited to thirty-five thousand words) and at that is missing some fifteen hundred words that I would have liked included (more on the missing piece anon). Of course, therein lies the difficulty for any scholar who has steeped himself lifelong in a writer and his world but must satisfy strict limitations. Within those Prof. Wallace has produced a superb introduction: an adroit, authoritative, fresh, energetic delight.

The book's seven chapters are Beginnings; Schoolrooms, Science, Female Intuition; A Life in Poetry; Poetry at Last: *Troilus and Criseyde*