

John Lydgate

Time Line of Life Events

- c. 1370 Lydgate born in village of Lydgate in Suffolk near the Benedictine abbey of Bury Saint Edmunds.
- 1375 John Barbar writes “The Bruce”
- 1378 Popes Urban VI and Clement VII both elected. The Great Schism begins. (Ends in 1417)
- c. 1385 When Lydgate was about 15 he became a novice and received his first education at Bury Saint Edmunds.
- ?? Lydgate educated at Oxford. (??)
- 1389 Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*
- 1389 Lydgate becomes subdeacon
- 1393 Lydgate becomes deacon
- 1397 Lydgate ordained as a priest. He is believed to have founded a school of rhetoric at Bury sometime after this.
- 1399 Richard II deposed. Henry of Lancaster crowned Henry IV.
- 1400 Thomas Chaucer dies
- 1403? Lydgate writes *The Temple of Glas*
- 1408 John Gower dies.
- c. 1408 Lydgate writes *Reson and Sensuallyte*
- 1409-1411? Lydgate writes *The Life of Our Lady*
- 1412 Lydgate Begins *Troy Book*
- 1413 Henry IV dies. Henry V becomes king.
- 1417 Lydgate writes “The Departing of Chaucer”
- 1420? Robert Henryson born.
- 1420 Lydgate finishes *Troy Book*
- 1420-22 Lydgate writes *The Siege of Thebes*
- 1422 Lydgate writes *The Serpent of Division*

- 1422 Henry V dies. Henry VI is nine months old.
- 1423 Lydgate becomes prior at Hatfield Broad Oak in Essex
- 1423 James I of Scotland released by the English
- 1426 Thomas Hoccleve dies
- 1426 Lydgate goes to Paris on official business
- 1426 Lydgate begins *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man* and *The Daunce of Machabree*
- 1427 Lydgate writes *The Title and Pedigree of Henry VI* commissioned by Richard de Beauchamp, the fifth Earl of Warwick
- 1428 Joan of Arc leads French armies against England
- 1429 Lydgate returns to London for the coronation of Henry VI. He stays in the area for the next several years, traveling between London, Windsor, Bury Saint Edmunds, and Hatfield Broad Oak.
- 1430 *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man* and *The Daunce of Machabree* finished
- 1431 Joan of Arc burned at the Stake
- 1431 Henry VI crowned King of France in Paris
- 1431 Lydgate begins *Fall of Princes*
- 1433 Lydgate completes *Lives of St. Edmund and St. Fremund* for presentation to Henry VI
- 1434 Lydgate priorate at Hatfield Broad Oak
- 1435 Lydgate writes *Virtues of the Mass*, commissioned by Alice Chaucer.
- 1439 Lydgate writes *The Lives of Saint Alban and Saint Amphibal* for John Whethamstede, Abbot of Saint Albans.
- 1446 (?) Lydgate Translates *Secreta Secretorum* as *Secrees of the Old Philisoffres*
- Late 1448-1449 Lydgate writes *Testament*
- Late 1449 or 1450 Lydgate dies and is buried at Bury Saint Edmunds