Trading Tongues

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Figure 1. London Wall Walk, Panel 5 (detail), near the former site of Chaucer’s Aldgate residence. Wall outside of Sir John Cass’s Foundation Primary School, near the intersection of Duke’s Place and St. Botolph Street, London. Photograph by the author, 24 May 2010.

Figure 2. The French account book of London merchant Gilbert Maghfield records a debt owed by Chaucer (at bottom). Kew, The National Archives, E101/509/19, fol. 24r.

Figure 3. Miscellany of Richard Hill (bottom half of one folio). In this section, Hill records the births and deaths of his children (births in English, deaths in Latin). Oxford, Balliol College MS 354, fol. 17r.

Figure 4. A page from John Skelton’s Speke Parrot, with Latin glosses and John Colyns’ decorative flourishes. London, British Library, Harley MS 2252, fol. 134r.

Figure 5. John Colyns’ experiments with diverse letter-forms (varieties of the initial S) near the ending of Speke Parrot. London, British Library, Harley MS 2252, fol. 139r.

Figure 6. Charles d’Orléans in the Tower of London. Detail of a page in a manuscript containing a selection of his French poems with some of his English works. London, British Library, MS Royal 16 F. ii, fol. 73r.