

R.D. Canterbury Pilgrims

Geoffrey Chaucer is considered to be the father of English Literature. He was born the son of prosperous wine merchant in London in circa 1343 and he died late late in 1399. He was buried in Westminster Abbey and in 1556 his remains were moved and he became the first writer to be interred in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner. Chaucer's most famous work is the unfinished frame narrative "The Canterbury Tales". For the full narrative on Royal Doulton's Canterbury Pilgrims series just follow the read more tab……

Royal Doulton Canterbury Pilgrims Set of Concord Jugs; D3188 Royal Doulton Canterbury PilgrimsThe Canterbury Tales is regarded as Geoffrey Chaucer's magnum opus and the point that was the birth of English Literature. It is a frame narrative, a collection of stories told to form a whole story, this style of narrative still in favor today; especially with television series. The Canterbury Tales regard twenty nine pilgrims who meet in Tabard Inn in Southwark, London and decide to travel together on a pilgrimage to visit the martyr Thomas a' Becket's tomb in Canterbury Cathedral. Along the way they entertain each other with a series of yarns that are The Canterbury Tales. These tales are told from the various points of view of the twenty nine pilgrims.

Thomas a' Becket was the Archbishop of Canterbury who was assassinated by four of Henry II knights in 1170. He was brutally hacked to death in the Cathedral. He was soon made a Saint and Canterbury became a popular centre for pilgrimage throughout the Middle Age. The Canterbury Pilgrims series only has one pattern number D3118, this series was introduced in 1909 and it was withdrawn circa 1939. In most cases it has a standard Royal Doulton stamped makers mark with series name below it. This series has an ornate border that incorporates the Red English Rose and a heraldic devise that is made up of a lion and 3 birds. Canterbury Pilgrim's consists of seven scenes of character or groups of characters and 2 scene titles. I use the names and descriptions of the scenes as laid down by Louise Irvine on page 19 of Volume 1 of Royal Doulton Series Ware. While I don't always agree with Louise's descriptions, I stick with them as they are standard across the Doulton world. The character's are:-1: Chaucer

2: The Pipe Player

3: Group of three charactersThe three priests

4: Group of five charactersincluding the Widow of Bath, the friar & the Monk

5: Group of five charactersincluding Franklin, the pardoner and a drinking man

6: Group of six charactersincluding the Bailiff & the Prioress

7: Group of eight characters including the Squire, the Yeoman & the Knight
The two scene titles are :- I: The scene of the martyrdom

II: Geoffrey Chaucer's Portrait

It is common in this series to have combinations of groups of characters and scene titles on the same item. All but one of the scenes in this fact file came off a cuspidor that I recently owned.