

A Treatise on the Coat Rack¹

By Geoffrey Chaucer

Lyte ounes of Hitchcock, I aperceyve wel by certeyne evydences thyn abilite to lerne sciences touching cotes and bihangen; and as wel considre I thy besy praier in special to lerne the tretys of the cotes rack. Than therfore I, by mediacioun of this litel tretys, purpose to teche the a certain nombre of conclusions aperteynyng to the same instrument, *viz.* the cotes rack. Truste wel that alle the conclusions that han be founde, or ellys possibly might be founde in so noble an instrument as is a cotes rack ben unknowe parfitly to eny mortal man in this regioun, as I suppose.

This tretis, divided in towue parties, wol I shewe the under full light reules and naked wordes in Englissh, for Latyn ne canst thou yit but small, my litel ounes. But natheles suffise to the these trewe conclusions in Englissh as wel as sufficith to these noble clerkes Grekes these same conclusions in Grek; and to Arabiens in Arabik, and to Jewes in Ebrew, and to the Latyn folk in Latyn.

Here begynneth the descripcioun of thin cotes rack.

1. Thyn cotes rack hath sixe pynnes upon lofte to putten the cotes loop. The nombre of this pynnes I aperceyve ben sixe, and sixe be the nombre of this pynnes, and vorthan the nombre of thynnes cottes upon the cotes rack I truste well ben sixe.
2. This pynnes beld be in swich wyse that tai undursette sixe cotes, au onlich sixe cotes, elles the pynnes ben debreken.
3. The moder of thin cotes rack is wode, perced with riegeles an by this ihealden.
4. Au if the last is graunt, this pynnes tobreke.
5. Vorthan, keepe thee the nombre of cottes upon lofte the cotes rackes pynnes les when this pynnes debreken.

Here learneth thee, to fynde the goodly pynne upon lofte bihangen thin cote.

1. Museth thou on the matere of thyn cote. Hath it a loupe that thou kunne putten upon lofte a pynne? Ef yis, bisenne the cotes rack. Hath it a pynne upon lofte ne cote be? Ef yis, putte thou thyn cotes loope upon the pynne.
2. Ellyse, bitake thyn cote elles-hwere.

¹ Chaucer, G. 'A Tretys upon the Cottes Rack,' British Library MS 613. Believed to have been composed c. 1372.

Events

(Such as there are.)

Ongoing:

Battle of the Bulbs — Hey, people. Not only should you be conserving more electricity for the good of the dorm (and this “environment” thing), but you should go find Bob Knox and sign up, even if you’re not really doing anything else, because the more signatures we have, the better. So find or email Bob and tell him to bring you the list. And sign it. And stuff.

Sunday

10:00 pm: *Holiday in the Sun*, starring your friends and mine, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen!

Thursday

10:00 pm: House Meeting in the Green Room, followed by a game of Mafia.

Upcoming

Trip to Chinatown: This will take place on the Thursday of Reading Period (March 8th)

H.M.S. Pinafore: March 9th-11th.

Mahler: Symphony No. 9: March 3rd.