Chaucer's House of Fame and the French Palais de Justice

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Chaucer's House of Fame and the French Palais de Justice

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In the spring of 1377, Chaucer was in Paris on the king's business. At that time, if not on one of his earlier trips to the Continent, Chaucer must have seen the buildings of the French Palais de Justice on the Île de la Cité. The palace, the seat of the Parlement de Paris and the official residence of the king, was described in the following terms by Jean de Jandun around 1322 in his Traite des louanges de Paris (Treatise in Praise of Paris): In this most illustrious seat of the French monarchy, a splendid palace has been built, a superb testimony to royal magnificence. In honor of their glorious memory, the statues of all the kings of France who have gone before up to today are in this place, shaped to such a perfect individual likeness that, on first inspection, one would judge them very much alive. From later descriptions and engravings (see plate 1), we know that the Great Hall of the Palais, built between 1301 and 1313, was more than seventy-five yards long...
...and thirty yards wide, with a gilded, doubled-vaulted ceiling supported by a row of eight central columns with additional columns attached to the side walls. The outstanding ornamentation of this room was the series of statues of the kings of France painted in gold and azure in standing postures about fifteen to eighteen feet off the floor atop the central and side...
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