

Topic Page: [Gower, John \(1325-1408\)](#)

Definition: **Gower, John** from *Philip's Encyclopedia*

English poet. Ranked in his time with Lydgate and Chaucer, his work includes *Vox Clamantis* (1379-82), an attack on social injustice, and his most famous work, *Confessio Amantis* (1386-93), a collection of allegorical tales on the subject of Christian and courtly love.

Summary Article: **Gower, John**

From *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*

c.1325-1408

English medieval poet

Born in Kent, he spent most of his life in London and had contacts with the court in the service of Richard II and Henry IV. A friend of Chaucer, he wrote *Speculum Meditantis* ("The Mirror of Thought"), in French verse, which was discovered at Cambridge only in 1898, and 50 French ballads. Other works include the *Vox Clamantis* ("The Voice of One Crying Out"), elegiacs in Latin (1382-84) describing the rising under Wat Tyler, the long English poem *Confessio Amantis* ("A Lover's Confession", c.1383), consisting of over 100 stories taken from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, the *Gesta Romanorum* ("History of the Romans") and medieval histories of Troy. Gower was blind from about 1400.

Burrows, J A *Ricardian Poetry: Chaucer, Gower, Langland and the Gawain Poet* (1971).

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Gower, John. (2011). In L. Rodger, & J. Bakewell, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (9th ed.). London, UK: Chambers Harrap. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/gower_john

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