



1408–2008
The Age of Gower

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
THE JOHN GOWER SOCIETY**

HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA, QUEEN
MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, AND THE CENTRE FOR THE
STUDY OF MEDIEVAL SOCIETY AND CULTURE, CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

**Queen Mary University of London,
Mile End Road, London
12–17 July 2008**

PROGRAMME

Venues

Arts = Arts Lecture Theatre
Lobby = Arts Building Entrance Hall/Foyer
RR1 = Rehearsal Room 1
RR2 = Rehearsal Room 2

SATURDAY 12 JULY 2008

10:00-5:30 **Lobby:** REGISTRATION

1:00-2:00 **RR2:** BUSINESS MEETING

2:00-2:30 **Lobby:** TEA & COFFEE

2:30-3:30 **RR2: PLENARY WELCOME**

PRESENTATION OF THE 2008 JOHN HURT FISHER AWARD TO J. ALLAN MITCHELL

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

3:30-5:00 **RR2: PAPER SESSION I: "Practicalities"**

Chair: Charlotte C. Morse, Virginia Commonwealth University *cmorse@vcu.edu*

1) Mark Allen, University of Texas at San Antonio: "The Gower Bibliography Online: One Year On" *mark.allen@utsa.edu*

2) Robert S. Sturges, Arizona State University: "Pieces of Gower: University Pedagogy and the Middle Ages" *robert.sturges@asu.edu*

3) Malte Urban, Queen's University, Belfast: "The Gower Project Report 2008"
murban@qub.ac.uk

5:00-6:00 **RR2/Lobby:** APPETIZERS/DRINKS AT QMUL

Courtesy of the John Gower Society

6:30 WALKING TOUR OF SOUTHWARK, led by Martha Carlin, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and author of *Medieval Southwark*.

Beginning at The Monument. By LT Underground from Mile End, take the District Line (westbound) to Monument.

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SUNDAY 13 JULY 2008

8:30-5:30 **Lobby:** REGISTRATION

8:30-10:00 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR2: II. “Self-Performance and the City”

Chair: John Hines, Cardiff University *hines@cardiff.ac.uk*

1) Jonathan M. Newman, University of Toronto: “Counsel, Satire, and Strategic Self-Performance in the Prologue to the *Confessio Amantis*” *jon.newman@utoronto.ca*

2) John Schofield, Museum of London: “Recent Archaeological Work in Reconstructing Gower’s London” *john@jschd@demon.co.uk*

3) Martha Carlin, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: “Putting Dinner on the Table in Gower’s London” *carlin@uwm.edu*

RR1: III. “Gowerian Ethics”

Chair: J. Allan Mitchell, University of Victoria

1) Michael Rodman Jones, University of Leeds: “Strange Interpretations: Sorcery and the Ethics of Narrative in Gower’s *Confessio*” *mrj108@hotmail.co.uk*

2) Annika Farber, Pennsylvania State University: “Genius and the Practice of Ethical Reading” *alf237@psu.edu*

3) Simon Meecham-Jones, Cambridge University: “Games of Love and Death: Gower’s Secular Ethics” *stmj2@hermes.cam.ac.uk*

10:00-10:30 TEA & COFFEE

10:30-12:00 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR1: IV. “Reassessing Gower’s Politics”

Organizer: Matthew Giancarlo, University of Kentucky *matthew.giancarlo@gmail.com*

Chair: Lynn Staley, Colgate University *lstaley@mail.colgate.edu*

1) Matthew Giancarlo, University of Kentucky: “Gower’s Hidden Transcript” *matthew.giancarlo@gmail.com*

2) Candace Barrington, Central Connecticut State: “The Politics of Peace” *barrington@ccsu.edu*

3) David Carlson, University of Ottawa: “Official Latin Verses in Fourteenth-Century England: Gower’s *Cronica Tripertita* and Some Antecedents” *drcarleso@uottawa.ca*

RR2: V. “Performing Gower on Stage and Screen”

Organizer: Martha Driver, Pace University *MDriver@fsmail.pace.edu*

Chair: Susan Powell, University of Salford *s.powell@salford.ac.uk*

1) Kelly Jones, University of Lincoln: “The Quick and the Dead: Performing the Poet Gower in Shakespeare’s *Pericles*” *kellyvjones@hotmail.com*

2) Martha Driver, Pace University: “Pericles Cross-dressed: Gower as Granny in Modern Production”

3) Corinne Saunders, University of Durham, “Romancing *Pericles*” *C.J.Saunders@durham.ac.uk*

Respondent: RF Yeager, University of West Florida *rbyeager@hotmail.com*

12:00-1:00 LUNCH/FREE TIME

1:00-2:30 CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS

RR1: VI. "The Afterlife of John Gower"

Organizer: Rosamund Allen, Queen Mary/University of London *r.s.allen@qmul.ac.uk*

Chair: Rosamund Allen, Queen Mary/University of London

1) Tom Hodgson-Jones, London Medieval Society: "Damned with Faint Praise: Why does Dryden Ignore Gower?" *thodgsonjones@googlemail.com*

2) Betsy Bowden, Rutgers University: "Gower's Reputation, 1660-1810"

3) Joanna Martin, University of Nottingham: "Reflections on Reading Gower in Scotland"
Joanna.Martin@nottingham.ac.uk

RR2: VII. "Gower and the Law"

Organizer: Andreea Boboc, University of the Pacific *andreea_boboc@hotmail.com*

Chair: Diane Cady, Mills College *dcady@mills.edu*

1) Emilia di Rocco, University of Rome "La Sapienza": "Rape and Homicide in Medieval Literature: John Gower and Law" *Emilia.dirocco@uniroma1.it*

2) Andreea Boboc, University of the Pacific: "'Moral' Gower? Criminalizing Seduction in *Confessio Amantis*"

3) Richard Firth Green, Ohio State University: "Florent's *mariage sous la potence*"
green.693@osu.edu

2:30-3:00 TEA & COFFEE

3:00-4:30 CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS

RR1: VIII. "Reassessments"

Organizer: Annika Farber, Pennsylvania State University *alf237@psu.edu*

Chair: Annika Farber, Pennsylvania State University

1) Tamara L. Stasik, Indiana University, Bloomington: "'Of lust and lore': Gower's *Via Media* as Political Asceticism" *tstasik@indiana.edu*

2) Andrew S. Galloway, Cornell University: "Reassessing Gower's Dream Visions"
asg6@cornell.edu

3) Lister M. Matheson, Michigan State University: "Two New Versions of the Constance Legend" *matheson@msu.edu*

RR2: IX. "O Political Gower"

Chair: David Lawton, Washington University, St. Louis *dalawton@artsci.wustl.edu*

1) David Marshall, California State University, San Bernardino: "Gower's Monstrous Body Politic" *dmarshall@csusb.edu*

2) Henry Ansgar Kelly, University of California at Los Angeles: "Gower and the Creation of the Lancaster Myth (néé Tudor Myth)" *Kelly@humnet.ucla.edu*

4: 45-6:15 PAPER SESSION

RR2: X. "Linguistics, Multi-linguistics"

Chair: Russell A. Peck, University of Rochester *rpec@troi.cc.rochester.edu*

1) Gyöngyi Werthmüller, Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest): "The Interaction of Syntax and Metre in Gower's English" *werthmuller.gyongyi@chello.hu*

(Session X, cont.)

2) Jonathan Hsy, George Washington University: “Middle English as Catalyst: Postcolonial Theory and Gower’s Multilingualism” *jhsy@gwu.edu*

3) Siân Echard, University of British Columbia: “A Triple Threat? The Challenge of Gower’s Multilingualism” *sian@interchange.ubc.ca*

6:15-7:30 QMUL Senior Common Room

RECEPTION, courtesy of Queen Mary’s University of London, School of English and Drama, and Cardiff University, Centre for the Study of Medieval Society and Culture. With Professor Trevor Dadson, Vice-Principal for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, QMUL.

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MONDAY 14 JULY 2008

8:30-11:00 **Lobby:** REGISTRATION

8:30-5:00 **Lobby:** BOOK EXHIBIT BOYDELL & BREWER

9:00-10:30 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR2: XI. “In Corpore Veritas”

Chair: Sarah Beckwith, Duke University *ott@duke.edu*

1) Matthew Irvin, Duke University: “Genius and Sensual Reading in the *Vox Clamantis*”
mwi@duke.edu

2) Roger Nicholson, University of Auckland: “The Body Politic and the Politicized Body in Gower’s Writing” *r.nicholson@auckland.ac.nz*

3) Alcuin Blamires, Goldsmith College, University of London: “‘Schame’ in the *Confessio Amantis*” *ens01ab@gold.ac.uk*

RRI: XII. “Gower and Iberia”

Organizer: María Bullón-Fernández, Seattle University *bullon@seattleu.edu*

Chair and respondent: R.F. Yeager, University of West Florida *rbyeager@hotmail.com*

1) Jamie Taylor, Bryn Mawr College: “Gower and the Matter of Spain”
jktaylor@brynmawr.edu

2) María Bullón-Fernández, Seattle University: “Translation and/as Interpretation: Gower’s *Confessio* and the Fifteenth-Century Portuguese and Spanish Versions”

3) Joyce Coleman, University of Oklahoma, R.F. Yeager, University of West Florida:
Response and general audience-inclusive discussion

10:30-11:00 TEA & COFFEE

11:00-12:00 ARTS: PLENARY

Nigel Saul, Royal Holloway/Bedford New College University of London *nsaul@rhul.ac.uk*

“JOHN GOWER: PROPHET OR TURNCOAT?”

12:00-1:00 LUNCH/FREE TIME

1:00-2:30 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR2: XIII. “Gowerian and Radical Theologies”

Chair: Alastair J. Minnis, Yale University *alastair.minnis@yale.edu*

1) Matthew McCabe, University of Toronto: “John Gower as Vernacular Theologian: The Exposition of the Christian Faith and the Denunciation of Lollardy in *Confessio Amantis* Book V”
matthew.mccabe@utoronto.ca

2) Elliot Kendall, University of Exeter: “Saving History: Medieval Apocalyptic and Arion’s Heir” *E.R.Kendall@exeter.ac.uk*

3) Lynn Staley, Colgate University: “Gower, Langland and Pestilence Time”
lstaley@mail.colgate.edu

RR1: XIV. “Gower and Ovid”

Organizer: Susannah M. Chewning, Union County College *chewning@ucc.edu*

Chair: Elisabeth Dutton, Worcester College, Oxford University *elisabeth.dutton@worc.ox.ac.uk*

1) Nunzio N. D’Alessio, University of Texas at Austin: “Unfolding Gower Unfolding Ovid”
ndalessio@mail.utexas.edu

2) Susannah M. Chewning, Union County College: “‘O thou gentile Venus, loves queene’: Victims of Desire in Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*”

3) Miriamne Ara Krummel, University of Dayton: “The Constraints of Sex in John Gower’s ‘Tale of Tereus’” *miriamne.krummel@notes.udayton.edu*

2:30-3:00 TEA & COFFEE

3:00-4:30 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR2: XV. “Time, Money and Love”

Chair: Helen Cooper, University of Cambridge

1) Victoria Sukhovaya, National Mining University of Ukraine: “The Interaction of Love with Social and Political Ideas in the *Confessio Amantis*: Tradition or Innovation?”
sukhovayav@yahoo.com

2) Robert Epstein, Fairfield University: “The Tale of the Florin: Gowerian Economics”
REpstein@mail.fairfield.edu

RR1: XVI. “Gower and Hypertext”

Organizer: Georgiana Donavin, Westminster College *gdonavin@westminstercollege.edu*

Chair: Malte Urban, Queen’s University, Belfast *murban@qub.ac.uk*

1) Georgiana Donavin, Westminster College: “Gower’s Reception in Hypertext”
gdonavin@westminstercollege.edu

2) Jacob Thaisen, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland): “Gower and the Poznan Electronic Chaucer” *thaisen@ifa.amu.edu.pl*

3) Martha Dana Rust, New York University: “Re-Mediating the *Confessio Amantis* on the World Wide Web” *martha.rust@nyu.edu*

5:30-7:30 **SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL, SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT**
COACHES MUST LEAVE FROM WESTFIELD WAY AT THE SIDE OF THE ARTS
BUILDING AT 4:30 P.M. PROMPT!

5:30-6.15 **Evensong in commemoration of John Gower**

6:30-7:30 **Public readings of Gower's Poetry: Southwark Cathedral nave.**

'John Gower': R. F. Yeager
French: Ardis Butterfield, University College, London
Latin: David Carlson, University of Ottawa
English: Terry Jones, Independent Scholar
Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate

7:30-9:30 **Reception and Dinner** (fork buffet): **Cathedral Refectory** (ticketed event)

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TUESDAY 15 JULY 2008

8:30-11:00 **Lobby: REGISTRATION**

8:30-5:00 **Lobby: BOOK EXHIBIT, BOYDELL & BREWER**

9:00-10:30 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR2: XVII. "Gower among the Foreigners"

Chair: Rita Copeland, University of Pennsylvania *rcopelan@sas.upenn.edu*

1) Carolyn Collette, Mt. Holyoke College: "Topical and Tropological Gower: Invoking Armenia in *The Confessio Amantis*" *ccollett@mtholyoke.edu*

2) Ethan Knapp, Ohio State University: "Greeks and Egyptians in the *Confessio Amantis*" *knapp.79@osu.edu*

3) Lynn Shutters, Idaho State University: "Pagans Past and Pagans Present in John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*" *shutlynn@isu.edu*

RR1: XVIII. "Historicities"

Chair: RF Yeager, University of West Florida *rbyeager@hotmail.com*

1) Steele Nowlin, Hampden-Sydney College: "Gower's Chronicles" *snowlin@hsc.edu*

2) B.W. Lindeboom, independent scholar: "The Nonagesima Gloss: Why 1390 Is Not the Publication Date of the *Confessio Amantis*" *bwlindeboom@hotmail.com*

3) Kurt Olsson, University of Idaho: "Composing the King 1390-91: Gower's Ricardian Rhetoric" *olsson@uidaho.edu*

10:30-11:00 **COFFEE**

11:00-12:30 CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS

RR2: XIX. “On Manuscripts and Scribes”

Chair: David Wallace, University of Pennsylvania *dwallace@sas.upenn.edu*

1) RF Yeager, University of West Florida: “London, British Library MS Stowe 951: Gower Goes to Yorkshire” *rbyeager@hotmail.com*

2) Jean-Pascal Pouzet, University of Limoges and Paris IV-Sorbonne: “Southwark Gower – Augustinian Agencies in Gower’s Manuscripts and Texts” *jean-pascal.pouzet@paris-sorbonne.fr*

3) Peter Robinson, Scholarly Digital Editions: “Gower’s ‘Scribe D’ as a Copyist of the *Canterbury Tales*” *peter@sd-editions.com*

RR1: XX. “Theoretism in/by Gower”

Organizer: J. Allan Mitchell, University of Victoria *amitch@uvic.ca*

Chair: J. Allan Mitchell, University of Victoria

1) Tamara F. O’Callaghan, Northern Kentucky University: “Gower, the Pseudo-Scientist: Book VII of the *Confessio* and Its Afterlife” *ocallaghant@nku.edu*

2) Eve Salisbury, Western Michigan University: “The Palimpsestuous Text: Incest, Intertextuality, and the *Confessio Amantis*” *eve.salisbury@wmich.edu*

3) Russell A. Peck, University of Rochester: “Ymaginatif and the Staging of Ideas in Gower” *rpec@troi.cc.rochester.edu*

12:30-2:00 LUNCH/FREE TIME

2:00-3:00 ARTS: PLENARY

John Burrow, University of Bristol

“SINNING AGAINST LOVE IN *CONFESSIO AMANTIS*”

3:00-3:30 TEA & COFFEE

3:30-5:00 CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS

ARTS: XXI. “O Poetical Gower”

Chair: Helen Cooper, University of Cambridge *ehc@cam.ac.uk*

1) William Robins, University of Toronto: “Gower’s Last Book”
william.robins@utoronto.ca

2) Peter Nicholson, University of Hawaii: “Irony vs. Paradox in the *Confessio Amantis*”
nicholson@hawaii.rr.com

3) Robert R. Edwards, Penn State University: “Gower and the Poetics of the Literal”
rre1@psu.edu

RR2: XXII. “Transmissions”

Organizer: Joyce Coleman, University of Oklahoma *joyce.coleman@ou.edu*

Chair: Alastair J. Minnis, Yale University *alastair.minnis@yale.edu*

1) Joyce Coleman, University of Oklahoma: “The Monster, the Dream and the Book ”

2) Joel Fredell, Southeastern Louisiana University: “Gower the Pamphleteer”
jfredell@selu.edu

(Session XXII, cont.)

3) Alexandra Gillespie, University of Toronto: “‘Unknowe unkest’: The Transmission of the Author’s Text from Gower to Milton” *alexandra.gillespie@utoronto.ca*

6:30-8:30 **RECEPTION** at the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON, BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

Courtesy of The New Chaucer Society.

Delegates must make their own way to Burlington House. By LT Underground from Mile End take the Central Line (westbound) to Holborn and then the Piccadilly Line (westbound) to Piccadilly Circus. Burlington House is a few hundred yards along Piccadilly, on the north side.

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WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2008

8:30-11:00 **Lobby: REGISTRATION**

9:00-10:30 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR1: XXIII. “Gower and Chaucer”

Chair: Julia Boffey, Queen Mary/University of London *jboffey@qmul.ac.uk*

1) John M. Bowers, University of Nevada-Las Vegas: “Gower’s Influence upon Chaucer’s *Legend of Good Women*” *john.bowers@unlv.edu*

2) Peter Beidler, Lehigh University: “Who-o-o Came First: The Owl Similes in the ‘Tale of Florent’ and the ‘Wife of Bath’s Tale’” *pgb1@Lehigh.EDU*

3) Brian S. Gastle, Western Carolina University: “‘Nevere a Betre Taxe’: Chaucer’s Business with Gower” *bgastle@email.wcu.edu*

RR2: XXIV. “Gowerian Forms”

Organizer: Matt Giancarlo, University of Kentucky *matthew.giancarlo@gmail.com*

Chair: Matthew Giancarlo, University of Kentucky

1) Kimberly R. Zarins, Cornell University: “A Literary Zodiac: Gower’s *Rime Riche* Couplets” *kz23@cornell.edu*

2) George Shuffelton, Carleton College: “A More Popular Gower?” *gshuffel@carleton.edu*

3) Maura Nolan, University of California, Berkeley: “The Life of the Virgin, the Problem of Fortune: Genre and Contingency in the *Mirour de l’Omme*” *mnolan@berkeley.edu*

10:30-11:00 TEA & COFFEE

11:00-12:30 **CONCURRENT PAPER SESSIONS**

RR2: XXV. “The French Poetry”

Chair: Ardis Butterfield, University College, London *a.butterfield@ucl.ac.uk*

1) Cristina Pangilian, University of Pennsylvania: “Gower on Gentilesce: Marriage and Ethics in the *Mirour de l’Omme*” *cristinp@english.upenn.edu*

2) Cathy Hume, University of Bristol: “Adultery, Vengeance, Monotony: Why Did Gower Write the *Traitié*?” *cathy.hume@bristol.ac.uk*

(Session XXV, cont.)

3) Holly G. Barbaccia, Georgetown College: “The ‘Woman’s Reply’ in Gower’s *Cinkante Balades*” *Holly_Barbaccia@georgetowncollege.edu*

RR1: XXVI. “Gower and the Alchemies of Sloth”

Chair: Diane Cady, Mills College *dcady@mills.edu*

1) Stephanie Batkie, University of Michigan: “Vegetable, Animal, or Mineral? Producing *Merita Perpetuata* in the *Confessio Amantis*” *sbatkie@umich.edu*

2) Andrea Schutz, St. Thomas University: “Stable Gower or ‘Everybody must get stoned’: Sloth and Stability, Paralysis and Perseverance in Book IV of the *Confessio Amantis*” *schutz@stthomasu.ca*

3) Karla Taylor, University of Michigan: “Inside Out in Gower’s Literary Republic” *kttaylor@umich.edu*

12:30-2:00 LUNCH/FREE TIME

2:00- 3:00 ARTS: PLENARY

Linne Mooney, University of York *lrm3@york.ac.uk*, **Simon Horobin**, Oxford University *s.horobin@englang.arts.gla.ac.uk*, **Estelle Stubbs**, University of Sheffield
“GOWER’S SCRIBE ‘D’ ”

4:00 GUIDED INTRODUCTION TO AND TOUR OF THE MEDIEVAL GALLERY, MUSEUM OF LONDON led by John Clark, Senior Curator and Deputy Head of the Department of Early London History [numbers limited: see list posted in Lobby]

4:00 VISIT TO BRITISH LIBRARY ‘TREASURES’ EXHIBITION with MS Harley 3869 of *Confessio Amantis* of other poems, introduced by Dr Kathleen Doyle, British Library [numbers limited: see list posted in Lobby]

Regrettably, it has not been possible to organize a visit the oldest parts of the Inns of Court at a practical time, as had been hoped. A supplementary short historical walking tour of “Gower’s London”, from Chancery Lane to London Bridge, may be organized for this time.

FOR THE EVENING, we hope to identify a suitable boat for a cruise along the Thames with bar and/or dining facilities on board. If so, conference delegates will be given the opportunity to sign up by Monday evening.

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THURSDAY 17 JULY 2008

COACH TO NCS SWANSEA, with a stop in Ewelme to visit the Almshouses, School, and Church with monuments of Thomas and Matilda Chaucer. The coaches will leave from Westfield Way at the side of the Arts Building at 9:00 a.m. prompt!