

# JOHN GOWER



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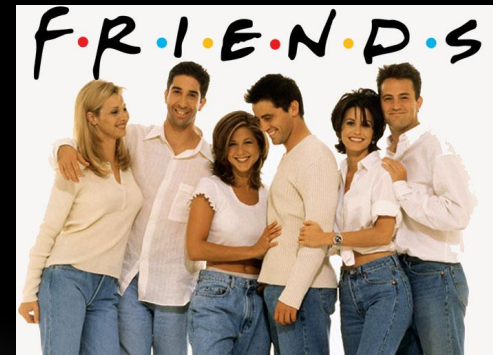
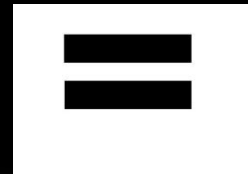
- **John Gower (c.1330–October 1408) was an English poet who is remembered primarily for three major works, the *Speculum Meditantis*, *Vox Clamantis*, and *Confessio Amantis*, three long poems written in French, Latin, and English respectively.**





- Gower's reputation as a poet has not been nearly as strong as his close contemporary Geoffrey Chaucer, even though the two collaborated quite closely and wrote in rather similar styles.

- Both were among the earliest poets to write in Middle English, a language which, prior to then, had been thought too vulgar to be capable of literary merit.



АЛЛЕГО́РИЯ (ОТ ДР.-ГРЕЧ. Ἀλληγορία — ИНОСКАЗАНИЕ) — ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВЛЕНИЕ ИДЕЙ (ПОНЯТИЙ) ПОСРЕДСТВОМ КОНКРЕТНОГО ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОГО ОБРАЗА ИЛИ ДИАЛОГА.

ОСНОВНЫМ СПОСОБОМ ИЗОБРАЖЕНИЯ АЛЛЕГОРИИ ВЫСТУПАЕТ ОБОБЩЕНИЕ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКИХ ПОНЯТИЙ; ПРЕДСТАВЛЕНИЯ РАСКРЫВАЮТСЯ В ОБРАЗАХ И ПОВЕДЕНИИ ЖИВОТНЫХ, РАСТЕНИЙ, МИФОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ И СКАЗОЧНЫХ ПЕРСОНАЖЕЙ, В НЕЖИВЫХ ПРЕДМЕТАХ, КОТОРЫЕ ПОЛУЧАЮТ ПЕРЕНОСНОЕ ЗНАЧЕНИЕ.

ПРИМЕР: ПРАВОСУДИЕ — ФЕМИДА (ЖЕНЩИНА С ВЕСАМИ).

- Gower uses *allegory* as a means of reflecting on the problems of the church, state and the life of the commoners as well as to examine the spiritual problems and temptations that keep one from realizing the ideals of religion.



# THE SPECULUM MEDITANTIS, MIROUR DE L'OMME

- 1) His earliest works were probably ballads in the Anglo-Norman language
- 2) The first work to have survived is in the same language, the Speculum Meditantis
- 3) The poem then veers into a fierce denunciation of the Peasant's Revolt of 1381, and suddenly ends on a note of relief with a very long hymn to the Virgin Mary.
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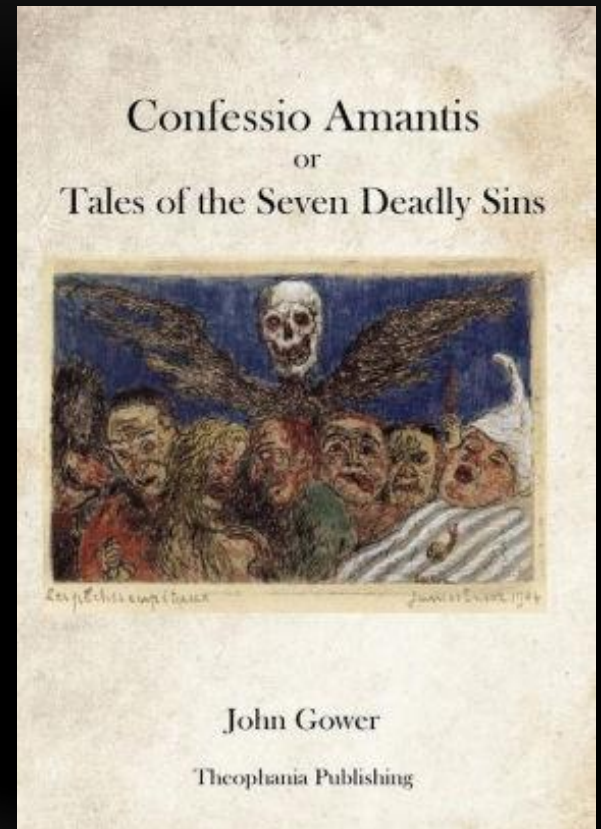
# VOX CLAMANTIS

- it takes as its subject the state of England, and incorporates commentary on the Peasants' Revolt that occurred during the composition of the poem.
- a 30,000-line poem in Middle English, which makes use of the structure of a Christian confession





- Gower's third work is the **Confessio Amantis**, a 30,000-line poem in Middle English, which makes use of the structure of a Christian confession



- ***Thank you for your attention!***