Gower, John. 1328-1408.

"Confessio amantis, in English verse."

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in England in the 15th century.

Decoration: The decoration consists of one small (rather poor) miniature on fol. 3v, depicting the lover asking for instruction; and full-length floreate borders at the beginning of each book.

These borders generally proceed from an initial, with rose, blue and green as the predominating colours, combined with gold. Smaller blue and red initials throughout.

Text: The text is written in English verse in a clear, neat, cursive script on somewhat foxed, water-stained vellum. The rubrics throughout are in Latin. It is imperfect, lacking all but 3 leaves of the Prologue and several opening leaves of Book I; as collated with the 1st printed edition, Caxton, 1483.

160 leaves (13 1/8 x 8 1/3 inches) 2 columns of 49 lines. folio.

Binding: English, 18th century (ca. 1700) brown calf, inlaid panels.

History: From the collection of John Campell, 4th Earl of Loudoun, (1705-1782), with his bookplate inside front cover.

(For description of text see folder for MS. 125.)

Add. Cards.

English poetry

Bindings-English-XVIII cent.
Confessio amantis. Gower, John. (title)

MSS.-Illum.-English-XV cent.


MPH:1932
Gower, John

Confessio Amantis

Begins: Of hem that writen ous tofore - wanting

Note: Wants 341 lines of Prologue (Macaulay's edition) = probably two folios - Belongs to First Recension with dedication to Richard II.

MS.125 (Imperfect) Date: c.1420
Place: England

Manuscript on badly foxed and waterstained vellum, written and illuminated in England, early in the XV century.

The text is imperfect (in collation with the 1st printed edition Caxton 1483) lacking all but 2 leaves of the Prologue and several opening leaves of Book I (see notes attached to these parts of the MS); several of the leaves at the beginning and end are mended and inlaid. It is written in a black-brown ink with divisional headings (in Latin) in red.

The decoration consists of 1 small (rather poor) miniature on folio 3v depicting the lovers asking for instruction; and at the commencement of each Book a full-length outer or central floreate border of gold, blue and pink from which branches a large illuminated initial; all of the small initials throughout are in a dark blue on a background of red pen-work. Both the borders and initials are of good, typical workmanship.

180 leaves (13 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches); 2 columns of 49 lines each, to a page.

Collation: a12 b-c8 d6 e-e4 aa-mm4 co8 pp6 = 180 leaves.

Large folio (14 1/2 x 9 1/4 inches); brown inlaid vellum cover, with gilt panel tooling (English XVIII cent. c: 1700).

From the Library of John, earl of Loudoun, with his bookplate (and the Marquis of Hastings.) 2.

Contents:

Prologue - folios 1 - 2v (Imperfect)
Book I - folios 3-21v, col. 1, line 44 (Imperfect at beginning)
Book II - folio 21v, col. 1, line 45 to fol. 41, col. 2, line 30.
Book III - folio 41, col. 2, line 31, to fol. 56v, col. 2, line 11.
Book IV - fol. 56v, col. 2, line 12 to fol. 77 col. 2, line 14.
Book V - fol. 77, col. 2, line 15 to fol. 119, col. 2, line 46.
Book VI - fol. 119, col. 2, line 47 to fol. 132v, col. 1, line 24.
Book VII - fol. 132v, col. 1, line 25 to fol. 162v, col. 1, line 33
Book VIII - fol. 162v, col. 1, line 34 to fol. 180, col. 1, lin. 12.
Description of the work - fol. 180 col. 1, lin. 13 to col. 2, line 40.
Colophon - fol. 180, col. 2, line 41 - Explicit lib q vocat Gower.