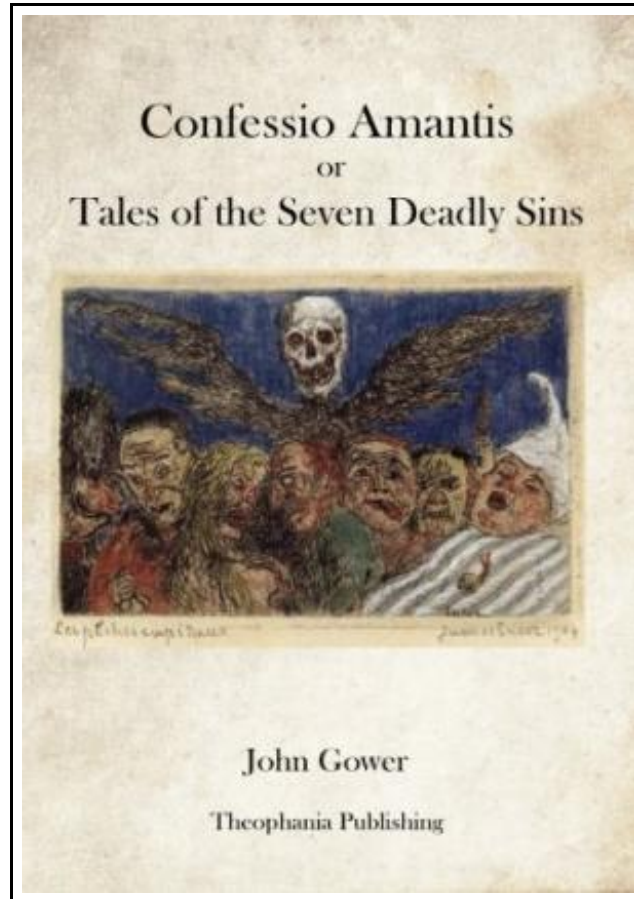


## Confessio Amantis or Tales of the Seven Deadly Sins



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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 342 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.9in. **Confessio Amantis** ( The Lovers Confession ) is a 33, 000 line Middle English poem by John Gower, which uses the confession made by an ageing lover to the chaplain of Venus as a frame story for a collection of shorter narrative poems. According to its prologue, it was composed at the request of Richard II. It stands with the works of Chaucer, Langland, and the Pearl poet as one of the great works of late 14th century English literature. In genre it is usually considered a poem of consolation, a medieval form inspired by Boethius Consolation of Philosophy and typified by works such as Pearl. Despite this, it is more usually studied alongside other tale collections with similar structures, such as the Decameron of Boccaccio, and particularly Chaucers Canterbury Tales, with which the Confessio has several stories in common. To his contemporaries, Gowers work was generally as well known as the poetry of Chaucer: Caxton printed Gowers work alongside Chaucers, and Caxton became part of the early canon of English literature. But it was Chaucers works which became the model for future poets, and the legacy of the Confessio has suffered as a result. It is hard to find works that show signs of direct influence: the only clear example is Shakespeares Pericles, where the influence is conscious borrowing: the use of Gowers characteristic octosyllabic line for the character of Gower himself. While not of immense importance as a source for later works, the Confessio is nonetheless significant in its own right as one of the earliest poems written in a form of English that is clearly recognizable as a direct precursor to the modern standard, and,...

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