The English poet John Gower (ca. 1330–1408) wrote important Latin poems witnessing the two crucial political events of his day: the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381 and in 1399 the deposition of Richard II, in the *Visio Anglie* (A Vision of England) and *Cronica tripertita* (A Chronicle in Three Parts), respectively. Both poems, usually transmitted with Gower’s major Latin work, *Vox clamantis*, are key primary sources for the historical record, as well as marking culminating points in the development of English literature. The earlier *Visio Anglie* is verbally derivative of numerous, varied sources, by way of its literary allusions, but is also highly original in its invention and disposition. On the other hand, the *Cronica tripertita*’s organization, even in details, is highly derivative, and from a single source, but its verbal texture is all invented.

This volume includes Latin texts of these poems of Gower, newly established from the manuscripts, with commentary on Gower’s relation with the rest of the contemporary historical record and with his literary forebears and contemporaries, including Ovid, Virgil, Peter Riga, Nigel Witeker, and Godfrey of Viterbo. This volume also includes Modern English verse translations of the two poems, which are at once critically accurate and enjoyably accessible.
BRITISH WRITERS OF THE MIDDLE AGES
AND THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD 2

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JOHN GOWER

Poems on Contemporary Events

The Visio Anglie (1381) and
Cronica tripertita (1400)

Edited by DAVID R. CARLSON
With a verse translation by A. G. RIGG
Acknowledgment

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program, using funds provided by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Gower, John, 1325?–1408
John Gower : poems on contemporary events : the Visio Anglie (1381) and Cronica tripertita (1400) / edited by David R. Carlson with a verse translation by A. G. Rigg

(Studies and texts, 082–5328 ; 174)
(British writers of the Middle Ages and the early modern period ; v. 2)
Includes bibliographical references and index.
Texts in Latin with English translations.

Published in North America by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 59 Queen’s Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C4 (www.pims.ca).

Published in Europe, including the United Kingdom, by The Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3GB (www.bodleianbookshop.co.uk).

© 2011
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies
59 Queen’s Park Crescent East
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C4

www.pims.ca

MANUFACTURED IN CANADA
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Acknowledgments

The present work began with the translations into English verse of John Gower’s *Visio Anglie* (*Vox clamantis* 1) and *Cronica tripertita* by A. G. Rigg, who also translated the ‘Jack Straw’ verses (appended) and contributed remarks on the translations for the introduction. Responsibility for the verse translations is his. The remainder, including the translations of Gower’s prose and of other incidentally quoted Latin, was largely the doing of David R. Carlson to begin with, though at innumerable points the product is a result of collaboration.

The work was scrutinized thoroughly by Andrew Scott Galloway and Robert F. Yeager, whose many corrections and suggestions have been incorporated tacitly throughout, most gratefully. Thanks are due too, for castigation and supervision, to the series editor, James P. Carley, and the members of the series editorial board; for other contributions, to Derek Albert Pearsall, Siân Echard, F. W. Grady, Matthew Giancarlo, and Eve Salisbury; for assistance, to Edward S. Moore, Michael Phillips, and Philippe Villeneuve; and, finally, also to Megan Jones, and to Fred Unwalla, the editor at press.

For use of manuscripts and other materials in their keeping, thanks to the British Library and the Public Record Office in the National Archives, London; the Bodleian Library, Oxford; the University Library and the Corpus Christi College Library, Cambridge; the library of Hatfield House, Hertfordshire; the University Library, Glasgow; the Trinity College Library, Dublin; the Huntington Library, San Marino, California; and the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in the University of Toronto.