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0521021111 - Sciences and the Self in Medieval Poetry: Alan of Lille's *Anticlaudianus* and John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*

James Simpson

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In this study James Simpson examines two great poems of the later medieval period, the Latin philosophical epic, Alan of Lille's *Anticlaudianus* (1181–3), and John Gower's English poem, the *Confessio amantis* (1390–3). Simpson locates these works in two traditions of literary humanism: the absolutist, whose philosophical mentor is Plato, whose literary model is Virgil and whose concept of the self is centred in the intellect; and the constitutionalist, whose classical models are Aristotle and Ovid and whose concept of the self resides in the mediatory power of the imagination. Both poems are examples of the *Bildungsroman*, in which the self reaches its fullness only by traversing an educational cursus in the related sciences of ethics, politics and cosmology; but as this study shows, there are very different polities behind their conceptions of selfhood and education.

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<i>Aa</i>	<i>Ars amatoria</i>
<i>AHDLMA</i>	<i>Archives d'histoire doctrinale et littéraire du moyen âge</i>
<i>BGPTM</i>	<i>Beiträge zur Geschichte der Philosophie und Theologie des Mittelalters (Beiträge zur Geschichte der Philosophie des Mittelalters in the case of fascicules before 1930)</i>
<i>CCCM</i>	Corpus Christianorum, Continuatio Mediaevalis
<i>EETS</i>	Early English Text Society
<i>GCARR</i>	<i>Gower's 'Confessio Amantis': Responses and Reassessments</i> , edited by A. J. Minnis (Cambridge, 1983)
<i>HTCWP</i>	<i>A History of Twelfth-Century Western Philosophy</i> , edited by Peter Dronke (Cambridge, 1988)
<i>MED</i>	<i>Middle English Dictionary</i> , edited by Hans Kurath (Ann Arbor, 1956–)
<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologia Latina</i> , edited by J.-P. Migne (Paris, 1844–64)
<i>Ra</i>	<i>Remedia amoris</i>
<i>RF</i>	<i>Romanische Forschungen</i>