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Fathers and Daughters in Gower's Confessio Amantis: Authority, Family, State, and Writing.

By Bullon-Fernandez, M.

D. S. Brewer, Cambridge, first edition, 2000, 2000. Book Condition: New. Cloth, 8vo, viii, 241 pp. "Fathers and daughters are central to some of the most significant tales in Gower's poem. Using feminist and anthropological approaches, Maria Bullón-Fernández argues that father-daughter relationships, and the associated theme of incest that they sometimes suggest, enable Gower to examine authority relationships in three interconnected spheres: family, state, and writing. She suggests that Gower perceived the relationships between kings and subjects and between authors and texts as similar to paternal relationships with a daughter; and further, that Gower regarded the law of exogamy as a foundational law at the core of patriarchal society. As a father may not commit incest with his daughter and a king may not abuse his authority, so the writer (as in 'Pygmalion and the Statue') must curb his desire to control the meaning of his creation. Thus, even as he is concerned with the limits of authority in the familial, political, and textual realms, Gower also exposes the inherently transgressive nature of such authority." - from the introductory material. New.



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