



Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower

Gregory M. Sadlek

[Download now](#)

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower

Gregory M. Sadlek

Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower Gregory M. Sadlek

Inspired by the critical theories of M. M. Bakhtin, *Idleness Working* is a groundbreaking study of key works in the Western literature of love from Classical Rome to the late Middle Ages. The study focuses on the evolution of the ideologically-saturated discourse of love's labor contained in these works and thus explores them in the context of ancient and medieval theories of labor and leisure, which themselves are seen to evolve through the course of Western history. What emerges from this study is a fresh appreciation and deepened understanding of such well-known classics of love literature as Ovid's *Ars amatoria*, Andreas Capellanus' *De amore*, Alan of Lille's *Complaint of Nature*, Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun's *Roman de la rose*, John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*, and Geoffrey Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*.

In his provocative approach to these works, Gregory M. Sadlek finds a tradition of love constructed as labor, a tradition that forms a little-noticed complement to the better-known tradition of love as passion or madness, masterfully explored in Denis de Rougemont's *Love in the Western World*. In fact, two different traditions of love's labor—one rhetorical, playful, and focused on the labor of courtship; the other serious, philosophical, and focused on the labor of reproduction—arise individually but are later combined to form some of the most vexing and imaginative love poetry of the Middle Ages. The study traces a steady "embourgeoisement de l'eros" [a making bourgeois of love] in a tradition with strong ties to the medieval aristocracy. In the end "work," constructed by means of a rich array of labor vocabulary and imagery, is presented as a necessary but fulfilling component of human existence, a philosophical position that in some aspects foreshadows the Protestant Work Ethic.

Idleness Working will be of special interest to students and scholars of classical and medieval literature—Latin, English, and French—but especially to those interested in the histories of love or labor.

Gregory M. Sadlek is Jefferis Chair of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is the author of numerous articles and reviews.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK:

"Sadlek's carefully researched and convincingly argued book will serve a broad audience."- D.W. Hayes, *Choice*

"It is hard to do justice to Sadlek's complex tracing of the traditions and connotations of labor through the Middle Ages, the intersection of class and work, the importance of social productivity, the problems of acquiring wealth in an age that espoused monastic poverty. His study covers what he considers to be the major spokesmen of labor ideologies, placing them in their appropriate social context, which shaped the development of labor."-Audrey DeLong, *Sixteenth Century Journal*

"Sadlek's monograph proves to be intriguing and challenging insofar as it opens numerous perspectives

toward courtly love. . . . Sadlek is to be commended for his remarkable interdisciplinary approach."?Albrecht Classen, *Mediaevistik*

"Gregory M. Sadlek's fine book, *Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower*, is a stimulating read that analyses the intersection of love and labour in poetic discourse, taking into consideration en route his subject's connections with acedia, the invention of the mechanical clock and its effect on measurable time, courtly love, Max Weber and the Protestant work ethic, Richard Fitzralph's 1357 sermon *Defensio Curatorum*, and the English labour crisis in the wake of the Black Death." ? Valerie Allen and Margaret Connolly, *Year's Work in English Studies*

"[A] wide-ranging, stimulating discussion that will be of considerable interest to medievalists in a variety of disciplines. . . . This is an excell

 [Download Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor fr ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower Gregory M. Sadlek

From reader reviews:

Terry Carr:

This Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower can bring if you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Jane Hanscom:

The feeling that you get from Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower could be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower instantly.

Michelle Gilbert:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information today can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower as the daily resource information.

Krystal Sutherland:

Often the book Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to study, this book very suitable to you. The book Idleness Working: The

Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Download and Read Online Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower Gregory M. Sadlek #T9EQ6RW8XKN

Read *Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower* by Gregory M. Sadlek for online ebook

Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower by Gregory M. Sadlek Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read *Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower* by Gregory M. Sadlek books to read online.

Online *Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower* by Gregory M. Sadlek ebook PDF download

***Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower* by Gregory M. Sadlek Doc**

***Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower* by Gregory M. Sadlek Mobipocket**

***Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower* by Gregory M. Sadlek EPub**