



PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

The History of Alexander's Battles. Historia de preliis: The J¹ Version. Translated by R. Telfryn Pritchard. *Mediaeval Sources in Translation* 34. 1992; viii, 200 pp. ISBN 0-88844-284-X | 978-0-88844-284-0.

Composed before 1100 ce, the first interpolated version of the Archpriest Leo's Latin translation of the Alexander-romance gives a vivid, dramatic portrayal of Alexander's meteoric career. Myth and reality are richly interwoven to narrate his adventures and fierce encounters with man and beast as he advances to conquer the world. We are introduced to a world of fabulous men and women, animals, birds, trees, and of people rich in imagination and invention. The version soon generated two further revisions and influenced several of the early printed editions of the *Historia de preliis*.

This translation is accompanied by an introduction to the Alexander-Romance and by a commentary that draws on the Greek, Latin, Armenian, and Syriac versions to clarify the text. Apart from its intrinsic charm as an exciting tale, the work highlights Alexander's profound influence on the Middle Ages.