

Olifant

A Publication of the Société Renaissance
American-Canadian Branch



Vol. 1 No. 4

April 1974

Olifant

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Olifant, the publication of the Société Rencesvals, American-Canadian Branch, has been made possible through financial support given by the University of Alabama and the University of Manitoba. *Olifant* appears in October, December, February and April of each academic year. For further information, write John R. Allen, Department of Romance Languages, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

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Background Note

Olifant and the Société Rencesvals

Olifant, published four times a year and distributed to all members of the American-Canadian Branch of the Société Rencesvals, is devoted to the promotion of the study of medieval epic literature in the various Romance tongues. Publication has been made possible for the Société Rencesvals through the cooperation of the University of Alabama and the University of Manitoba.

Membership in the Société Rencesvals is open to all persons interested in the medieval Romance epic. The society is organized in eleven national branches, located in Belgium, Bulgaria, East Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, West Germany and the United States - Canada. The officers of the International Society are: Pierre Le Gentil, Honorary President; Maurice Delbouille, President; Gérard J. Brault, Vice-President; Madeleine Tyssens, Secretary; Charles Senninger, Treasurer. The officers of the American-Canadian Branch are: Gérard J. Brault, International Vice-President; William Calin, President; John R. Allen, Secretary-Treasurer-Bibliographer. The main activities of the society are international congresses, branch meetings, and publication of papers read and bibliographical materials. Since 1958 the society has met triennially at various places in Europe for the purpose of hearing papers on epic subjects and of facilitating contacts and discussion among medievalists. The last congress took place at Aix-en-Provence, August 28 - September 4, 1973, and the next congress will occur in 1976 at Liège. Since 1967, the American-Canadian Branch has also sponsored a seminar at the annual Modern Language Association Convention. The seminar, formerly under the title "Problems in the Old French Epic" but now called "Problems in the Medieval Romance Epic," is open to non-members as well as members of the society.

Details concerning forthcoming international congresses and reports on congresses past appear in the annual Bulletin Bibliographique and, for members of the American-Canadian Branch, also in *Olifant*. These two publications include articles, notices, information on work in progress, and a list of papers read and editions and critical studies published, along with mention of reviews, on the Romance epic during the preceding year. Most entries are accompanied by a short summary of the contents. *Olifant* also publishes abstracts of papers and Ph.D. dissertations, the complete text of studies to be presented at the annual seminar on "Problems in the Medieval Romance Epic," a résumé of the ensuing discussion, and other information of interest to members.

Comments are welcome and should be addressed either to John R. Allen; Department of Romance Languages; University of Manitoba; Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, or to Jan A. Nelson; Department of Romance Languages; University of Alabama; University, Alabama 35486.