

# Olifant

A Publication of the Société Renaissance  
American-Canadian Branch



Vol. 2 No. 2

December 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.

*Olifant, Volume 2, Number 2*  
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## ***Olifant* and the Société Rencesvals Background Note**

*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 into 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; Gerard J. Brault, Vice-President; Madeleine Tyssens, Secretary; Charles Senninger, Treasurer. The officers of the American-Canadian Branch are: Gerard 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 1964, the American-Canadian Branch has held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Modern Language Association Convention, at the seminar devoted to "Problems in the Medieval Romance Epic." That seminar 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 in *Olifant*. These two publications include notices, information on work in progress, and a listing 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 articles, Ph.D. dissertation abstracts, reviews and abstracts of books, articles, and papers, a report on the annual meeting, discussion, and other information of interest to members. The December issue of *Olifant* each year is reserved for the papers given at the annual meeting. The other issues contain articles submitted to the editors.

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