

The Old English Epistola Alexandri Ad Aristotelem



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Reviews

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(Alfreda Bradtke)

THE OLD ENGLISH EPISTOLA ALEXANDRI AD ARISTOTELEM



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Grin Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 28 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 0, Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (Department for English and American Studies), course: Historical Linguistics and Medieval English Studies, language: English, comment: Paper written in English. Other languages of sources works cited: Latin, Old English. , abstract: Much time and ink has been spent on the study of the so called Beowulf manuscript which nowadays constitutes the presumably most discussed (LUCAS 1990: 363) Old English manuscript. Contained in this manuscript is the apocryphal Letter of Alexander to Aristotle that will be central to this paper. The multitude of medieval manuscripts (cf. GUNDERSON 1980: 48) of the Letter leave little doubt that it certainly belongs to some of the most successful literary impostures of the medieval ages (RYPINS 1971: xliii). However, its Anglo-Saxon version has excited little attention over the years (ORCHARD 1995: 116). Scholars interest seems to have been much more with the study of the earlier Latin form of the manuscript (RYPINS 1971: xxx): the Epistola Alexandri ad Aristotelem, which seems to derive from an older Greek version (cf. GUNDERSON 1980: 48). The version of the Letter dealt with here is a copy of an earlier (and apparently lost) Old English translation of the Latin Epistola: Thus it is at least twice removed from the Latin (Rypins xxxvii). It is my purpose to show within this paper that neither the various monstrous beings (vs. SISAM 1962: 96) nor their aggression as a particular problem for foreign rulers (vs. POWELL 2006: 1) that are most commonly said to be the connecting theme of the community of manuscripts of the Norwell Codex are the central aspects of the Letter. Until further...



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