

Abstract: Fables of King Arthur. Aelred of Rievaulx and Secular Pastimes

This article examines the puzzling reference that Aelred of Rievaulx (c. 1110–1167) made to King Arthur in his *Speculum Caritatis*, and argues that the reference is best interpreted as an allusion to orally circulated stories, not to the Latin history of Geoffrey of Monmouth. This interpretation is based primarily on a close examination of the textual context of this passage, but it is also suggested that what Aelred elsewhere writes about fables and secular entertainments is relevant for a proper appreciation of the Arthurian allusion.

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