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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