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WILLIAM OF TYRE

Historian of the Latin East

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For Frances and Hazel
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PREFACE

This is a study of a medieval historian and what he had to say. It is the fruit of a collaboration originally conceived almost ten years ago and has taken far longer to complete than it should. The distance between Cardiff and London, Ontario, and our other commitments, provide excuses, albeit rather feeble ones. More seriously, we found that the price of being engaged on a genuinely collaborative undertaking was that our labour was increased rather than diminished as points of detail were thrashed out and drafts passed to and fro across the Atlantic.

Work was already well advanced when Professor Robert Huygens’ new edition of William of Tyre’s history was published. It is difficult for us to express adequately our indebtedness to him for what has proved to be of enormous assistance in the final stages of our research.

Appreciation and thanks for their generous help in many different ways and at widely differing stages of our work are due to many people, not least: Dr D. R. Bates, Miss J. Buckingham, Mr Ceri Davies, Professor R. B. C. Huygens, Dr C. H. Knowles, Professor J. R. Lander, Professor J. S. C. Riley-Smith, the late Dr R. C. Smail, and Professor W. H. Stockdale; also the staff of the Bodleian Library, Oxford and the libraries at University College Cardiff and the University of Western Ontario, where in particular we would mention Dr R. E. Lee, the chief librarian, and his colleagues Mr R. Gardiner and Mr G. Malcahy. However, the responsibility for the mistakes remains our own, and for these the authors will no doubt blame each other.

We dedicate this volume to our wives, who have endured patiently and been a constant source of support and encouragement.

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University of Western Ontario

P. W. E.

J. G. R.
ABBREVIATIONS AND FORMS OF REFERENCE


EHR  English Historical Review.


Arm  RHC Documents arméniens. 2 vols. 1869–1906.


Occ  RHC Historiens occidentaux. 5 vols. 1844–95.

Or  RHC Historiens orientaux. 5 vols. 1872–1906.


TRHS  Transactions of the Royal Historical Society.


Citations from William of Tyre are from Professor Huygens’ edition rather than from the nineteenth-century Recueil des historiens des croisades. Our practice has been to use roman numerals for the books and arabic numerals for the chapters, without giving page numbers, but providing line numbers to the chapters where appropriate. Where page numbers are given, these refer to the editor’s introduction.