

The Catalan Expedition to the East

from the 'Chronicle' of Ramon Muntaner

Translated by ROBERT HUGHES

Ramon Muntaner's account of the adventures of the Almogaver army under Roger of Flor in the eastern Mediterranean in the early 14th century, one of the most spellbinding narratives of medieval European literature.

Before its definitive fall into Turkish hands, the Byzantine Empire was the target of adventurers of many nations. Outstanding among these groups was the Almogaver army led by Roger of Flor, composed of mercenaries hardened in the war between the Catalan and Angevin dynasties for domination of Sicily. The Catalan presence in Constantinople aroused suspicion among the Greek nobility who assassinated Roger of Flor and tried to exterminate his men. The devastating reaction of those who escaped the slaughter led to Catalan control of broad swathes of the Empire, including Athens. Ramon Muntaner, one of the ringleaders of the expedition, recounted the adventures of the Almogaver army in the eastern Mediterranean in his fascinating Chronicle. This volume is the first English translation of the section devoted to Roger of Flor and his passage through the Byzantine world.

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