



MONT SAINT-MICHEL
OR
TOLEDO:

GREEK OR ARABIC SOURCES
FOR MEDIEVAL EUROPEAN
CULTURE?

Sylvain Gouguenheim has recently caused a controversy in claiming that European culture owes nothing to Arabic culture, but that the successive renewals of learning of the Middle Ages and Renaissance were entirely of Greek inspiration (*Aristote au Mont Saint-Michel: Les racines grecques de l'Europe chrétienne*). This lecture weighs the relative importance of translations made from Greek and those made from Arabic in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, in an attempt to achieve a balanced view of what European culture owed to its ancient forerunners and to then contemporary Byzantine and Islamic civilizations.

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