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## The Crusades from the Perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim World

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## Preface

The studies in this volume originated in a symposium organized by Roy P. Mottahedeh and myself and held at Dumbarton Oaks on 2–4 May 1997. Over the two previous years, a considerable number of scholarly conferences had been planned, to commemorate the nine hundredth anniversary of the Council of Clermont and its results. Most of these focused on the Crusades from the viewpoint of Western Europe. Indeed, the considerable and exciting scholarship produced during recent decades has also, to a large extent, been concerned with the internal, Western, aspects of this movement. Notable exceptions do, of course, exist. Still, it seemed to us that there was need of a conference that would look at the crusade from the perspective of those areas to which it was primarily directed, namely, the Eastern Muslim areas and the Byzantine Empire.

The Dumbarton Oaks symposium took place on the nine hundredth anniversary of the appearance of the crusading armies outside the city of Nicaea. Our purpose was to examine several important issues that, in one way or another, affected the Byzantine and Muslim worlds at the time of the Crusades or because of them. The movement having been a lengthy and recurrent one, our time frame extended to the late thirteenth century. The first essay published here analyzes the development of the historiography of the Crusades. The other essays discuss various topics ranging from the problem of the holy war in Byzantium and Islam to the question of attitudes and perceptions, the effect on art, and the impact of the Crusades on the economies of the East. We neither expected nor planned a comprehensive examination of the crusading movement seen from Constantinople, Baghdad or Cairo. Rather, we hope that this volume, by contributing to the very lively scholarly discussion on the Crusades, stimulates further research on developments that engaged the eastern Mediterranean, both Christian and Muslim, and the Muslim world generally.

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