

CMLL Classics Lecture, Texas Tech University
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(In the basement of the Foreign Language Building)

The Judean Alexander Romance

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The story of the visit by Alexander the Great to Jerusalem has long excited interest and debate. The focus of my paper is on a very little known version of that story, as preserved in the also little known epsilon recension of the Greek Alexander Romance. Contrary to the scholarly consensus on this version, I argue on philological and historical grounds that the 8th century Byzantine epsilon recension is based, at least in part, on a heretofore unrecognized source, earlier by about a millennium. It is thus the earliest surviving version of the Alexander in Jerusalem story, coming to us from a short, important, and little discussed period in Judean and Hellenistic history.



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