

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCVII, Gennaio-Aprile 2013, Fascicolo I

Abstracts

LEARDO MASCANZONI, Durendal, Excalibur e le altre: le spade nell'universo letterario cavalleresco cortese

Apart from its military usefulness, during the Middle Ages the use of the sword was particularly distinguished. In courtly literature there are many examples of the sword symbolizing strength, power, authority but also friendship, generosity, credibility. In some cases the sword is a symbol of love too. The most famous are Durendal and Excalibur but the sword plays a crucial role even in the *Lais* of Mary of France.