

## TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

SAINT BONAVENTURA'S Life or Legend of St. Francis, usually known as the "Legenda Major," or "Aurea Legenda," was composed between 1260 and 1263, at the bidding of a Chapter-General of the Order. It was intended to supersede former Lives or Legends, and to become the official and standard biography of the Saint. To ensure this, another Chapter-General ordered the suppression of the earlier Lives, from which, nevertheless, St. Bonaventura had largely drawn in compiling his biography. Many passages in it are borrowed, sometimes even verbally, from Celano and the "Three Companions." St. Bonaventura skillfully held the balance between the two extreme parties in the Order, and his reputation for sanctity and learning,—together with his dramatic power as a narrator,—has rendered his work widely known and popular ever since his own day. It gains a special interest from having served as Giotto's text for his series of frescoes in the Upper Church at Assisi.

The present translation is made from the text published by the Rev. Fathers of the College of