

The Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Chair in Iranian Studies &
The Musa Sabi Term Chair of Iranian Studies

present

Procopius and the Persians: History, Fable or Morality Tale?

Geoffrey Greatrex
University of Ottawa

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 | 306 Royce Hall | 4:00pm



The lecture will discuss the historian Procopius of Caesarea (c. A.D. 500-560) and his account of the wars waged by Justinian, particularly those fought in the East against the Sasanian Persians. After an introduction to set Procopius' works in context, the lecture will analyse in greater detail the early chapters of the work, which recount several episodes in Roman-Persian relations over the fifth century (*Wars* i.2-6). An attempt will be made to work out how to interpret these stories, which have often baffled modern scholars because of their legendary content, and to determine their origin.

Geoffrey Greatrex did his undergraduate degree in Classics, and then his doctorate, at Exeter College, Oxford. In Britain, he taught part-time at Oxford Brookes University and at the University of Warwick and held research fellowships at the Open University and Cardiff University. Having returned to Canada in 1998, he taught initially at Dalhousie University and then, since 2001, at the University of Ottawa, where he is now full professor. He has published extensively on the reign of Justinian and the eastern Roman frontier in Late Antiquity. He is currently engaged on a SSHRC-funded project to produce a commentary on Procopius' *Persian Wars*.

Light refreshments will be served

iranianstudies@humnet.ucla.edu | www.iranian.ucla.edu