

Antiquity Matters!
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Tisiphone on the battlefield: Poetic and Historical Truth in Antoine Garissoles' *Adolphid*.

The *Adolphid* is a Latin epic published in France in 1649. Its author, Antoine Garissoles (1587-1650), was a French Huguenot and a professor of Theology at the Protestant academy at Montauban. The subject of the poem is the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), in which Garissoles portrays the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632) as a heroic defender of his fellow Protestants in Germany.

My paper investigates how the poet has merged elements from ancient epic with contemporary historiographical material, and how he has addressed the inherent tension between the epic genre and historiography.

I will focus on two sections of the text. First, I will examine a passage from the author's preface where the poet, citing Aristotle's *Poetics*, discusses how fiction and historical truth interact in his poem. Second, I will show how he puts these principles into practice in lines 608-14 of book 11 of the poem, where the fury Tisiphone has taken possession of an anonymous Austrian soldier and drives him to kill the Swedish king.

My paper suggests that Garissoles, just as he indicates in his preface, lets the historical account take precedence over the epic features, and tends to apply the epic elements where there is a vacuum in the historical material. I shall demonstrate that the effect of the epic features in this passage is to enhance the poet's own political viewpoint by presenting his hero in a manner that promotes a Protestant agenda.