

The Eve Adler Department of Classics Adler Memorial Lecture

“Lying, Exaggeration, and Encomium in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

Professor James J. O’Hara

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Looking at poetry in the light of rhetoric, history, and politics, Professor O'Hara considers how Roman or modern readers might respond to numerous lies or exaggerations within the Eighth Book of Vergil's *Aeneid*. Some of these are false or questionable claims made by characters within the world of the poem, talking about themselves and their enemies. But many involve the depiction on Aeneas' shield, made for him by the god Vulcan, of future Roman history, including the Battle of Actium in which Rome's first emperor, Augustus, will defeat Antony and Cleopatra. How should readers respond to what is said about Augustus and Actium, and how should this impact our reading of what Vergil is saying about the Romans and their history?



Battle of Actium
Laureys a Castro (1672)

Tuesday, April 19th 4:30 P.M.

Robert A. Jones '59 House Conference Room