

HIST 4023 Roman Republic and Empire
Paper 1 - 5 pages
Due September 25 at 1:30 pm

One of the fundamental problems for a historian of ancient Rome is the usage of secondary historians; that is, ancient historians who are basing their own accounts on earlier historians. It is very rare that both the original source and the adaptation survive. One case is the single combat of Titus Manlius and a Gaul during a battle between the Romans and the Gauls over a bridge, and how Manlius received the cognomen of “Torquatus,” which means “adorned with a chain.” Livy tells this story in his seventh book, which was almost certainly based on the history of Quintus Claudius Quadrigarius, who was writing about 100 years earlier than Livy. Quadrigarius’ account of Manlius is quoted directly by Aulus Gellius, a later writer interested in explaining odd family names. However, we do not know what Quadrigarius’ source for the incident was or how he may have reinterpreted it himself.

For this paper, you will compare Livy’s account to that of Quadrigarius. Explain what Livy has changed from his source. Drawing on your knowledge of Livy from Books 1 and 2 and especially the preface to Book 1, explain why Livy makes the changes he does and how they fit into his concept of history and vision of the Romans. Does this have any effect on the basic factual account? How does this affect our understanding of Livy in general? What does this show about ancient historians? Avoid being judgmental about how Livy reworks his source! Your goal is to gain a better understanding of ancient historiography, which is very different from modern standards of history.

You are to limit your analysis to the ancient texts themselves – do not look at modern scholarship. I want to read what you have to say, not what someone else has to say.

Use direct quotes sparingly and when they will specifically illustrate the point you are trying to make. Whenever you are quoting, paraphrasing, or simply referring to something an author says cite the particular passage in your paper. For the accounts of Torquatus, I have numbered the individual sentences for you to refer to in quotations or references. For other quotes and references to Livy, cite by book and chapter either in the sentence or parenthetically; e.g. “As Livy says at 2.23...” or “as explained by Livy (2.23)” Don’t forget to put a page number at the bottom of the page. Papers should be five pages, double-space, with 1” margins all around. Use Times New Roman or a similar font.

Papers are due on September 25 at the start of class. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. If a paper is not turned in at the start of class, it will be considered late. Papers grades will be lowered by one full letter for each day late. No exceptions!

Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights* 9.13, directly quoting Quintus Claudius Quadrigarius

7. In the meantime a Gaul came forward, who was naked except for a shield and two swords and the ornament of a neck-chain and bracelets; in strength and size, in youthful vigour and in courage as well, he excelled all the rest. 8. In the very height of the battle, when the two armies were fighting with the utmost ardour, he began to make signs with his hand to both sides, to cease fighting. 9. The combat ceased. 10. As soon as silence was secured, he called out in a mighty voice that if anyone wished to engage him in single combat, he should come forward. 11. This no one dared do, because of his huge size and savage aspect. 12. Then the Gaul began to laugh at them and to stick out his tongue. 13. This at once roused the great indignation of one Titus Manlius, a youth of the highest birth, that such an insult should be offered his country, and that no one from so great an army should accept the challenge. 14. He, as I say, stepped forth, and would not suffer Roman valour to be shamefully tarnished by a Gaul. Armed with an infantry shield and a Spanish sword, he confronted the Gaul. 15. Their meeting took place on the very bridge, in the presence of both armies, amid great apprehension. 16. Thus they confronted each other, as I said before: the Gaul, according to his method of fighting, with shield advanced and awaiting an attack; Manlius, relying on courage rather than skill, struck shield against shield, and threw the Gaul off his balance. 17. While the Gaul was trying to regain the same position, Manlius again struck shield against shield, and again forced the man to change his ground. In this fashion he slipped in under the Gaul's sword and stabbed him in the breast with his Spanish blade. Then at once with the same mode of attack he struck his adversary's right shoulder, and he did not give ground at all until he overthrew him, without giving the Gaul a chance to strike a blow. 18. After he had overthrown him, he cut off his head, tore off his neck-chain, and put it, covered with blood as it was, around his own neck. 19. Because of this act, he himself and his descendants had the surname Torquatus.

Titus Livius, *From the Foundation of the City* 7.9.8-10.13

0. A Gaul of extraordinary stature strode forward on to the unoccupied bridge, and shouting as loudly as he could, cried: "Let the bravest man that Rome possesses come out and fight me, that we two may decide which people is the superior in war."

1. A long silence followed. The best and bravest of the Romans made no sign; they felt ashamed of appearing to decline the challenge, and yet they were reluctant to expose themselves to such terrible danger. 2. Thereupon T. Manlius, the youth who had protected his father from the persecution of the tribune, left his post and went to the Dictator. "Without your orders, General," he said, "I will never leave my post to fight, no, not even if I saw that victory was certain; 3. but if you give me permission I want to show that monster as he stalks so proudly in front of their lines that I am a scion of that family which hurled the troop of Gauls from the Tarpeian rock." 4. Then the Dictator: "Success to your courage, T. Manlius, and to your affection for your father and your fatherland! Go, and with the help of the gods show that the name of Rome is invincible." 5. Then his comrades fastened on his armour; he took an infantry shield and a Spanish sword as better adapted for close fighting; thus armed and equipped they led him forward against the Gaul, who was exulting in his brute strength, and even - the ancients thought this worth recording - putting his tongue out in derision. 6. They retired to their posts and the two armed champions were left alone in the midst, more after the manner of a scene on the stage than under the conditions of serious war, and to those who judged by appearances, by no means equally matched. 7. The one was a creature of enormous bulk, resplendent in a many-coloured coat and wearing painted and gilded armour; the other a man of average height, and his arms, useful rather than ornamental, gave him quite an ordinary appearance. 8. There was no singing of war-songs, no prancing about, no silly brandishing of weapons. With a breast full of courage and silent wrath Manlius reserved all his ferocity for the actual moment of conflict. 9. When they had taken their stand between the two armies, while so many hearts around them were in suspense between hope and fear, the Gaul, like a great overhanging mass, held out his shield on his left arm to meet his adversary's blows and aimed a tremendous cut downwards with his sword. 10. The Roman evaded the blow, and pushing aside the bottom of the Gaul's shield with his own, he slipped under it close up to the Gaul, too near for him to get at him with his sword. Then turning the point of his blade upwards, he gave two rapid thrusts in succession and stabbed the Gaul in the belly and the groin, laying his enemy prostrate over a large extent of ground. 11. He left the body of his fallen foe un-despoiled with the exception of his chain, which though smeared with blood he placed round his own neck. 12. Astonishment and fear kept the Gauls motionless; the Romans ran eagerly forward from their lines to meet their warrior, and amidst cheers and congratulations they conducted him to the Dictator. 13. In the doggerel verses which they extemporised in his honour they called him Torquatus, and this soubriquet became for his posterity a proud family name. The Dictator gave him a golden crown, and before the whole army alluded to his victory in terms of the highest praise.