



Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered* and Pierre Le Moyne's *Saint Louis*

Imitation and the poetics of deviation

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Abstract: The French heroic poems of the 1650s have long been deemed poor pastiches of the great epic models. A comparison of Pierre Le Moyne's *Saint Louis* with Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered* highlights a clear parallel between these two crusade epics. But the originality of *Saint Louis* becomes apparent as soon as one takes into account the deviations of varying import that it constantly produces in relation to this model and its value system.

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