

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462015703321
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Titolo	Tacitus, the epic successor [[electronic resource] ] : Virgil, Lucan, and the narrative of civil war in the histories // by Timothy A. Joseph
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2012
ISBN	1-283-55116-0 9786613863614 90-04-23128-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (227 p.)
Collana	Mnemosyne supplements ; ; volume 345
Disciplina	937/.07
Soggetti	Classical literature - History and criticism Electronic books. Rome Historiography
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / Timothy A. Joseph -- Tacitus the Epic Successor / Timothy A. Joseph -- History as Epic / Timothy A. Joseph -- The Deaths of Galba and the Desecration of Rome / Timothy A. Joseph -- The Battles of Cremona / Timothy A. Joseph -- Otho's Exemplary Response / Timothy A. Joseph -- "Savage Even in Its Peace" / Timothy A. Joseph -- Bibliography / Timothy A. Joseph -- General Index / Timothy A. Joseph -- Index of Passages Discussed / Timothy A. Joseph.
Sommario/riassunto	Allusions to the epic poets Virgil and Lucan in the writing of the Roman historian Tacitus (c. 55 – c. 120 C.E.) have long been noted. This monograph argues that Tacitus fashions himself as a rivaling literary successor to these poets; and that the emulative allusions to Virgil's Aeneid and Lucan's Bellum Civile in Books 1–3 of his inaugural historiographical work, the Histories , complement and build upon each other, and contribute significantly to the picture of repetitive, escalating civil war in the work. The argument is founded on the close reading of a series of related passages in the Histories , and it also broadens to consider certain narrative techniques and strategies that Tacitus shares with writers of epic.

