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**The Ottawa Chapter**  
**Presents an illustrated lecture**  
**in collaboration with the**  
**College of the Humanities, Carleton**  
**University**

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## **Unpicking Dido's Weaving: Aeneas' Carthaginian Cloak**

**Presented by**

**Dr. Aven McMaster**

**Professor Emerita of Thorneloe University. Instructor at St. Mary's University, Halifax**

**Sunday, 24 October, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

**On Zoom    Click on the link below**

<https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/93984906725>



The purple cloak worn by Aeneas, woven by Dido, in lines 4.261-4 of the Aeneid, has connections to Homeric and Hellenistic epic, Greek tragedy, Roman lyric and elegiac poetry, and Horace's Epodes. This lecture will explore the rich resonances of this passage in the Aeneid, and show that these connections combine to imply that Dido has woven this cloak as an attempt to play the role of a good Roman wife, but that her attempt is undercut by mistakes in her choices of literary and mythical models. This both emphasizes her perception of the relationship with Aeneas as a marriage and undermines its legitimacy in the eyes of a Roman reader, supporting Aeneas' choice to leave her