

Table of content

Introduction	1
The gist of this book	1
An overview of scholarship on this play	3
Uncovering one's cards	5
Sources on warfare	9
Chapter 1	
The context of <i>Septem</i>	
The poet	15
The year 468/67	16
The Athenian theatre in 467	29
Pindar's F75 and <i>Septem</i>	36
Chapter 2	
Scene and costumes	
Setting the scene	49
The topography of Thebes conjured up by <i>Septem</i>	53
The costumes of <i>Septem</i>	58
Chapter 3	
<i>Mimesis</i> of a commander at war	
The many a threat faced by Eteocles	65
A shrewd statesman	66
A capable commander	68
A commander with an epic air about him	73
A strong personality	77
Chapter 4	
<i>Mimesis</i> of war	
An epic war	83

Similarities with fifth-century warfare	89
The contribution of the poet's imagination	103
The representation of the last day of war as a whole	106
Technical terms	111
Chapter 5	
Seven pairs of speeches just before battle	
The second episode	113
Verbal clues to the action	115
Probability in the <i>mimesis</i> of war and action sequence	124
Probability in tragic plots	129
Dramatic function of the second episode	133
Chapter 6	
How a king goes to a duel	
The text and staging of 675-719	137
Chapter 7	
Unintentional mystification	
Missing essential clues	145
Missing what could go without saying	150
Weighing options	151
The brothers' strife and moral stand	152
The wording of Oedipus' curse	155
'Iron' in the curse	159
The understanding of the curse	163
Eteocles' dreams	169
Chapter 8	
Mystification as <i>mimesis</i> of the invisible	
Perplexing Eteocles	175
Eteocles' irrationality	189
The working of the Curse-Erinys	193
Chapter 9	
Mystifying hermeneutics	
On the verge of the event	197
A Chalybs, sharp cruel Iron	201
After the events	209

Table of content	XI
Chapter 10	
<i>Mimesis</i> in the <i>exodos</i>	
Preliminary issues: interpolations and secondary chorus	217
Staging and fallen lines	223
<i>Mimesis</i> at its highest	225
Conclusions	
<i>Mimesis</i> in Aeschylus	227
Appendix 1	
The timing of Eteocles' first exit	229
Appendix 2	
Author's translation of <i>The Seven against Thebes</i>	249
Bibliography	285
List of illustrations	319
General index	320
Index of quoted passages	330
Index of textual and exegetical contributions	348