

## Gregory of Tours and Arianism

Edward James  
University College Dublin

The apparent paradox that Gregory spends a good deal of space in his *Ten Books of History* combating Arianism, even though he knows that Arianism was not a problem in Gaul and was no longer a problem in Spain, has been answered in a number of ways, none of them totally satisfactory. It was a relic in the text of his initial concerns, when he began writing the *History*; it was a way of displaying his own theological credentials and proving his orthodoxy; it was an expression of his hostile feelings towards Spain; it was a reinforcement of the Catholic faith of his own congregation and, beyond that, of his readership. All those explanations perhaps have an element of truth in them, but this paper will argue that the representation of Arianism should be seen in terms of Gregory's representation of himself and of his own episcopal power.