

Rereading The Sophists Classical Rhetoric Refigured

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Rhetorical Adaptation in the Greek
Historians, Josephus, and Acts vol. I
Gorgias and the New Sophistic Rhetoric
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Classical antiquities. 1. Old Greek life
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in rereading the sophists of fifth century greece susan c jarratt reinterprets classical rhetoric with implications for current theory in rhetoric and composition provided by publisher

this book offers a new way of looking at the fifth century bce sophists rejecting the bad reputation they have had since antiquity and presenting them as individuals rather than a movement each with his own specialty and personality as revealed through the scant surviving evidence it provides an account of the sophists of this period that explains

the historical and social developments that led to their prominence and popularity demonstrating the reasons for their importance and for their seeming disappearance in the fourth century bce restricted to discussion of the few sophists for whom there are surviving quotations or other texts the sophists avoids generalizations often found in other books it contains accurate translations of most of the surviving material which forms the secure possible basis for understanding the sophists as individuals in their various roles not only as educators but also as ambassadors and pioneers in other fields after a general introduction the following chapters present each of the sophists individually followed by three chapters that present topics treated by more than one sophist such as logos definition and the nomos phusis contrast the final three chapters reveal the way three important intellectuals of the fourth century plato his rival isocrates and aristotle dealt with the sophists an appendix contains several longer passages or works in their entirety in translation allowing readers to have access to the original source materials and develop their own interpretations this thorough treatment of the fifth century sophists is of interest to scholars working on the subject and on ancient greek philosophy more broadly while also being accessible to undergraduate students and the general public interested in the topic

the classical greek sophists protagoras gorgias prodicus hippias and antiphon among others are some of the most important figures in the flourishing of linguistic historical and philosophical reflection at the time of socrates they are also some of the most controversial what makes the sophists distinctive and what they contributed to fifth century intellectual culture has been hotly debated since the time of plato they have often been derided as reactionaries relativists or cynically superficial thinkers or as mere opportunists making money from wealthy democrats eager for public repute this volume takes a fresh perspective on the sophists who really counted as one how distinctive they were and what kind of sense later thinkers made of them in three sections contributors address the sophists predecessors and historical and professional context their major intellectual themes including language ethics society and religion and their reception from the fourth century bce to modernity

the sophists were bold exciting innovators with new ideas about athenian society the first to arrive in about 444 bc was protagoras during the last half of the fifth century bc he was followed by a succession of new age itinerant instructors who were skilled in teaching mainly they taught the young ambitious men of athens instilling in them the skills they sought in order to become successful that is rich and influential the athenians flocked to hear them and enrol in their courses the sophists dared to charge high fees for their instruction and their students willingly paid the sophists were versatile and multi talented it seems that there was nothing one or other of them could not teach but perhaps their greatest legacy to western society was their development of language which naturally also benefited them in their work plato criticised the

sophists for promoting dangerous ideas which threatened the traditional structure of society they taught their students how to argue convincingly and to turn the weaker argument into a winning argument against the stronger plato was markedly vitriolic in his criticism of the sophists perhaps he was justified were the sophists clever rather than wise where does the truth lie this book with its lively comprehensive treatment of the subject by twenty leading scholars in the field will help the reader to decide

greco roman rhetorical theorists insist that speakers must adapt their speeches to their audiences in order to maximize persuasiveness and minimize alienation ancient historians adorn their narratives with accounts of attempts at such rhetorical adaptation the outcomes of which decisively impact the subsequent course of events these depictions of speaker audience interactions moreover convey crucial didactic persuasive insights to the historians own audiences this monograph presents a detailed comparative analysis of the intra and extra textual functions of speeches and audience responses in greek historiography josephus and acts with special emphasis on luke s distinctive depiction of the apostles as adaptable yet frequently alienating orators this is volume i of a set of two volumes

in gorgias and the new sophistic rhetoric bruce mccomiskey achieves three rhetorical goals he treats a single sophist s rhetorical technê art in the context of the intellectual upheavals of fifth century bce greece thus avoiding the problem of generalizing about a disparate group of individuals he argues that we must abandon platonic assumptions regarding the sophists in general and gorgias in particular opting instead for a holistic reading of the gorgianic fragments and he reexamines the practice of appropriating sophistic doctrines particularly those of gorgias in light of the new interpretation of gorgianic rhetoric offered in this book in the first two chapters mccomiskey deals with a misconception based on selective and platonic readings of the extant fragments that gorgias s rhetorical technê involves the deceptive practice of manipulating public opinion this popular and ultimately misleading interpretation of gorgianic doctrines has been the basis for many neosophistic appropriations the final three chapters deal with the nature and scope of neosophistic rhetoric in light of the non platonic and holistic interpretation of gorgianic rhetoric mccomiskey postulates in his opening chapters he concludes by examining the future of communication studies to discover what roles neosophistic doctrines might play in the twenty first century mccomiskey also provides a selective bibliography of scholarship on sophistic rhetoric and philosophy in english since 1900

this companion to the classical quarterly contains reviews of new work dealing with the literatures and civilizations of ancient greece and rome over 300 books are reviewed each year

this volume of seventeen essays includes royal documents in maccabees ii by christian habicht sophocles philoctetes and the teachings of the sophists by peter w rose the text of aristotle s de motu animalium by martha c nussbaum symposium at sea by w j slater emendations of pseudo quintilian s longer declamations by d r shackleton bailey limes arabicus by g w bowersock and the plancii of perge and diana planciana by c p jones

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