Preconference of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric 1997
A Brief History of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric

In 1977 a small group of historians of rhetoric gathered at the Speech Communication Association Convention in Washington, D.C. Concerned about the lack of panels on the history of rhetoric at SCA conferences and encouraged by the inaugural meeting of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (held in Zurich in June of 1977), these scholars proposed the formation of the American Branch of the ISHR. They sponsored at least one panel under that rubric at the 1978 SCA meeting in Minneapolis.

Between 1978 and 1990 the organization grew in both size and diversity. It sponsored panels at the annual SCA conference and, in 1986, held its first “preconference” on the day before the SCA conference. In 1990 the organization changed its name to the American Society for the History of Rhetoric. In the late 1980s or early 1990s, ASHR affiliated with the Eastern Communication Association and, in 1996, affiliated with the Southern States Communication Association. ASHR now sponsors panels at both regional conferences.

In addition, the Society has recently committed to bringing out an Annual, Advances in the History of Rhetoric. The first volume, published earlier this year, carries the theme of last year’s preconference, “Disputed and Neglected Texts in the History of Rhetoric.” Papers presented at this preconference will be eligible for publication in the second volume, “The Centrality of Rhetoric,” due out in 1998. The Annual’s editor is Richard Leo Enos.
Chairs of the ISHR-American Branch

1977-78: Phantom chair—who put together the Minneapolis panel?

1978-79: Michael C. Leff, University of Wisconsin

1979-80: James J. Murphy, University of California, Davis


1981-82: William L. Benoit, Bowling Green State University

1982-83: Beth S. Bennett, University of Alabama

1983-84: James Benjamin, Southwest Texas State University

1984-85: Keith V. Erickson, Texas Tech University

1985-86: Charles Kneupper, University of Texas, Arlington

1986-87: Robert N. Gaines, University of Maryland

1987-88: Molly Meijer Wertheimer, Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton

1988-89: Raymie E. McKerrow, University of Maine

1989-90: Takis Poulakos, University of Pittsburgh

 Presidents of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric

1990-91: Jane Sutton, Pennsylvania State University, York

1991-92: Victor Vitanza, University of Texas, Arlington

1992-93: John Poulakos, University of Pittsburgh

1993-94: Barbara Warnick, University of Washington

1994-95: Beth S. Bennett, University of Alabama

1995-96: Robert G. Sullivan, University of Maryland/Ithaca College

1996-97: Sean Patrick O’Rourke, Vanderbilt University

1997-98: Glen A. McClish, Southwestern University
Officers & Committees of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric
(with terms of office)

President: Sean Patrick O’Rourke, Vanderbilt University (November 1997)
Vice President: Glen A. McClish, Southwestern University (becomes President, November 1997; term ends November 1998)
Treasurer: James M. Tallmon, South Dakota State University (November 1998)

Steering Committee: Terence S. Morrow, Gustavus Adolphus College (November 1998)
Carol Porter, Montana State University (November 1998)
C. Jan Swearingen, University of Texas, Arlington (November 1997)
Glen A. McClish, Southwestern University (November 1998)
Sean Patrick O’Rourke, Vanderbilt University (November 1997)
James M. Tallmon, South Dakota State University (November 1997)

Dissertation Committee: Dale Sullivan, Chair (November 1997)
James M. Farzell (November 1998)
Karen Whedbee (November 1999)

Publication Committee: Richard Leo Enos, Editor and Chair
Sean Patrick O’Rourke, President
Glen A. McClish, Vice President
Carol Porter, Steering Committee Representative
Beth S. Bennett, Member-At-Large

Business Meetings of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric

General Meeting of the Membership:

Date: Friday, November 21, 1997, 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 5A, Fifth Floor, Chicago Hilton
Agenda: Report from the President
Election of three new members to the Steering Committee (replacing member Swearingen, O’Rourke, & Tallmon)
Old & New Business

Steering Committee Meeting:

Date: Friday, November 21, 1997, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 4J, Fourth Floor, Chicago Hilton
Agenda: Election of Vice President (who will become President in November, 1998)
Committee Appointments
Planning of 1998 meeting
           Dan Mangis, University of Alabama
3:50-4:15:  “Restoring the Centrality of Rhetoric and Civic Discourse to Basic Oral and Written Communication Courses”
           William N. Denman, Marshall University
           John C. Adams, Syracuse University

4:40-4:55:  Coffee Break

           Robert W. Cape, Jr., Austin College
5:20-5:45:  “Being, Time, and Definition: Notes Towards a Semiotics of Figural Rhetoric”
           Carol Poster, Montana State University

5:45-6:00:  Coffee Break

6:00-7:30:  President’s Seminar: “The Centrality of Rhetoric in the Criticism of Lawyers”
           “Unnecessary Arts: British Lawyer Attitudes Toward Rhetoric in the 17th Century”
           Lisa Perry, University of Maryland
           “Scottish Suspicions of Legal Rhetoric”
           Susan Griffin, U.C.L.A.
           “Rhetoric as Lawyer’s Vice in the Early American Republic”
           Sean Patrick O’Rourke, Vanderbilt University

Chicago, Illinois
November 1997
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Conf Room SC</th>
<th>Fifth Floor</th>
<th>Chicago Hilton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEAS OF ETHOS IN GRECO-ROMAN CULTURE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENING QUESTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3:45 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHETORIC AND AESTHETICS IN GREEK ANTIQUITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CENTRALITY OF ARISTOTLE'S RHETORIC IN PUBLIC DELIBERATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday, November 20, 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Conf Room SC</th>
<th>Fifth Floor</th>
<th>Chicago Hilton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:45 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric Chair: Michael W. Bedell, University of Illinois, Chicago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENING QUESTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENING QUESTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHETORIC RECONSIDERED: FOUR LANDMARK TEXTS IN THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-1:45 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIALOGUES DE ORATORIBUS: WHO SPEAKS FOR TACTUS, OR TACTUS SPEAKS FOR WHOM?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday, November 20, 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Conf Room SC</th>
<th>Fifth Floor</th>
<th>Chicago Hilton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEAS OF ETHOS IN GRECO-ROMAN CULTURE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENING QUESTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3:45 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHETORIC AND AESTHETICS IN GREEK ANTIQUITY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CENTRALITY OF ARISTOTLE'S RHETORIC IN PUBLIC DELIBERATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday, November 20, 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Conf Room SC</th>
<th>Fifth Floor</th>
<th>Chicago Hilton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:45 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric Chair: Michael W. Bedell, University of Illinois, Chicago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENING QUESTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENING QUESTIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHETORIC RECONSIDERED: FOUR LANDMARK TEXTS IN THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-1:45 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIALOGUES DE ORATORIBUS: WHO SPEAKS FOR TACTUS, OR TACTUS SPEAKS FOR WHOM?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RHETORICAL ISSUES IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Gary Hatch, Brigham Young University
"Hypercanic Homiletics in England: Christ’s College, Cambridge and Doctrines, Reasons, Uses." Jamie L. Lare, University of Southern Mississippi
"Literary Instruction through Rhetoric in Early Modern Grammar Texts." Linda C. Mitchell, Pepperdine University
"Rhetorical Elements in Renaissance Grammar Books." Lawrence D. Green, University of Southern California

Respondent: Thomas M. Conley, University of Illinois, Urbana

PATRICIAN RHETORIC

Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Carol Poster, University of Northern Iowa
"The Role of Rhetoric in the Anti-Nicene Church." Morris M. Womack, Pepperdine University
"Recontextualization and Performance: The Epidetic Expose of St. Irenaeus’ Against Heresies." Dale L. Sullivan, Northern Illinois University
"A Rhetorical Commentary to Augustine’s ‘Address to the People of the Church at Caesarea’." Jean Goodwin, Northwestern University

ORALITY, LITERACY, AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR RHETORICAL RESEARCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Gerry F. Philipson, University of Washington
"E-textualization and the Humanistic Scholar." Robert N. Gaines, University of Maryland, College Park
"Representation, Reference, Truth and Medieval Rhetoric: Insights for the 21st Century." Beth S. Benett, University of Alabama
"From Print to Computer-mediated Communication: Modality Shift and its Implications for Communication in the 21st Century." Barbara Warnick, University of Washington

Respondent: Edward Schiappa, University of Minnesota

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
355 4:00-4:15 p.m.  Fifth Floor  Chicago Hilton
Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Robert C. Sullivan, Unica College
Panelists: When the Echoes of the Epinomis in "Au Coy Mistress" Joanne S. Trapp, Texas Christian University, J. "Pleading Apology and the Forensic Genre in Antiquity." Craig G. Smith, California State University, Long Beach.
"Blind Love and Deliberate Passivity." Marita Midford, Penn State University.

375 5:30-6:45 p.m.  Fifth Floor  Chicago Hilton
Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Linda C. Mitchell, Pepperdine University
"Rhetorical Formula," Kenneth De Pano, Northwestern University.
"Letter Writing Instruction in 19th Century Schools: A Rhetorical Focus for Reproducing Hegemonic Cultural Values." Laelie School, University of Cincinnati.
Respondent: Carol P. O'Neill, University of Northwestern Iowa.

331 11:30-12:45 p.m.  Fifth Floor  Chicago Hilton
Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Arthur E. Worst, University of Minnesota
"Style in 17th Century Scientific Prose: Significance of Results." Michael Reddy, University of Minnesota.
Respondent: Carol P. O'Neill, University of Northwestern Iowa.

315 1:30-2:45 p.m.  Fifth Floor  Chicago Hilton
Sponsor: American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Chair: Joel R. Davis, Indiana State University
Panelists: "The Use of Thought Models." Ted W. Tetley, University of Texas at Austin.
"The Use of Thought Models." Ted W. Tetley, University of Texas at Austin.
Respondent: John T. Kirby, Purdue University.

Saturday, November 28, 1976
1996 AHSR Award Winners

Outstanding Dissertation Award
"Apocalyptic & Rhetoric in the Epistles of the New Testament"
Gary Selby

Outstanding Paper
"Telemachus Learns to Deliberate"
Marilee Mifsud

Note of Thanks
The Vice President wishes to recognize the Department of Theatre and Communication at Southwestern University and the Department of English at Montana State University, which financed all printing and postage associated with the preconference. In addition, Amie Bond deserves special praise for her fine work producing this program. Finally, Sean Patrick O’Rourke provided just the right amounts of advice and encouragement.

In Memoriam
This gathering is dedicated to Arthur J. Quinn, whose scholarship and teaching exemplified the centrality of rhetoric.