

PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The publication of this volume completes a lengthy process initiated by Mr. Matthew Bliss, who first proposed the project to Brill Academic Publishers, and who prepared the first draft of the first half of the translation with Ms. Elisabeth Baldamus, assisted by Ms. Anette Bieligk. The editors and publishers are very grateful to him for his commitment to the project even through serious illness. The first draft of the second half of the work, with the indexes, was completed by Ms. Annemiek Jansen, to whom sincere thanks are also due. Dr. R. Dean Anderson acted as editor and consultant with regard to classical abbreviations and technical terms. Special thanks are due to Professor George A. Kennedy for his encouragement for the project and his willingness to write a Foreword for this volume. The final text of this edition is a revision of the complete translation by Dr. David E. Orton, who bears responsibility for any errors or inadequacies in the translation.

All translations of course are individual and subjective, no matter how empathetic the translator may be towards the content. Translation consists of a complex series of choices between alternative approximations to the sense of words and expression in the original, in varying degrees of equivalence, which often necessarily change according to context. In the case of a technical handbook such as the present volume, there are special restrictions on the translator's freedom to render a "dynamic" translation of the original, since many of the terms and their definitions are "fixed" in both the original and the target language. Inclusive language has been used where this was possible without significantly distorting the flow of the text or the flavor of the original. What emerges is necessarily something of a compromise in endeavoring to meet both the requirement for a clear rendering of the original into idiomatic English, and the special technical requirements of the standard reference work. It is the hope of the translators, the editors and the publishers, that a suitable balance has been achieved, and that this translation will adequately serve the needs of the present generation of anglophone scholars and students of ancient and classical literature and rhetoric.

It should be noted that the material from paragraphs 1247-1326, which were added as a supplement to the second German edition, has been

incorporated as appropriate (e.g. in the case of corrections) or inserted into the text as “supplementary notes” at appropriate points. The supplementary notes indicate in parentheses the paragraph numbers allocated to them in the second German edition.

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FOREWORD TO THE 1990 REPRINT OF THE SECOND EDITION

Following Heinrich Lausberg’s publication as early as 1949 of a 93-page treatise on literary rhetoric entitled *Elemente der literarischen Rhetorik. Eine Einführung für Studierende der romanischen Philologie* (München, Max Hueber; a completely revised version of the *Elementen* appeared in 1963, expanded to almost twice its previous length and now arranged as an introduction for students of Classical, Romance, English, and German philology, which is today in its 9th edition), he in 1960 presented the massive, two-volume *Handbuch der literarischen Rhetorik* with the subtitle *Eine Grundlegung der Literaturwissenschaft*.

The publication of this work was rated by experts as “a significant event for philological research.”¹ The fact alone that the *Handbuch*, so far as we can see, has been reviewed in no less than 15 academic journals² provides an eloquent testimony of the extraordinarily deep chord which this work, which

¹ H. Wolf in his review in *Muttersprache* 72 (1962), p. 30.

² H.-G. Beck, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 54 (1961), p. 165; A. Rüegg, *ZrP* 77 (1961), pp. 550–551; K.D. Seemann, *Germanistik* 2 (1961), pp. 194–196; R.M. Wilson, *Erasmus* 40 (1961), pp. 158–159; A.E. Beau, *Boletim de Filologia* 20 (1961/62), pp. 348–350; O.A. Dieter, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 61 (1962), pp. 666–667; K. Dockhorn, *Göttingische Gelehrte Anzeigen* 214 (1962), pp. 177–196; A.E. Douglas, *The Classical Review* 12 (1962), pp. 246–247; I. Lana, *Rivista di Filologia e di Istruzione Classica* 40 (1962), pp. 312–315; J. Sofer, *Die Sprache* 8 (1962), pp. 126–128; H. Wolf, *Muttersprache* 72 (1962), p. 30; W. Kraus, *RF* 75 (1963), pp. 134–136; F. Munari, *Gnomon* 35 (1963), pp. 334–338; M.R. Mayenowa, *Deutsche Literaturzeitung* 85 (1964), pp. 608–611; W. Schmid, *ASNS* 200 (1963/64), pp. 451–462. – In addition, mention should also be made of the reviews by M. Fuhrmann, *Gnomon* 37 (1965), pp. 415–418 and M. Sandmann, *ZrP* 83 (1967), pp. 89–90, which are devoted primarily to discussion of the *Elemente der literarischen Rhetorik*, but also go into detail on the *Handbuch*.