

*Rhetorik, Bd. 18. "Rhetorik und Philosophie,"* hrsg.v. Joachim Dyck, Walter Jens und Gert Ueding. Tübingen: Niemeyer 1999; 181 pp., DM 82.-  
Reviewed by Josef Schmidt, McGill University

This volume, edited by Peter L. Oesterreich, is comprised of 7 feature articles, followed by a short discussion forum of a contemporary controversial German topic, and a French reflection on the "éloquence de la Révolution" by Kai Buchholz/Jean-Paul Sermain (in German). A bibliography of German rhetorical publications of 1997-1998 by Peter Edwin Brandt and Christina Burck of some 20 pages precedes the (international) book review section. Christina Burck is the only female contributor to this volume...

And German philosophy lives up to its reputation! The learned discourses are even hard to access by a native speaker! The introductory article by Josef Kopperschmidt (Erkelenz, "Quo vadis, rhetorica?") is a 22 pages plea with 105 footnotes on an anthropological concept of the *homo rhetoricus*, who, through social/communicative persuasion, keeps himself alive (p. 9). Other topics are a philosophy with or without rhetoric (Gonsalv K. Mainberger, Zürich), rhetoric and aesthetics (Heinrich Niehues-Pröbsting, Erfurt), logical, rhetorical and literary representations in philosophy (Gottfried Gabriel, Jena), rhetoric and natural philosophy (Richard Nate, Essen), rhetoric and philosophy in Aristotle's *Rhetoric* (Christof Rapp, Tübingen), and the discovery of the spirit of rhetoric in metaphysics by the editor of the volume, Peter L. Oesterreich (Essen). I find his article in the latest issue of *Rhetorica* (vol. 20.3, 2002), 'Thirteen theses on the *homo rhetoricus*...' much more readable and intelligible. I think all these authors should be condemned to translate their own work into another Western language in order to become aware of their teutonic heavy-handedness.

The book review and bibliography sections provide us with the usual diligence and circumspection pertinent information.

Robert Michael and Karin Doerr. *Nazi-Deutsch/Nazi German. An English Lexicon of the Language of the Third Reich.* With Forewords by Paul Rose, Leslie Morrie, and Wolfgang Mieder. Westport.Con./London, Greenwood Press, 2002, 457pp.

This very solid tome will certainly become a standard research tool in the analysis of German fascism. The main body, about 400 pages, consists of an alphabetical dictionary of Nazi jargon. The listing is exhaustive and comprehensive; only the cross references are sometimes bordering on the overly pedantic (given the propensity of the German language for compound words). The two editors have contributed substantial introductory essays. Small appendices provide authentic information about particular Nazi ritualistic language and institutions: the major concentration camps, military ranks, texts of doctrinal party songs, etc. A concise select bibliography concludes this lexicon.

Robert Michael, an eminent Dartmouth historian, gives a concise survey of "The Tradition of Anti-Jewish Language" from the Church fathers to the Shoa. His analysis attributes a major role to Luther's vitriolic outbursts against Jews; and the article is exemplary in connecting his lamentation to horrendous sources. What this reviewer found missing is the fact that modern

Anti-semitism as perpetrated by the Nazis had a definite root in greed; the fact that a Jewish middle class managed to address the demands of modern times evoked tremendous jealousy and envy of various social groups that translated itself into becoming the scapegoat for what was wrong with modern times. A second missing link is the proper placing of Hitler's anti-Semitism. It was the Austrian variety, as Austrian historian Friedrich Heer pointed out. In other words; a politically instrumentalized form of discrimination, dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and reaching its modern culmination in the politics of Vienna major Lueger at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was the time and place for Hitler's "education."

Karin Doerr who teaches German at Concordia University in Montreal is the linguistic expert. Her analysis of Nazi terms and rhetorical devices ("Nazi-Deutsch: An Ideological Language of Exclusion, Domination, and Annihilation") is a tightly knit presentation of the manipulative way in which the totalitarian heterogeneous and eclectic state machine shaped and controlled language for its self representation. With exemplary illustrations she demonstrates the multi-functional dimension of "Nazi-German" propaganda, instilling terror and fear, tribal sentiments, but also euphemistically concealing euthanasia and industrial mass murder.

Two examples may illustrate the rhetorical horror of the listings. "'Sippenhaftung'. Clan-liability of arrest..." meant that any resister's arrest was followed by brutal retributions to the extended family." In the memoirs of Paul Schmidt, the chief translator of the German Foreign Office during the Nazi period (*Statist auf politischer Buhne, 1946*), he remarks that his office never knew how to translate the term. For the Nuremberg trial it was rendered as "automatic arrest," a rather pale coinage! - "Kanada" was a "slang name used by the guards and inmates for the warehouses in Auschwitz II where the personal property taken from thousands of victims heading for the gas chambers was sorted, collected, and stored. Most likely a Polish term used before the war." (p. 235) Food for reflection...