

**THE METAPHORICAL
TERMINOLOGY OF
GREEK RHETORIC AND
LITERARY CRITICISM**

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The metaphorical terminology of Greek rhetoric and literary criticism by Larue Van Hook

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LARUE VAN HOOK

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LITERARY CRITICISM**

The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

THE METAPHORICAL TERMINOLOGY
OF GREEK RHETORIC AND LITERARY
CRITICISM

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS
AND LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

(DEPARTMENT OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE)

BY

LARUE VAN HOOK

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PREFACE

This dissertation, which is a study in the metaphorical terminology of Greek Rhetoric and Literary Criticism, has the following chief aims: first, after the origin and sources of the more obvious figurative terms have been determined, to classify them accordingly; and, second, to define their uses as critical terms by English and Latin equivalents. One or more examples of actual usage which best illustrate the meaning or history of each term are generally quoted. Further, the occasional citation of English terms of similar origin or meaning, and the quotation of parallel passages from both Latin and English literary critics, have been considered not inappropriate.

A number of useful books are cited in the Appendix, to which references are made by giving author's name and page. But I owe the most to the Lexicon of Ernesti and to Roberts' editions of Longinus, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, and Demetrius, which have been exceedingly helpful and freely used.

To Professor Paul Shorey, at whose suggestion this thesis was written, I am greatly indebted for assistance. To both Professor Shorey and Professor Edward Capps, as inspiring teachers and friends, I wish to express my deepest gratitude.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERMINOLOGY IN ANCIENT CRITICISM

To trace the gradual development and increasing technicality of the terminology in ancient Greek Criticism and Rhetoric with completeness would be impossible owing to the almost total loss of critical literature between Aristotle and Dionysius of Halicarnassus. Rhetoric had its beginnings in Sicily and Empedocles (ca. 450 B. C.) is said to have been the inventor (Diog. L. 8, 57). Then follow the names of the real founders, Corax and Tisias of Syracuse, Gorgias and the Sophists. Aristophanes, in the *Clouds* and *Frogs*, employs some new terms, although they are mainly ludicrous coinages of comedy. Of the Attic orators Isocrates (436-338 B. C.) is of the most importance for our study, as his rhetorical discourses and political pamphlets contain considerable discussion of literary style and composition. A number of references are made to his writings.

In Plato (428-347 B. C.) and especially Aristotle we find a different method of treating Rhetoric, viz., the philosophical. In Plato this criticism is to be found for the most part in the *Gorgias* and *Phaedrus*; in Aristotle, in the *Rhetoric* and *Poetics*. In the technical terminology as developed by Aristotle we do not find any great number of metaphorical terms, which more literary and imaginative and less philosophical critics were to develop. Some examples are: *ἀγωνιστική, ἀστεία, ἥδυσμα, ἡδύνειν, εἰρομένη, ἐπιχαλκεύειν, ἰατρείματα, καθαρός, ποικιλία, κδλλησις, λιτός, ὄγκος, πλοκή, ταπεινός, ὑδαρής, ψυχρός*. Nettleship (pp. 49 and 56) speaking of the later literary criticism, of which Dionysius is the best extant example, says that it employs a number of technical terms of criticism which are unknown, at least to Plato and Aristotle; many of the terms cited, however, are found in Aristotle, Plato, and Isocrates, some of them in a technical sense. For example: *ἀσθηρός*, Isoc. 13, 18 and frequent; *αἰθαδής*, Arist. *Rhet.* 3, 3; *ἀξίωμα*, Arist. *Rhet.* 3, 2; *ἀφελής*, Arist. *Rhet.* 3, 9; *πειθῶ*, Plat.