

PREFACE

This collection brings together some of the more important papers given at the conferences of the Canadian Society for the History of Rhetoric between 1983 and 1985. It bears witness to the growing interest in rhetoric in Canada, and to the diversity of approaches of the scholars whose work is here represented.

The collection is in two parts. Part I consists of four papers on the 1985 special topic of "sacred rhetoric." Debora Shuger crisply elucidates the background of sacred rhetoric during the Renaissance and suggests its uniqueness. Mirela Saim discusses the subtle patterning of Michelangelo's religious sonnets which bespeak rhetorical arrangements among the author, the audience, and the poetry. André S. Michalski explains the importance of a Mexican nun-poetess of the late seventeenth century by reference to the rhetorical tradition in which she wrote. John Stephen Martin examines how the logos had a changing rhetorical function in defining the moment of regenerative grace for the seventeenth century New England divine, Thomas Shepard.

Part II consists of four papers on the teaching of rhetoric in Canada. Anne Tayler discusses some of the text books used for the teaching of rhetoric in nineteenth-century Canada. Nan Johnson clarifies the various recent alternatives to the current-traditional paradigm--now widely discredited--which confined rhetoric to the teaching of mere technical competence in writing. Andrea A. Lunsford, in a survey of various developments in the teaching of rhetoric in North America since the eighteenth century, offers an explanation for the emergence of that paradigm. Christine Mason Sutherland shows how the insights of scholars

such as Lunsford and Johnson are being put to practical use in the creation of an interdisciplinary course at the University of Calgary.