

Kathy Eden, *Rhetorical Tradition: Chapters in the Ancient Legacy and its Humanist Reception* (2005)

Kathy Eden's *Rhetorical Tradition: Chapters in the Ancient Legacy and its Humanist Reception* is a sophisticated historicizing of the hermeneutic tradition. Her aim is to disavow the notion that hermeneutics was conceived by German Enlightenment thinkers, even if it was popularized by their works. Eden revisits the work of classical rhetoricians (Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Plutarch, Cicero, and Quintilian) and theologians (Paul the Apostle, Basil of Caesarea, Augustine of Hippo, Erasmus, Philip Melancthon, and Matthias Flacius Illyricus) to demonstrate the period's longstanding commitment to both exegesis and interpretation. She traces the development of these practices from Republican Rome through Reformation Europe to show their influence on, among other schools of thought, the German Enlightenment. *Rhetorical Tradition* is at once a study of historical ideas and a vindication of the hermeneutic practice of allowing context to illuminate an ever fuller sense of the meanings we encounter.