

ROMAN RHETORIC

REVOLUTION AND THE GREEK INFLUENCE

RICHARD LEO ENOS

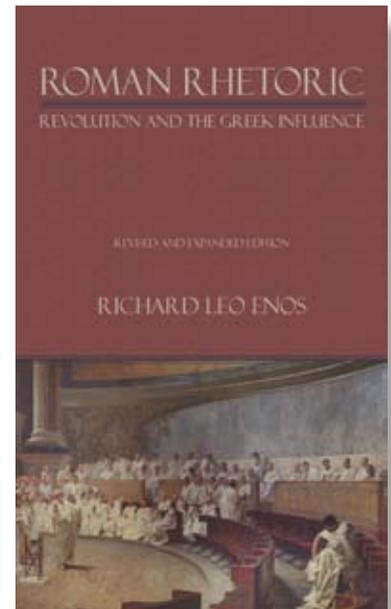
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Greek and Roman traditions dominate classical rhetoric. Conventional historical accounts characterize Roman rhetoric as an appropriation and modification of Greek rhetoric, particularly the rhetoric that flourished in fifth and fourth centuries BCE Athens. However, the origins, nature and endurance of this Greco-Roman relationship have not been thoroughly explained. *ROMAN RHETORIC: REVOLUTION AND THE GREEK INFLUENCE* reveals that while Romans did benefit from Athenian rhetoric, their own rhetoric was also influenced by later Greek and non-Hellenic cultures, particularly the Etruscan civilization that held hegemony over all of Italy for hundreds of years before Rome came to power. Through the examination of archaeological, epigraphical, historical and literary evidence, *ROMAN RHETORIC* reveals that the relationship between Greek and Roman rhetoric was dynamic, evolving, and socially interactive. The long history of interaction between Greeks and Romans facilitated a cross-cultural rhetoric that evolved over time and was shaped by social and political forces. *Roman Rhetoric* clarifies the relationships between Greek and Roman classical rhetoric by showing the historical forces that shaped their evolution as Romans conquered the Etruscans, as Greeks colonized areas of southern Italy that came to be called Magna Graecia, as Rome changed from Republic to Empire, and as the educational dominance of the Second Sophistic was challenged by efforts to create an emerging Christian rhetoric.



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