

# ISHR MEMORIAL PAGE

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**ANTON D. LEEMAN**  
***VIR BONUS DICENDI PERITUS***  
**9 APRIL 1921 – 5 AUGUST 2010**



*Photo by J.J.L.Smoleaars*

On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 Anton Daniël Leeman, one of the founding fathers of the ISHR, died peacefully, 89 years old. His inspiring and pioneering work on ancient rhetoric helped pave the way for the revival of its study, and that of rhetoric in general, in the past 40 years.

In 1952, in his early thirties, he was appointed to the chair of Latin Language and Literature at the University of Amsterdam, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. The next ten years saw the publication of a number of fine articles, particularly on Roman historiography. It was in 1963 that he published the book that made his name, and which still counts among the classics in the rhetorical field: *Orationis Ratio*, a wide-ranging study of ‘the stylistic theories and practice of the Roman orators, historians and philosophers’. Lucid and accessible (all ancient texts are provided with translations), it gives the reader an intimate understanding of, and a feeling for, the lively and important interplay of Latin prose with rhetorical theory.

It was therefore natural, when the ISHR was conceived in Zurich in 1977, that he should be among its founders, together with Marc Fumaroli, Alain Michel, James J. Murphy, Heinrich Plett, and Brian Vickers. He served as the third President of the Society (1981-1983), the first classicist to fulfil that role; and while he was always energetic in promoting the study of classical rhetoric and of Cicero in particular, I remember, when he first mentioned the ISHR to me as his student in the mid-eighties, that he was clearly happy and intrigued that the Society was gradually embracing fields outside the normal compass of classicists. He was also instrumental in building the Dutch branch, which he saw flourishing in the eighties and nineties, with lively interdisciplinary ‘rhetoric days’ being held in Amsterdam on an annual basis.

Meanwhile, he had taken up the challenge to write a commentary on the most wide-

ranging and unorthodox of Cicero's works on rhetoric, *On the (ideal) orator (De oratore)*, published in 55 BC. This was to combine the interpretation of the work, in the widest sense of the term, with textual and linguistic analysis – he had always been alive to the interdependence of detailed observation of the language and style of texts on the one hand, and their broad contextual, cultural, and literary interpretation on the other. Realizing the enormity of the task, he formed a team with his former student Harm Pinkster, who was later to develop into one of the most eminent Latin linguists and a successful promoter of the application of general linguistics to Latin. They were, in the words of one of the reviewers of the first volume (1981), 'a strikingly well-qualified pair' (Michael Winterbottom, *Classical Review* 33, 1983, 36-37). The task nevertheless proved more labour-intensive than anticipated. This was partly because of the mushrooming of relevant research elsewhere. But it was, paradoxically, also due to the success of the enterprise. For it revealed that the debates about rhetoric, oratory, and philosophy in Cicero's time were even more complex and interesting than had hitherto been realized. In a characteristically open-minded way, others were enlisted as co-authors: the legal scholar Hein L. W. Nelson for vol. 2 (1985); Edwin Rabbie, who supplied a thorough analysis of the section on humour (vol. 3, 1989); I was privileged to contribute to vol. 4 (1996). His advancing age unfortunately meant diminished energy, and Leeman had to pass on the baton to a team of friends and colleagues (consisting of Michael Winterbottom, Elaine Fantham, and me); fortunately, we were able to finish in 2008, so that he did see the completion of what he had so boldly begun.

His rhetorical scholarship also produced other fruits, notably a masterful analysis of Cicero's continually shifting perspective in the speech *For Murena* (1982). In Dutch, *inter al.*, he collaborated with Antoine C. Braet on a concise and very useful handbook of classical rhetoric (1987), and helped produce a lively and accurate translation of *De oratore* (with H. W. A. van Rooijen-Dijkman, 1989). But his erudition and gift for sensitive literary analysis also found other outlets: a Dutch translation of Petronius' picaresque novel *Satyricon*; an eye-opening anthology of Latin literature for schools, *Romanitas*, organized around Roman themes such as the state and the contrast between farmer and townsman; and a series of articles, in several languages, not only on prose-writers but also on poets such as Catullus, Horace, and Vergil. A careful selection of the latter was published as *Form und Sinn* in 1985.

His personal qualities matched his scholarly ones. Aware of his own strengths, he was at the same time extremely generous; the many collaborations mentioned, and the fostering of new generations at every level, are an integral part of his legacy. His stylish appearance and wit made him a much-loved companion inside and outside scholarly circles. He was a gifted speaker himself, with a range from the deeply serious to the comical. Many of his colleagues and students will remember the hilarious lecture on Cato's 'Encomium of the cabbage'. And who would have thought that it was possible, as he did in 'Julius Caesar, the Orator of Paradox' delivered at the colloquium for George Kennedy in 1998, to analyse Caesar's one-word address to his troops, *Quirites*, as a full-blown speech with a prologue, a narration, arguments, and an epilogue?

Anton Leeman will be remembered for his contributions to rhetoric and literature, for his erudition and style, for his humour and penchant for paradoxes; but his many friends and pupils will most fondly recall his true *humanitas*.

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TITLES MENTIONED, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER:

- Orationis Ratio. The Stylistic Theories and Practice of the Roman Orators, Historians and Philosophers* (2 volumes, Amsterdam 1963; repr. 1 vol., 1986)
- Petronius, *Satyricon* (first ed. as *Schelmen en tafelschuimers*, Amsterdam 1966; revised 1972, and many reprints)
- Romanitas: synthematische bloemlezing uit de Latijnse literatuur* (Amsterdam 1973)
- Anton D. Leeman, Harm Pinkster, Hein L. W. Nelson, Edwin Rabbie, Jakob Wisse, Michael Winterbottom, Elaine Fantham, *M. Tullius Cicero De oratore libri III. Kommentar/A Commentary* (5 volumes; Heidelberg 1981-2008)
- ‘The Technique of Persuasion in Cicero’s Pro Murena’, in: *Éloquence et rhétorique chez Cicéron. Entretiens sur l’antiquité classique XXVIII* (Vandœuvres-Genève 1982), 193-236
- Form und Sinn. Studien zur römischen Literatur (1954-1984)* (Frankfurt am Main etc. 1985)
- A. D. Leeman - A. C. Braet, 1987, *Klassieke retorica: haar inhoud, functie en betekenis* (Groningen 1987)
- H. W. A. van Rooijen-Dijkman & A. D. Leeman (transl.), Cicero, *De ideale redenaar* (first ed. as *Drie gesprekken over redenaarskunst*, Amsterdam 1989; reprints)
- ‘Julius Caesar, the Orator of Paradox’, in: C. W. Wooten (ed.), *The Orator in Action and Theory in Greece and Rome. Essays in Honor of George A. Kennedy* (Leiden 2001), 97-110

**IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Lilia Metodieva – Rojdestvenska ( -2012)**

A head of the Master's program in Rhetoric of Sofia University, a former head of the Rhetoric Department, a member of the Union of Scientists, the Union of Bulgarian Journalists and the International Organization of Journalists, a member of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric and its Council, and a member of the editorial board of *Rhetorica*, Associate Prof. Lilia Metodieva passed away unexpectedly on February 13, 2012.

Prof. Lilia Metodieva gave nearly twenty years of her life to study parliamentary rhetoric. As a head of the project "Civil Control of Parliamentarism" and many other projects on parliamentary debate Dr. L. Metodieva worked skillfully with great passion and enthusiasm to improve the democratic character of Bulgarian parliamentarism. As a tutor she taught courses in Political Rhetoric, Public Speaking, and the History of Bulgarian Rhetoric.

Prof. Lilia Metodieva participated actively in many national and international conferences in rhetoric, sometimes as a member of the organizing committees.

She was a tutor of many doctoral students. As the author of many monographs on Parliamentary Rhetoric and the History of Bulgarian Rhetoric, she compiled and edited the book *New Research on the History of Rhetoric* last year. The work covers outstanding scholars in the field of Rhetoric from many countries.

Prof. Lilia Metodieva dedicated her life to protecting and defending civic life on many significant questions in Bulgarian society.

With the death of Dr. Lilia Metodieva – the Department of "Rhetoric," the Faculty of Philosophy and the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " lost one of its brilliant representatives of Rhetoric, and the students – one of their favorite teachers and the International Society for the History of Rhetoric lost a significant scholar.

Let us honor her bright memory!

Prof. Donka Alexandrova  
Department "Rhetoric"  
Faculty of Philosophy  
Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski "

## Carl Joachim Classen ( 1928-2013)



*Photo: University of Göttingen*

It is with sadness and deep respect that we announce the passing of Professor Carl Joachim Classen, D. Litt. (Oxon.), Dr. h.c. University of Tartu, retired professor of Greek at the University of Göttingen and past president of ISHR from 1987 to 1989, on Sunday, September 29, 2013. The funeral was held at the main cemetery of Oberursel (Taunus) on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 01:00 pm.

Classen defended his doctorate at the University of Hamburg, and, throughout his illustrious career, led studies at Oxford, lectured in classical philology in Nigeria, and work in Tübingen, Berlin, and Würzburg. In 1973 he became a professor at the University of Göttingen, and became emeritus in 1993. He served as a visiting professor at Oxford under the title, Doctor litterarum. In addition to serving ISHR since its inception in 1977 and as the Society's sixth President, Classen was a member of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and chairman of several scientific societies. In 2000, Classen received an honorary doctorate from the University of Tartu, Estonia, for his work with foreign student exchange.

We will always remember Professor Classen as an esteemed scholar of classical philology, Greek and Roman rhetoric, humanism, and the heritage of antiquity.



## Marijke Spies (1934-2013)

geboren: 5 augustus 1934 te Eindhoven

overleden: 12 mei 2013 te Amsterdam

*Foto: Roeland Fossen*