

Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant

“Recovering Rhetorica”
01 July – 19 July 2006

Ernest J. Enchelmayer, Ph.D.

B. Restatement of problem researched or creative activity

My research project, *Recovering Rhetorica*, was based upon a need in the study of the history of rhetoric to recover (as well as discover and/or uncover) visual representations of rhetoric. These visual representations are an integral part of rhetoric's past – as much so as the written works – especially given the 'visual turn' in rhetoric/communication studies. My research is often archival in that I usually go 'on site' to comb through archives at museums, libraries, art galleries and places like these.

The work that I did further maps the history of rhetoric by 1) recovering significant works related to the study of rhetoric and 2) strengthening the position of women's role in the field of rhetoric.

C. Brief review of the research procedure utilized

I used some contacts I had in Germany and some information drawn from my dissertation research to locate some known and some likely places of finding these visual representations of rhetoric. One very helpful (and very rewarding) point of contact was with Uni Marburg (Marburg, Germany) where I had an invitation to visit their Bildarchiv (photo archive) and conduct research there. I spent considerable time at the campus (inside a tomb-like environment) going through volumes of artistic and photographic work. I also traveled to Köln (Cologne), Germany, to visit the cathedral where I knew an image of the Seven Liberal Arts (including rhetorica) was located. More time in Cologne was spent at the Rheinisches Bildarchiv at the Kunst- und Museumsbibliothek der Stadt Köln (the art and museum library for the city of Cologne) pouring over their archives for related images. I also traveled to Aachen to search for an image at a castle there.

The research was quite time-consuming. In some instances I knew exactly where to look for what I wanted. In other cases, I only had a little bit of information to start me on my way. Such is the nature of detective-like research.

D. Summary of findings

Overall, my hard work and persistence on this research trip paid off. Once acclimated to the types of environments in which I found myself, I was rewarded with success. While at the Bildarchiv Foto Marburg (at Uni Marburg), I uncovered 14 images of Rhetorica and another 8 images directly related to the historical personification of rhetoric (Hermes/Mercury and the caduceus). In Cologne, I was rewarded by gaining access to a particular image of the Seven Liberal Arts stationed around Charlemagne as inlaid in tile on the floor of the choir stalls. I was able to arrange a copy of the official photograph of the tiled floor as found in the cathedral's own archives (since I could not photograph it myself). At both of the Rheinischces Bildarchiv at the Kunst- und Museumsbibliothek der Stadt Köln (they had two locations) I was able to find 4 more images of Rhetorica and/or related visual imagery. At Aachen I was disappointed at not finding what I was looking for, but I have a lead on its location for future discovery. I also spent one weekend in London where I tried to find two images where previous research had suggested they would be, but I did not find them. However, I did find one related image at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and I made photographs of that image for continuing research.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The overarching conclusion is that there is much more work to be done, not only in Germany, but in other European countries (as stated in my application for the grant). In my short trip, where I was really in only one main geographic location (the exception

being the weekend trip to London), I found over 20 relevant images with clues to finding even more in that area. This research did not include going to Berlin where there is, perhaps, the greatest collection of museums and researchable archives, nor a research excursion to Munich and all that the great Bavarian locations might have to offer. There are certainly more images to be found in Austria, France, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and the rest of Europe, including Eastern Europe.

My goals for this trip were met. I was able to add to the collection I started in 1998. This trip netted half as many images in under 3 weeks than I found in 5 years of doing mainly Stateside research.

As suggested in my "dissemination of results" I applied to two rhetoric-focused conferences to share my work. I have been accepted to make a paper presentation at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC's) in New York City in March 2007 based directly upon the research I conducted. Another paper presentation has been accepted by the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (ISHR) at their biennial meeting in Strasbourg, France, for July 2007. I hope that one (or even both) of the papers I prepare for these conferences is later published.

I can only recommend that I keep pursuing these images and doing the labor necessary to continue uncovering them.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English
Dr. Georgena Duncan, Dean, College of Liberal and Fine Arts
Dr. Jack Hamm, Vice-president, Academic Affairs