Carol A. Newsom

Rhetoric and Hermeneutics

Approaches to Text, Tradition and Social Construction in Biblical and Second Temple Literature

[Rhetorik und Hermeneutik. Zugänge zu Text, Tradition und sozialen Konstrukten in der Literatur der Bibel und des Zweiten Tempels.]

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This collection of essays by Carol A. Newsom explores the indispensable role that rhetoric and hermeneutics play in the production and reception of biblical and Second Temple literature. Some of the essays are methodological and programmatic, while others provide extended case studies. Because rhetoric is, as Kenneth Burke put it, a strategy for encompassing a situation, the analysis of rhetoric illumines the ways in which texts engage particular historical moments, shape and reshape communities, and even construct new models of self and agency. The essays in this book not only explore how ancient texts hermeneutically engage existing traditions but also how they themselves have become the objects of hermeneutical transformation in contexts ranging from ancient sectarian Judaism to the politics of post-World War I and II Germany and America to modern film criticism and feminist re-reading.

Carol A. Newsom Born 1950; 1982 PhD from Harvard University (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations); since 1980 at Emory University; currently Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament.

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