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M. Lomonosov's Two Rhetorics and German Oratory Tradition

M. Lomonosov's works "Brief Guide to Rhetoric" (1744) and "Brief Guide to Eloquence" (1748) are an integral part of 18th century Russian cultural, humanitarian, scientific, and philological discourse. The former was never published during M. Lomonosov's lifetime, as G. Miller from Russian Academy of Sciences wrote an unfavorable review on the book and recommended to carry out a revision of the text. A new variant, significantly reworked and expanded, was published under a different title in 1748. These two rhetorics by M. Lomonosov constitute the first East European original research in oratory.

Influence of innovative European science on M. Lomonosov's views in natural science and in philology has been thoroughly studied in the framework of Germanistics. M. Lomonosov's longtime probation in Marburg under supervision of Chr. Wolff and his acquaintance with J. Chr. Gottsched's chief works on grammar, poetics, and rhetoric had a great impact on the Russian scholar and his position regarding the native language and its role in the domain of science.

Interrelations of M. Lomonosov's two texts with the German rhetoric tradition (e.g. Ph. Melanchton, J. Chr. Gottsched, J. Chr. Adelung) can be clearly seen in juxtaposition of *rhetoric* as a theoretical discipline describing speech forming rules, and *eloquence* as a more practice-oriented guide aimed for developing the reader's oratory skills.

Besides a new title and a conceptual shift of focus, the second variant of M. Lomonosov's rhetoric, as compared with the first one, contains numerous examples supplementing the theoretical material. These include a number of illustrations by M. Lomonosov himself as well as fragments of classical literature translated by him into Russian. M. Lomonosov's main work in rhetoric is therefore a result of a thorough reflection on the preceding rhetoric tradition from antiquity up to the 18th century.