

Abstract. The object of this study is the iconographic evolution –over three centuries– of the relationship between the symbolic representation of Philosophy and the Liberal Arts, and the depiction of the ancient sages. In the three images here taken at issue (by Herrada of Landsberg, Albrecht Dürer and Raffaello, respectively), a transition from a predominantly allegorical dimension to a historical dimension is identified, where the latter is conceived either as an achievement of a concrete and almost solid individuality (*The School of Athens*) or as a succession of ages (Dürer). The rise of the modern philosophical historiography is indebted also to this change of sensitivity.

Keywords: Medieval Iconography - Liberal Arts - Herrada of Landsberg - Albrecht Durer - Rafael

