



Memory Lane

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Memory Lane

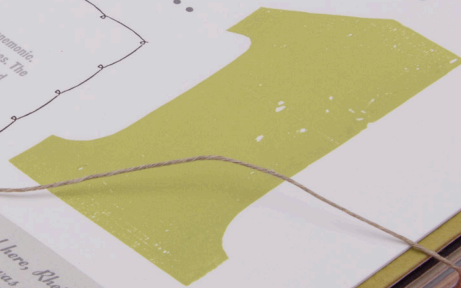


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Memory Lane



Now let me turn to the
treasure house of the ideas
supplied by Invention,
to the guardian of all
the parts of rhetoric,
the Memory...



It is not sufficient to get hold of the general principles of the mnemonic.
The first step was to equip us the memory a series of loci or places. The
ancients, though not the only type of mnemonic place system used
given a definition. The oldest description of the process is that
of Aristotle, in which he divides the memory into two parts, the
first of which is the memory of the things themselves, and the second
of which is the memory of the things which are remembered. The images by
which the things are remembered are then placed in the memory.
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James Yates, *The Art of Memory*

Excerpted here, *Rhetorica ad
Hermianum* was written in
the 90s BCE. The oldest
known book on rhetoric, it
is often attributed to Cicero
but the author is unknown.

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treasure house of the ideas
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It is not difficult to get hold of the general principles of the mnemonic.
The first step was to imprint on the memory a series of loci or places. The
commonest, though not the only, type of mnemonic place system used
was the architectural type. In order to form a series of places in memory, he says,
great by function. The clearest description of the process is that
a building is to be remembered, as gaseous and varied a one as possible,
the forecourt, the living room, bedroom, and parlour, not omitting staircases
and other ornaments with which the rooms are decorated. The images by
which the speech is to be remembered... are then placed in imagination on
the places which have been memorised in the building. This done, as soon
as the memory of the facts requires to be revived, all these places are visited
in turn and the various deposits demanded of their custodians. We have to
think of the ancient orator as moving in imagination through his memory
building, whilst he is making his speech, drawing from the memorised
places the images he has placed on them.

James Yates, The Art of Memory

Excerpted here, *Rhetorica ad
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It is not difficult to get hold of the general principles of the mnemonic.
The first step was to invent on the memory a series of loci or places. The
commonest, though not the only type of mnemonic place system used
was the architectural type. The clearest description of the process is that
given by Quintilian. In order to form a series of places in memory he says,
a building is to be remembered, as speaking and writing studies
the house, the living room, bedrooms, and gardens, not omitting statues
and other ornaments with which the rooms are decorated. The images by
which the speech is to be remembered, are then placed in imagination on
the places which have been memorized in the building. This done, as soon
as the memory of the loci requires to be revived, all these places are visited
in turn and the various deposits denuded of their contents. We have to
think of the ancient writer as moving in imagination through his memory
building whilst he is making his speech, drawing from the memorized
places the images he has placed on them.

James Yates, The Art of Memory

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...ULNESS

It has flowed very close a dark mythological river
whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall.
And in your own way to oblivion where you will join these
who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride a bicycle.



ONTARIO

MICHIGAN