



The Art Of Memory

By Frances A Yates

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This unique and brilliant book is a history of human knowledge.

Before the invention of printing, a trained memory was of vital importance. Based on a technique of impressing 'places' and 'images' on the mind, the ancient Greeks created an elaborate memory system which in turn was inherited by the Romans and passed into the European tradition, to be revived, in occult form, during the Renaissance.

Frances Yates sheds light on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the form of the Shakespearian theatre and the history of ancient architecture; *The Art of Memory* is an invaluable contribution to aesthetics and psychology, and to the history of philosophy, of science and of literature.

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Editorial Review

Review

• "One of those quite remarkable and unclassifiable books on the history of knowledge which suddenly makes sense of three or four issues in terms of one commanding metaphor." --Jonathan Miller, *Observer*

From the Inside Flap

The Art of Memory is the classic study of how people learned to retain vast stores of knowledge before the invention of the printed page. In it, Frances A. Yates traces the art of memory from its treatment by Greek orators, through its Gothic transformations in the Middle Ages, to the occult forms it took in the Renaissance, and finally to its use in the seventeenth century. This book, the first to relate the art of memory to the history of culture as a whole, was revolutionary when it first appeared and continues to mesmerize readers with its lucid and revelatory insights.

About the Author

Frances Yates (1899-1981) achieved a world-wide reputation as a historian.

Users Review

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Patrick Richards:

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John Thornton:

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