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Genius; iii. Using the Legacy of the Muses: Kames and Vivacity as a Figure of Memory; The "Vivacity" of Memory and Imagination; The "Complete Idea of Memory" in Kames's Elements of Criticism; iv. Conclusion; Works Cited; Index; About the Author

Sommario/riassunto

This book effects a rapprochement between memory studies and eighteenth-century aesthetics with the aim of modifying received views on the role and fate of memory in the history of criticism. It argues that the philosophical problems characterizing conceptualizations of memory unsettle its opposition to the imagination and explain its relation to literary discourse. Moving from the Muses through Plato and Descartes to works by Pope, Addison, Gerard, and Kames, the book traces these problems through various "figures" representing notions of memory, and claims that eighteenth-century critical
