

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826653903321
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Titolo	Figures of memory : from the muses to eighteenth-century British aesthetics / / Zsolt Komaromy
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lanham, Maryland ; ; Plymouth, England : , : Bucknell University Press, , 2011 ©2011
ISBN	1-61148-045-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (237 p.)
Collana	Transits : Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850
Disciplina	820.9/353
Soggetti	Criticism - Great Britain - History - 18th century English literature - 18th century - History and criticism - Theory, etc Memory in literature Imagination in literature Memory (Philosophy) Imagination (Philosophy) Aesthetics, British - 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Figures Of Memory ; CONTENTS; Acknowledgments; Introduction: The Reproductive-Productive Dichotomy and Beyond; PART ONE : On Notions of Memory; 1 Memory/Imagination: The Representational Model; 2 Conceptual Cruxes: Plato and the Aporia of Memory; i. "Ridiculous Birdcages or Waxen Slabs":Figures of Representational Memory; ii. Plato and the Muses: Self-Validating Memory; iii. The Function of Cruxes: Memory Validating the Imagination; 3 Mnemonic Practice: The Constructive Model; i. Mnemonic Discourse; ii. Constructive Memory; PART TWO:Figures of Memory in Eighteenth-Century British Aesthetics 4 Mixing Tracesi. Descartes and Memory's Fluid Motions; ii. Pope's Melting Wax; 5 Mnemonic Imagination; i. Violent Spirits: Addison's Cartesian Concerns; ii. Analogous Exertions: Gerard and Associationism as a Figure of Memory; Memory and Imagination in the Theory of Association; Memory as the Model of Imagination in Gerard's Essay on

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
