

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations — XIII

1 Introduction: Memory in Medieval Literature — 1

- 1.1 References to Memory — 1
- 1.2 Medieval Notions of Memory — 5
- 1.3 Theoretical Perspectives — 8
- 1.4 Methodological Issues — 11
- 1.5 A Transitional Moment in Literary History — 14
- 1.6 The Structure of this Book — 16

2 Memorizing by Way of Books — 21

- 2.1 Interacting Cultures — 21
 - 2.1.1 *Minnugir* Men — 21
 - 2.1.2 Authorship and Memory — 24
 - 2.1.3 Rhetoric and *Memoria* — 28
 - 2.1.4 *Klerkligar listir* and *Memoria* — 30
- 2.2 The Fear of Forgetting — 31
 - 2.2.1 Memory's Enduring Complement — 34
- 2.3 Two Co-Existing Storehouses — 37
 - 2.3.1 Preferences of Memory to Writing — 38
- 2.4 Living Memory and Cultural Memory — 40
 - 2.4.1 The History of Memory and Media History — 43

3 Imageries — 45

- 3.1 Formulating and Constructing Memory — 45
 - 3.1.1 *Jóns saga helga*: Memory, the Heart and the Breast — 47
 - 3.1.2 Learning, Bees and Beehives — 49
 - 3.1.3 *Hungrvaka*: Memory as Stomach — 52
- 3.2 The *Prose Edda*: A Norse Art of Memory — 55
 - 3.2.1 Memory in the Breast — 57
 - 3.2.2 Memory in the Brain — 61
 - 3.2.3 A Spitting and Excreting Eagle — 62
 - 3.2.4 Suffocation and Honeybees — 67
- 3.3 *Egils saga Skallagrímssonar* — 70
 - 3.3.1 Inventing and Memorizing Poetry — 72
 - 3.3.2 Resorting to 'the Depths of the Mind' and 'the Hiding Place of Thought' — 73

3.3.3 Constructing Buildings in the Mind — 76

3.3.4 Characterizing a Memory Expert — 79

4 Technologies — 84

4.1 Mnemonic Methods — 84

4.1.1 The Place-Image Method — 85

4.1.2 Early Christian and Medieval Mnemonics — 91

4.1.3 From Roman to Norse Mnemonics — 97

4.2 Channels of Communication — 98

4.3 *Gylfaginning* — 103

4.3.1 A Hall of Memory: *Háva holl* — 104

4.3.2 Mnemonic Topographies and Graphics — 107

4.3.3 A Three-Seated Throne — 112

4.4 Hand Mnemonics — 115

5 The Senses — 122

5.1 To See and to Remember — 122

5.2 The Mind's Eye — 125

5.2.1 The *Stave Church Homily* — 126

5.2.2 Mnemonics and Beyond — 129

5.2.3 Instruments of Memory and Learning — 130

5.2.4 *Konungs skuggsjá* — 134

5.2.5 Seeing in and with Memory — 136

5.3 Visualization Strategies — 139

5.3.1 The One-Eyed God — 139

5.3.2 A High Seat with a View — 142

5.3.3 Huginn and Muninn — 145

5.3.4 High Above from the Rainbow — 148

5.4 Mnemonic Performances — 150

5.4.1 *Völuspá*: Accessing Mnemonic Spaces — 152

5.4.2 *Grímnismál*: Navigating Mnemonic Spaces — 156

5.4.3 To Remember and to Learn — 164

6 Buildings and Seating — 168

6.1 Houses, Table Arrangements and Narratives — 168

6.1.1 *Brennu-Njáls saga*: Searching the Ruins — 170

6.1.2 *Egils saga Skallagrímssonar*: Grotesque Images — 179

6.2 Recollection, Rhetoric and Persuasion — 187

6.2.1 Literary Representation and Mnemonic Devices — 189

6.3 Seating Devices in Mythological Texts — 192**6.3.1 Lokasenna: A Seat in *Ægis holl* — 193****7 Cartography — 201****7.1 Geographical Abstractions — 201****7.1.1 World Maps and Mnemonics — 203****7.1.2 The *Prose Edda* Prologue and *Ynglinga saga*: Visualizing Time and Space — 205****7.1.3 Ekphrastic Texts — 213****7.2 Remembering a Vastness of Names — 214****7.2.1 *Landnámabók*: Listing Knowledge — 215****7.2.2 Geographical Organization — 218****8 Conclusion — 225****8.1 Literary Communication between Orality, Literacy and Memory — 225****8.2 Literature and Memory — 226****8.3 Perceptions of Memory — 227****8.4 The Theories — 229****8.5 A Leap Forward — 231****Bibliography — 233****Primary Sources — 233****Secondary Sources — 236****Indexes — 255****Personal names — 255****Texts — 257****Manuscripts — 259****General Index — 260**

