

FREE THE MEMORY PALACE OF MATTEO RICCI PDF



Jonathan D. Spence | 364 pages | 01 Jun 1994 | Penguin Books Australia | 9780140080988 | English | Hawthorn, Australia

The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci by Jonathan D. Spence

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Checked Out. People Matteo Ricci Places ChinaItaly. Times Ming dynasty, Edition Notes Bibliography: p. R46 S66 The Physical Object Pagination xii, p. Loading The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci Books. June 1, Edited by Clean Up Bot. January 13, Edited by ImportBot. September 3, August 12, April 1,

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Podcast: Download. Let me ask you something: If you had the cure for cancer, to what lengths would you go to get it into the hands of the people? Spence he did have the next best thing: A simple recipe for eliminating forgetfulness. Most impressively, Ricci developed a means for memorizing how to write in Chinese.

In some cases, people saw him as a religious threat because Ricci also believed he had the ultimate salve for the human condition: Christianity. Indeed, as Jonathan D. He wrote about his approach to memory and quoted the scholars from whom he learned the Memory Palace technique in a book called Xiguo Jifa.

It took me forever and a day to find a copy of it, but finally I did and made sure to pack it up and take it with me during a recent move. Speaking of books, Ricci was said to have The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci ability to memorize them cover to cover — and recite them forward and backwards.

The first danger with using memory techniques is that as your memory grows stronger, so do your powers. You may even find that special new powers grow, abilities that you did not anticipate. This is certainly true, but those of us living today can probably ignore the idea that using mnemonics fuses your brain with the cosmos. But it was a common concern in the sixteenth century, the flames of which Giordano Bruno had no problem fanning. Being accused of magical powers regularly led to imprisonment, disfiguring torture and public execution.

Often all three. Other than that, the rest is golden. Ricci grew up during a time when fortresses were taking on more prestige than cathedrals in European cities. This historical circumstance meant that Ricci could use the best of both worlds. And you can too by visiting the most modern architecture where you live and the oldest remaining buildings. You can transform these buildings into well-formed Memory Palaces simply by following a few simple principles.

The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci free Memory The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci Kit teaches you each of these, so grab it now. You can also usually find a floor plan on one of the walls. If not, a guard or other official will probably know where it is and let you The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci a photograph for later reference.

Or, for very good practice, you can sketch out a floor plan of the building yourself. This activity translates your immediate impressions through your muscles and other representation systems directly into your memory, and if you can start memorizing information before you leave the site, all the better.

The most important point Ricci draws out is that familiarity breeds eloquence when it comes to creating top-notch Memory Palaces. As he noted in his letters, even the biggest and most chaotic cities he visited during his travels became small and manageable in his mind through familiarity.

For us, this means spending more time visiting the homes of our friends and maximizing the value of all the Real Estate surrounding us. Even the most sprawling metropolis can provide you a tightly organized system of Memory Palaces if you take it just one corner cafe at a time. Twenty years later, Ricci still reflected on these Memory Palaces.

No doubt they were even more memorable to him than others The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci he did not create them alone. Check out this post on how to play memory games using your childhood with a friend to maximize the potential of your memory and the Memory Palaces you want to use.

All memory techniques involve encoding information, storing it, consolidating it and then decoding it when you want access to it later. But many people think that using a Memory Palace and visual memory techniques requires creating perfect images.

It also rarely works. There is rarely a one-to-one correspondence between what you want to memorize and the images you use to memorize that info. What you need instead of verisimilitude is flexibility and trust. Ricci, The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci Spence tells us in The Memory Palace of Matteo Riccioften made adjustments, getting things just right enough to trigger the right memories at the right time.

Ricci did this not only in his mind but in his religious teachings as well. Ricci had the mind of a strategist. Instead of trying to The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci Chinese ideographs as a whole, he would allow them to be as complex as he found them, but cut them into pieces so he could better create images for them. To fit all of these possible meanings into the single mnemonic image he placed in his Memory Palace, Ricci saw a Muslim tribeswoman from the Xixia territories.

She has fundamental beliefs that oblige her to do certain things. In other words, her fundamental beliefs require that she wants, that she needs and

that she shall. The point being that most, if not all pieces of information can be broken down into multiple components.

Even the smallest words, in a language like Chinese Mandarin, can be separated to learn better and memorize tone structures. The Magnetic Memory Method for language learning takes this approach a step further by using Bridging Figures that we can apply to numerous similar word pieces and the various combinations they make with other sounds to form complete words.

Using the MMM, you can also trigger both the sound and the meaning of the word using the actions and interactions of the Bridging Figure in your Memory Palace. Luckily, Ricci had no such concerns, nor did Spence. Here are just a few of the many names who come up: Cypriano Soarez. De Arte Rhetorica. Spence thinks Ricci first learned about Memory Palaces in this book.

In this book, Pliny apparently cites a number of memory experts, passages that Ricci translated and placed in his own book. Frances Panigarola. Ars Reminiscendi. Ricci may have met Panigarola The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci, a man said to have used one hundred thousand stations in a very large number of Memory Palaces.

He apparently used a lot of puns to make his images memorable. These images tended to reference current political disputes and wars between nations.

Tip: Since wars involve a lot of historical figures and over-the-top activities, the history of war is a ripe source for exaggerated imagery and intensely memorable personalities. We, on the other hand, can use the Internet to examine swaths of history and come up with images as old as cave drawings and as new as Banksy.

We are rich. De Memoria Reparanda. As people who need to remember, we need all the help from our emotions we can get. Gratarolo also appears to have been the first to The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci something akin to what we now call the Person Action Object technique PAO.

If one could link these vignettes by pun, analogy, or association of ideas to given concepts, The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci could be guaranteed never to forget them. Ignatius Loyola. Spiritual Exercises. By focusing on the extremities, the priests would not only better remember the Gospels. They would strengthen their overall abilities with memory techniques. Host von Romberch. Longestorium Artificiose Memorie. Romberch The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci entire memory cities to be divided by categories such as shops, libraries, slaughter yards and schools.

How specifically this kind of division should work is not clear. The ability to use general methods to create specific systems for specific memory purposes is perhaps the most profound approach we have. Erasmus and Melancthon agreed and Rabelais went out of his way to mock memory techniques.

In Gargantua, the title character learns to memorize bizarre books of grammar and the commentaries written on them by Bangbreeze, Scallywag and Claptrap. Although Gargantua can recite these books backward and forwards, Rabelais does not present the skill in a virtuous light. So although we get a wealth of information in his writing about the Western mnemonic tradition, Ricci could not expose us to the untold treasures of the Chinese memory wizards as part of his extraordinary career.

Two weeks deep into the language, my results using several Memory Palaces to memorize Pimsleur dialogs has been even more successful than anticipated. Until next time, keep busy learning and practicing the art of memory. And as always, keep yourself Magnetic! Alicia Crosby talks to us about how she memorized all of Shakespeare's plays in historical...

Your mention of his work on the use of churches and fortresses in the building of memory palaces reminded me of a visit I made last week into the new Frank Gehry building here in Sydney. And it truly is beautiful so I must explore its curved lines again and figure out how to use its memory palace potential. I am also thinking that Australian Aboriginal dreamtime stories are also another riff on the memory palace myth, where the landscape serves as a memory canvas for a culture stretching back many thousands of years.

That building certainly does look like a squashed paper bag. I like the idea of using the Aboriginal stories in this way. I have a contact you might like to speak about who works with the Arrernte. She might lend some insight on this for you on the use of their stories in this way — and maybe even know some stories that not everyone gets access to every day.

Thanks for this question, Chris. Do you know the Major Method? I have a quick tutorial on it here. Most people find it more than sufficient for most purposes. What I also like about the Major Method sometimes called the Major System is that it integrates easily with memorizing symbols in equations, formulas and the like. I would like to ask is using the memory palace by choosing 5 objects per room more effective than just choosing a room and placing one object in it? The answer to your question depends on skill level.

At The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci beginning I recommend that people start with one piece of information per room.

The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci

A modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, SuperSummary offers high-quality study guides that feature detailed chapter summaries and analysis of major themes, characters, quotes, and essay topics. Transform this Plot Summary into a Study Guide.

Spence is a specialist in Chinese history The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci a former professor at Yale University.

The text also conveys larger issues in China during this time, including the forcing of Western ideas on the East. Mateo Ricci traveled to China for

the first time in where he spent the next twenty-seven years teaching.

He was born in a village in Italy called Macerata, where he learned theology. His training led him to Rome, Portugal, India, and Macao before he was sent to China as a missionary, where he lived out the rest of his life. Once in China, he learned Chinese in a matter of eight years and started to use his abilities to write religious texts in Chinese. According to Spence, Ricci was a master at mnemonic devices, a memory technique where signs are substituted for concepts in order to remember them.

He also drew from the teachings of Simonides, who told a famous story about attending a banquet in which all the members were blown away by a gust of wind, and he was able to recall where each person was sitting. The palace could, ideally, contain hundreds of rooms in a variety of sizes.

Smaller versions could be built as well, such as temples, hotels, lodges, pavilions, studios, or even just a corner of a room. The images can be drawn from reality, can be entirely fake, or can be a combination of both, and can be hidden in the palace until needed. Ricci saw a dual opportunity in China. The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci teach the elite class mnemonic devices in order to help them with their rigorous studies, but also to impose his religious ideas. He first gave a book of memory techniques to Lu Wangai, the governor of China at the time.

He purposely picked this family for their high social standing. Spence explains the memory techniques using images. The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci pictures that Ricci used to teach. The images were ideographs that Ricci came up with himself, and the pictures were taken from The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci book written by Ricci called Treatise on Mnemonic Arts. When he put them back together, he explained that the reconstructed image was, in fact, different than the original.

The next image is of the ideograph Yao, which does not have an easy translation into English. Roughly, it means to need or to want something urgent. The first picture in the series was of the Apostle Paul trying to walk on water to mimic Jesus. He mostly used this image to teach the story of Paul.

The next picture was of Christ encountering two disciples after he was resurrected. The next picture was actually a series of four depicting the fall of the town of Sodom. Ricci used these pictures as a way to express his homophobia and to teach The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci Chinese the concept of sin. In the first, God promises to annihilate Sodom. In the next, God blinds the men of Sodom. The final image and picture was of the Virgin Mary.

Ricci did not feel her image needed a lot of explanation. Spence also surmises that Ricci felt close to the Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci Mary because, as one of many children, his mother most likely neglected him. Ultimately, Ricci finished his Memory Palace, which housed all of his memories from China. His palace was enormous, and it also housed the four images. Ricci died in Beijing and was buried in a temple there.