

Summer Scholars Project Proposal
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Originally published in 1531, Andrea Alciato's *Emblemata* was the first text in a popular tradition of the emblem book in early modern Europe. These books combined woodcut illustrations (often of mythological or religious subjects) and written captions to create a collection of words and images intended to communicate a moralizing, didactic purpose to the reader. Alciato's emblem book was particularly successful and reached a wide audience across Europe for many years after its publication. The study of Alciato's emblems has benefitted from the work of Virginia Woods Callahan and Peter Daly, yet emblem scholars have not significantly explored the relationship between Alciato's emblems and the art of memory. As Frances Yates and Lina Bolzoni have demonstrated, the combined use of printed words and images functioned as memory devices in the early modern era. These scholars have briefly discussed emblem studies in their research on the art of memory, but neither Yates nor Bolzoni examined the significance of Alciato's *Emblemata* on the early modern world. This project will question the relationship between the art of memory and the *Emblemata's* popularity, ultimately showing the ways in which memory devices were translated into the emerging print culture.

The methodology of this work will be interdisciplinary, combining scholarship from the fields of history, art history, and literature; the methods that Lina Bolzoni uses in *The Gallery of Memory* may prove particularly useful to use when analyzing the emblems. In addition to examining Alciato's *Emblemata*, I may consult other early modern Italian texts by Castiglione and Giulio Camillo to compare ways in which they use memory engagement techniques to interact with their audience. My secondary sources will include scholarship on emblem studies, the art of memory, and biographical information about Alciato; this variety of sources will allow me to investigate *Emblemata* from Alciato's authorial perspective in addition to investigating its wider cultural significance on the early modern population as a whole. The secondary sources for this project will be necessarily diverse because of the connection I bridge between emblem studies and the art of memory.

The outcome of this project will result in a long research paper that addresses the questions I have outlined above. The research and writing process will occur during Miami University's summer term. My study of Alciato's *Emblemata* as a memory device will add value to the field of early modern studies, especially for scholars interested in emblem studies, the art of memory, and the history of the book. Examining Alciato's printed emblems as memory devices will provide new insight into the ways in which European populations interacted with and understood ancient ideas through emerging media forms during the early modern era.