Tracing the path from Troy's destruction to Rome's foundation, the *Aeneid* explores the transition between past and future. As the Trojans struggle to found a new city and the narrator sings of his audience's often painful history, memory becomes intertwined with a crucial leitmotif: the challenge of being part of a group that survives violence and destruction only to face the daunting task of remembering what was lost. This book offers a new reading of the *Aeneid* that engages with critical work on memory, and questions the prevailing view that Aeneas must forget his disastrous history in order to escape from a cycle of loss. Considering crucial scenes such as Aeneas' reconstruction of Celaeno's prophecy and his slaying of Turnus, this book demonstrates that memory in the *Aeneid* is a reconstructive and dynamic process, one that offers a social and narrative mechanism for integrating a traumatic past with an uncertain future.

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MEMORY IN VERGIL’S AENEID

Creating the past

AARON M. SEIDER
To ERIN, Noah, and Lailah
## Contents

**Acknowledgements**                        

   Introduction                               1

1 Turning toward Rome                        28

2 The challenge of Troy                      66

3 A personal affair: memories of Dido        96

4 The narrator’s song                        124

5 Imperatives of memory: foundation and fury in *Aeneid* 12 159

   Conclusion                                196

**Bibliography**                             205

**Index locorum**                            219

**Index verborum**                           224

**Index**                                   225
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