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"Proust and Photography: Albertine and Memory Production"

Abstract: Attending to photographic elements in the Proust’s Albertine story, we envisage the Recherche not as a novel of recollection (or of the recuperation of loss through art) but as a kind of novel of adventure which concerns the adventure of being in time. In the Albertine story memory becomes not simply a container for past images but a photographer in action. We examine the production (as distinct from the recollection) of memories in Proust’s novel in light of Bergson’s theory of memory production (presented in his essay on Déjà Vu), and suggest an alternative to Benjamin’s (anti-Bergsonian) reading of memory – and of Proust.