

1. Record Nr.	UNINA990005572600403321
Autore	Sydenham, Edward Allen <1873-1948>
Titolo	Aes grave : study of the cast coinages of Rome and Central Italy / by Edward A. Sydenham
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bologna : Arnaldo Forni, stampa 1975
Edizione	[Rist. anast.]
Descrizione fisica	145 p., 28 tav. ; 32 cm
Disciplina	737.4937
Locazione	FLFBC
Collocazione	737.493 SYD 1
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNISA996379039703316
Autore	Michel Cécile
Titolo	Fakes and forgeries of written artefacts from Ancient Mesopotamia to Modern China / / edited by: Cécile Michel and Michael Friedrich
Pubbl/distr/stampa	De Gruyter, 2020 Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2020] ©2020
ISBN	3-11-071433-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (VI, 338 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Studies in manuscript cultures ; ; 20
Disciplina	089.3
Soggetti	Forgery of manuscripts Forgery of antiquities Literary forgeries and mystifications LITERARY CRITICISM / Asian / General
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di contenuto

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Sommario/riassunto

Fakes and forgeries are objects of fascination. This volume contains a series of thirteen articles devoted to fakes and forgeries of written artefacts from the beginnings of writing in Mesopotamia to modern China. The studies emphasise the subtle distinctions conveyed by an established vocabulary relating to the reproduction of ancient artefacts and production of artefacts claiming to be ancient: from copies, replicas and imitations to fakes and forgeries. Fakes are often a response to a demand from the public or scholarly milieu, or even both. The motives behind their production may be economic, political, religious or personal – aspiring to fame or simply playing a joke. Fakes may be revealed by combining the study of their contents, codicological, epigraphic and palaeographic analyses, and scientific investigations. However, certain famous unsolved cases still continue to defy technology today, no matter how advanced it is. Nowadays, one can find fakes in museums and private collections alike; they abound on the antique market, mixed with real artefacts that have often been looted. The scientific community's attitude to such objects calls for ethical reflection.
