

1. Record Nr.	UNINA990009541240403321
Autore	Ingrao, Christian
Titolo	Croire et détruire : les intellectuels dans la machine de guerre SS / Christian Ingrao
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Paris : Fayard, 2010
ISBN	978-2-213-65550-5
Descrizione fisica	521 p. ; 24 cm
Disciplina	943.086
Locazione	FSPBC
Collocazione	II F 325
Lingua di pubblicazione	Francese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNISA996333143003316
Autore	Rankin Elizabeth
Titolo	From Memory to Marble : The historical frieze of the Voortrekker Monument Part I: The Frieze / / Rolf Michael Schneider, Elizabeth Rankin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2020] ©2020
ISBN	3-11-066878-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XIV, 508 p.) : three-page foldout with the frieze
Soggetti	Fries Südafrika Voortrekker ART / History / Ancient & Classical
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia

Nota di contenuto

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Sommario/riassunto

For the first time the 92-metre frieze of the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria, one of the largest historical narratives in marble, has been made the subject of a book. The pictorial narrative of the Boer pioneers who conquered South Africa's interior during the 'Great Trek' (1835-52) represents a crucial period of South Africa's past. Forming the concept of the frieze both reflected on and contributed to the country's socio-political debates in the 1930s and 1940s when it was made. The frieze is unique in that it provides rare evidence of the complex processes followed in creating a major monument. Based on unpublished documents, drawings and models, these processes are unfolded step by step, from the earliest discussions of the purpose and content of the frieze through all the stages of its design to its shipping to post-war Italy to be copied into marble and final installation in the Monument. The book examines how visual representation transforms historical memory in what it chooses to recount, and the forms in which it depicts this. It also investigates the active role the Monument played in the development of apartheid, and its place in post-apartheid heritage. The second volume, to be published later this year, expands on the first, considering each of the twenty-seven scenes in depth, providing new insights into not only the frieze, but also South Africa's history.
