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Nota di contenuto

Introduction: archive fever and the madness of Joseph Ritson -- 1.

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Localizing Piers Plowman C: Meed, Corfe Castle, and the London Riot of 1384 -- 3. *Latinitas et Communitas Visionis Willielmi de Longlond* -- 4.

Quod Piers Plowman: non-Reformist prophecy, c. 1520-55 -- 5. Urry, Burrell, and the pains of John Taylor: the Spelman MS (Huntington Hm 114), 1709-1766 -- 6. William Dupre;, Fabricateur: Piers Plowman in the Age of Forgery; Conclusion: Leland's madness and the tale of Piers Plowman -- Bibliography.

Sommario/riassunto

Addressing the history of the production and reception of the great medieval poem, *Piers Plowman*, Lawrence Warner reveals the many ways in which scholars, editors and critics over the centuries created their own speculative narratives about the poem, which gradually came to be regarded as factually true. Warner begins by considering the possibility that Langland wrote a romance about a werewolf and bearsuited lovers, and he goes on to explore the methods of the poem's localization, and medieval readers' particular interest in its Latinity. Warner shows that the 'Protestant Piers' was a reaction against the poem's oral mode of transmission, reveals the extensive eighteenth-century textual scholarship on the poem and contextualizes its first modernization. This lively account of *Piers Plowman* challenges the way the poem has traditionally been read and understood. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Books Online and via Knowledge Unlatched.