

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910146325403321
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Titolo	Paolo Mantegazza : medico, antropologo, viaggiatore : selezione di contributi dai convegni di Monza, Firenze, Lerici // a cura di Cosimo Chiarelli, Walter Pasini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Firenze University Press, 2002 Firenze : , : Firenze University Press, , 2002 ©2002
ISBN	9788884530394 8884530393
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (227 pages) : illustrations; digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	610.92
Soggetti	Anthropology Scientists - Italy - Biography Biography Italy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Selected papers presented to 3 congresses.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	The book presents a selection of the works presented during various encounters held in sites connected with the life of Paolo Mantegazza, aimed at retrieving and valorising his cultural legacy. An eclectic figure - scientist, novelist, anthropologist and politician - Paolo Mantegazza (1831-1910) played a leading role in Italian society and the cultural scene of the late nineteenth century. The contributions of academics from different disciplines enable us to reconstruct both the great variety of the man's interests and curiosities, and the strict methodological rigour that guided his entire scientific production and is today the most evident sign of his contemporary relevance.