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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910150172203321 |
| Autore | Kidd Colin |
| Titolo | The world of Mr Casaubon : Britain's wars of mythography, 1700-1870 // Colin Kidd [[electronic resource]] |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2016 |
| ISBN | 1-108-10956-X 1-108-11024-X 1-108-10547-5 1-108-11092-4 1-139-22664-9 1-108-11160-2 1-108-11432-6 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (vi, 232 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
| Collana | Ideas in context ; ; 115 |
| Disciplina | 283.4209033 |
| Soggetti | Mythology - History Mythologists - Great Britain Orientalism - Great Britain Great Britain Intellectual life 18th century Great Britain Intellectual life 19th century |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 28 Nov 2016). |
| Nota di contenuto | Prologue: Casaubon's dubious bequest -- The key to all mythologies -- The legacies of the ancients in enlightenment mythography -- The obsessions of Jacob Bryant: Arkite Idolatry and the quest for Troy -- The dispute of the Orient: Anglo-French rivalries in an age of revolution -- Fish-gods, floods and serpent-worship: from apologetics to anthropology -- Epilogue: the keys to all mythology in 1872. |
| Sommario/riassunto | The World of Mr Casaubon takes as its point of departure a fictional character - Mr Casaubon in George Eliot's classic novel, Middlemarch. The author of an unfinished 'Key to All Mythologies', Casaubon has become an icon of obscurantism, irrelevance and futility. Crossing conventional disciplinary boundaries, Colin Kidd excavates Casaubon's hinterland, and illuminates the fierce ideological war which raged over |

the use of pagan myths to defend Christianity from the existential threat posed by radical Enlightenment criticism. Notwithstanding Eliot's portrayal of Casaubon, Anglican mythographers were far from unworldly, and actively rebutted the radical freethinking associated with the Enlightenment and French Revolution. Orientalism was a major theatre in this ideological conflict, and mythography also played an indirect but influential role in framing the new science of anthropology. The World of Mr Casaubon is rich in interdisciplinary twists and ironies, and paints a vivid picture of the intellectual world of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain.
