

1. Record Nr.	UNISALENT0991000083509707536
Titolo	Cino da Pistoia : mostra di documenti e libri : Biblioteca comunale Forteguerriana di Pistoia, 30 settembre-30 ottobre 1971 / catalogo a cura di Ezelinda Altieri e Giancarlo Savino
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Firenze : Olschki, 1971
Descrizione fisica	71 p. : ill. ; 25 cm
Altri autori (Persone)	Altieri Magliozzi, Ezelinda Savino, Giancarlo
Soggetti	Cino : da Pistoia Esposizioni 1971 Cino : da Pistoia Esposizioni 1971
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	In testa al front.: Comitato per le celebrazioni del 7. centenario della nascita di Cino da Pistoia

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910164254903321
Autore	Siborne Captain William
Titolo	History Of The War In France And Belgium In 1815. 3rd Edition
Pubbl/distr/stampa	San Francisco : , : Wagram Press, , 2011 ©2011
ISBN	9781908692153 1908692154
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (575 pages)
Altri autori (Persone)	PublishingPickle Partners
Disciplina	940.270922
Soggetti	Waterloo, Battle of, Waterloo, Belgium, 1815 Napoleonic Wars, 1800-1815
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- PREFACE-TO THE THIRD EDITION. -- PREFACE-TO THE SECOND EDITION. -- PREFACE. -- CHAPTER I. -- Landing of Napoleon Buonaparte in France after his escape from Elba-Flight of Louis XVIII.- Decision of the Congress of Vienna-preparations on the part of the Allied Powers for opening a campaign against Napoleon-Great Britain and Prussia occupy Belgium-Advance of the Russians towards the French frontier-Advance of the Austrians-The troops of Bavaria, Baden, Wurtemburg, and of Hesse, assemble upon the Upper Rhine- Preparations on the part of Napoleon-General aspect of France-Spirit of the French a -- CHAPTER II. -- Belgium again destined to become the theatre of war-The British army-The Duke of Wellington-The Prussian army-Prince Blucher von Wahlstadt-The King's German Legion -- the Hanoverian, Brunswick, Dutch, Belgian, and Nassau troops-Napoleon and the French army-Prospect of a severe struggle. -- CHAPTER III. -- Strength, composition, and distribution of the Anglo-allied army under Wellington-Its projected concentration in the event of Napoleon's advance-Strength, composition, and distribution of the Prussian army under Blucher-Its projected concentration in the event of Napoleon's advance-The line on which Wellington's left and Blucher's right rested, selected by Napoleon for the direction of his attack-Strength, composition, and distribution of the French army under Napoleon-

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Sommario/riassunto

When Captain Siborne died in 1849, it is unlikely that he was aware of the enduring historical legacy that he was to leave behind. His History of the War in France and Belgium in 1815 has become the most well known English history of the famous campaign and despite being written over 150 years ago is still in print, still eminently readable and remarkably accurate. The book was the result of his life's work and passionate dedication to the "Waterloo Model" which depicts a stage of the battle in tremendous detail. The accuracy of the book is accounted for by four tremendously important points; Firstly, Siborne was engaged by the British military establishment to produce a model of the battle of Waterloo, which he did with scrupulous accuracy including painstaking research on the battle ground and environs including surveys of the ground. Secondly, Siborne was a noted topographical engineer who wrote a number of treatises and one of the standard works of the time enabling his appreciation of the battle to be precise and avoid fault of many histories written merely from maps (some produced years afterward) of the area. Thirdly, he undertook what was at the time a ground-breaking "questionnaire" of the surviving officers of the British, King's German Legion, Hanoverian units involved, to piece together the events of the day. These letters were published in part by Siborne's son much later. Fourthly he expanded his search for eye-witness testimony to both the Prussian and French army staffs, and although rebuffed by the French, who were understandably tender about the loss of the battle and their Emperor with it, his enquiries were fruitful amongst the Prussian command who supplied a priceless counterbalance to the sometimes jingoistic British accounts. Siborne and his works were ahead of their time, and his search for an accurate representation of the battle won him few friends at Horse Guards. Funding was difficult to obtain from the British establishment and Siborne's attempts at self-funding the model which was his life's work were unsuccessful, Siborne died a broken man. He left behind the "Waterloo Model" and a larger scale model which are housed at the Royal Army Museum in London and this excellent book. We chose the third edition as it includes the impassioned defence of his work against the plagiarism of Rev R Gleig's "Story of Waterloo" and a number of notable changes from the first and second editions prompted by further eye-witness testimony gathered by Siborne. Author - Captain

William Siborne (15 October 1797-9 January 1849)
