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	Autore	Zieme, Peter
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	<p>Introduction: Practical Mathematics, Practical Mathematicians, and the Case for Transforming the Study of Nature -- Part 1: Framing The Argument: Theories Of Connection -- Handwork and Brainwork: Beyond the Zilsel Thesis (Lesley B. Cormack) -- Consuming and Appropriating Practical Mathematics and the Mixed Mathematical Fields, Or Being "Influenced" by Them: The Case of the Young Descartes (John Schuster) -- Part 2: What Did Practical Mathematics Look Like? -- Mathematics for Sale: Mathematical Practitioners, Instrument-makers, and Communities of Scholars in Sixteenth-Century London (Lesley B. Cormack) -- Technologies of Pow(d)er: Military Mathematical Practitioners' Strategies and Self-Presentation (Steven A. Walton) -- Machines as Mathematical Instruments (Alex G. Keller) -- Part 3: What was the Relationship Between Practical Mathematics and Natural Philosophy? -- The Making of Practical Optics: Mathematical Practitioners' Appropriation of Optical Knowledge Between Theory and Practice (Sven Dupré) -- Hero of Alexandria and Renaissance Mechanics (Roy Laird) -- Duytsche Mathematique and the Building of a New Society: Pursuits of Mathematics in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch Republic (Fokko Jan Dijksterhuis).</p>
Sommario/riassunto	<p>This book argues that we can only understand transformations of nature studies in the Scientific Revolution if we take seriously the interaction between practitioners (those who know by doing) and scholars (those who know by thinking). These are not in opposition, however. Theory and practice are end points on a continuum, with some participants interested only in the practical, others only in the theoretical, and most in the murky intellectual and material world in between. It is this borderland where influence, appropriation, and collaboration have the potential to lead to new methods, new subjects of enquiry, and new social structures of natural philosophy and science. The case for connection between theory and practice can be most persuasively drawn in the area of mathematics, which is the focus of this book. Practical mathematics was a growing field in early modern Europe and these essays are organised into three parts which contribute to the debate about the role of mathematical practice in the Scientific Revolution. First, they demonstrate the variability of the identity of practical mathematicians, and of the practices involved in their activities in early modern Europe. Second, readers are invited to consider what practical mathematics looked like and that although practical mathematical knowledge was transmitted and circulated in a wide variety of ways, participants were able to recognize them all as practical mathematics. Third, the authors show how differences and nuances in practical mathematics typically depended on the different contexts in which it was practiced: social, cultural, political, and economic particularities matter. Historians of science, especially those interested in the Scientific Revolution period and the history of mathematics will find this book and its ground-breaking approach of particular interest.</p>