

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910300156303321
Autore	Stén Johan C.-E
Titolo	A Comet of the Enlightenment : Anders Johan Lexell's Life and Discoveries // by Johan C.-E. Stén
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Birkhäuser, , 2014
ISBN	3-319-00618-5
Edizione	[1st ed. 2014.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (309 p.)
Collana	Vita Mathematica, , 1013-0330 ; ; 17
Disciplina	510.92
Soggetti	Mathematics History Geometry Astronomy Astrophysics History of Mathematical Sciences Astronomy, Astrophysics and Cosmology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1 Setting the scene -- 2 The humble beginnings -- 3 New prospects in Saint Petersburg -- 4 Formation of an Academician -- 5 Professor of astronomy -- 6 Professional relations and correspondence -- 7 Academic events in Saint Petersburg -- 8 Lexell's work in mathematics -- 9 Academic Journey 1780–1781 -- 10 Return to an Academy in crisis -- 12 A sketch of Lexell's personality -- 13 Conclusion -- 14 Appendices.
Sommario/riassunto	The Finnish mathematician and astronomer Anders Johan Lexell (1740–1784) was a long-time close collaborator as well as the academic successor of Leonhard Euler at the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Saint Petersburg. Lexell was initially invited by Euler from his native town of Abo (Turku) in Finland to Saint Petersburg to assist in the mathematical processing of the astronomical data of the forthcoming transit of Venus of 1769. A few years later he became an ordinary member of the Academy. This is the first-ever full-length biography devoted to Lexell and his prolific scientific output. His rich

correspondence especially from his grand tour to Germany, France and England reveals him as a lucid observer of the intellectual landscape of enlightened Europe. In the skies, a comet, a minor planet and a crater on the Moon named after Lexell also perpetuate his memory.
