

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452077203321
Autore	Nord Deborah Epstein <1949->
Titolo	Gypsies & the British imagination, 1807-1930 [[electronic resource] /] / Deborah Epstein Nord
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2006
ISBN	0-231-51033-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (440 p.)
Disciplina	820.9/352991497
Soggetti	English literature - 19th century - History and criticism English literature - 20th century - History and criticism Outsiders in literature Romanies in literature Electronic books.
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 (p. [175]-209) and index.
Nota di contenuto	"A mingled race" : Walter Scott's Gypsies -- Vagrant and poet : the Gypsy and the "Strange disease of modern life" -- In the beginning was the word : George Borrow's Romany picaresque -- "Marks of race" : the impossible Gypsy in George Eliot -- "The last romance" : scholarship and nostalgia in the Gypsy Lore Society -- The phantom Gypsy : invisibility, writing, and history.
Sommario/riassunto	Gypsies and the British Imagination, 1807-1930, is the first book to explore fully the British obsession with Gypsies throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. Deborah Epstein Nord traces various representations of Gypsies in the works of such well-known British authors John Clare, Walter Scott, William Wordsworth, George Eliot, Arthur Conan Doyle, and D. H. Lawrence. Nord also exhumes lesser-known literary, ethnographic, and historical texts, exploring the fascinating histories of nomadic writer George Borrow, the Gypsy Lore Society, Dora Yates, and other rarely examined figures and institutions. Gypsies were both idealized and reviled by Victorian and early-twentieth-century Britons. Associated with primitive desires, lawlessness, cunning, and sexual excess, Gypsies were also objects of antiquarian, literary, and anthropological interest. As Nord

demonstrates, British writers and artists drew on Gypsy characters and plots to redefine and reconstruct cultural and racial difference, national and personal identity, and the individual's relationship to social and sexual orthodoxies. Gypsies were long associated with pastoral conventions and, in the nineteenth century, came to stand in for the ancient British past. Using myths of switched babies, Gypsy kidnappings, and the Gypsies' murky origins, authors projected onto Gypsies their own desires to escape convention and their anxieties about the ambiguities of identity. The literary representations that Nord examines have their roots in the interplay between the notion of Gypsies as a separate, often despised race and the psychic or aesthetic desire to dissolve the boundary between English and Gypsy worlds. By the beginning of the twentieth century, she argues, romantic identification with Gypsies had hardened into caricature—a phenomenon reflected in D. H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and the Gipsy*—and thoroughly obscured the reality of Gypsy life and history.
