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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Living authors -- Thomas Carlyle and the luminous author -- Thackeray and the novel of literary apprenticeship -- Dickens and the profession of labour -- Broken idols: the development of the working-class author -- Moving statues: the iconography of the 'printing woman' -- Conclusion: The disenchantment of the author.
Sommario/riassunto	Richard Salmon provides an original account of the formation of the literary profession during the late Romantic and early Victorian periods. Focusing on the representation of authors in narrative and iconographic texts, including novels, biographies, sketches and portrait galleries, Salmon traces the emergence of authorship as a new form of professional identity from the 1820s to the 1850s. Many first-

generation Victorian writers, including Carlyle, Dickens, Thackeray, Martineau and Barrett-Browning, contributed to contemporary debates on the 'Dignity of Literature', professional heroism, and the cultural visibility of the 'man of letters'. This study combines a broad mapping of the early Victorian literary field with detailed readings of major texts. The book argues that the key model of professional development within this period is embodied in the narrative form of literary apprenticeship, which inspired such celebrated works as *David Copperfield* and *Aurora Leigh*, and that its formative process is the 'disenchantment of the author'.

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