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Classificazione	MR 2100
Disciplina	519.5
Soggetti	Mathematical statistics - Graphic methods Mathematical statistics - History - 18th century Electronic books.
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [177]-184) and index.
Nota di contenuto	I: William Playfair and the origins of graphical display -- Why playfair? -- Who was playfair? / Ian Spence and Howard Wainer -- William Playfair: a daring worthless fellow / Ian Spence and Howard Wainer -- Scaling the heights (and widths) -- A priestley view of international currency exchanges -- Tom's veggies and the American way -- The graphical inventions of Dubourg and Ferguson: two precursors to William Playfair -- Winds across Europe: Francis Galton and the graphic discovery of weather patterns -- II: Using graphical displays to understand the modern world -- A graphical investigation of the scourge of Vietnam -- Two mind-bending statistical paradoxes -- Order in the court -- No order in the court -- Like a trout in the milk -- Scaling the market -- Sex, smoking, and life insurance: a graphical view -- There they go again ! -- Sex and sports: how quickly are women gaining? -- Clear thinking made visible: redesigning score reports for students -- III: Graphical displays in the twenty-first century -- John Wilder Tukey: the father of twenty-first-century graphical display -- Graphical tools for the twenty-first century: I. Spinning and slicing -- Graphical tools for the twenty-first century: II. Nearness and smoothing engines -- A selection of anomalies -- Dramatis personae.

Good graphs make complex problems clear. From the weather forecast to the Dow Jones average, graphs are so ubiquitous today that it is hard to imagine a world without them. Yet they are a modern invention. This book is the first to comprehensively plot humankind's fascinating efforts to visualize data, from a key seventeenth-century precursor--England's plague-driven initiative to register vital statistics--right up to the latest advances. In a highly readable, richly illustrated story of invention and inventor that mixes science and politics, intrigue and scandal, revolution and shopping, Howard Wainer validates Thoreau's observation that circumstantial evidence can be quite convincing, as when you find a trout in the milk. The story really begins with the eighteenth-century origins of the art, logic, and methods of data display, which emerged, full-grown, in William Playfair's landmark 1786 trade atlas of England and Wales. The remarkable Scot singlehandedly popularized the atheoretical plotting of data to reveal suggestive patterns--an achievement that foretold the graphic explosion of the nineteenth century, with atlases published across the observational sciences as the language of science moved from words to pictures. Next come succinct chapters illustrating the uses and abuses of this marvelous invention more recently, from a murder trial in Connecticut to the Vietnam War's effect on college admissions. Finally Wainer examines the great twentieth-century polymath John Wilder Tukey's vision of future graphic displays and the resultant methods--methods poised to help us make sense of the torrent of data in our information-laden world.

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