

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454940803321
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Titolo	Statius' <i>Silvae</i> and the poetics of Empire / / Carole E. Newlands [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-107-12484-0 0-511-02000-7 1-280-43377-9 0-511-17626-0 0-511-15702-9 0-511-48232-9 0-511-04477-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (356 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	871/01
Soggetti	Occasional verse, Latin - History and criticism Laudatory poetry, Latin - History and criticism Imperialism in literature Emperors in literature Rome History Domitian, 81-96 Historiography Rome In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 326-340) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Embodying the statue: <i>Silvae</i> 1.1 and 4.6 -- Engendering the house: <i>Silvae</i> 1.2 and 3.4 -- Imperial pastoral: Vopiscus' villa in <i>Silvae</i> 1.3 -- Dominating nature: Pollio's villa in <i>Silvae</i> 2.2 -- Reading the Thebaid: <i>Silvae</i> 1.5 -- The Emperor's Saturnalia: <i>Silvae</i> 1.6 -- Dining with the emperor: <i>Silvae</i> 4.2 -- Building the imperial highway: <i>Silvae</i> 4.3.
Sommario/riassunto	Statius' <i>Silvae</i> , written late in the reign of Domitian (AD 81-96), are a new kind of poetry that confronts the challenge of imperial majesty or private wealth by new poetic strategies and forms. As poems of praise, they delight in poetic excess whether they honour the emperor or the poet's friends. Yet extravagant speech is also capacious speech. It

functions as a strategy for conveying the wealth and grandeur of villas, statues and precious works of art as well as the complex emotions aroused by the material and political culture of empire. The *Silvae* are the product of a divided, self-fashioning voice. Statius was born in Naples of non-aristocratic parents. His position as outsider to the culture he celebrates gives him a unique perspective on it. The *Silvae* are poems of anxiety as well as praise, expressive of the tensions within the later period of Domitian's reign.
