

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456254903321
Autore	Downes Paul <1965->
Titolo	Democracy, revolution, and monarchism in early American literature // Paul Downes [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-107-13325-4 0-521-10029-1 0-511-30508-7 0-511-14798-8 0-511-12043-5 0-511-04548-4 1-280-15963-4 0-511-48548-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 239 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in American literature and culture ; ; 130
Disciplina	810.9/358
Soggetti	American literature - Revolutionary period, 1775-1783 - History and criticism Politics and literature - United States - History - 18th century Revolutionary literature, American - History and criticism Revolutions in literature Democracy in literature Monarchy in literature United States History Revolution, 1775-1783 Literature and the revolution United States Intellectual life 18th century
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. 223-236) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Monarchophobia: reading the mock executions of 1776 -- Crevecoeur's revolutionary loyalism -- Citizen subjects: the memoirs of Stephen Burroughs and Benjamin Franklin -- An epistemology of the ballot box: Brockden Brown's secrets -- Luxury, effeminacy, corruption: Irving and the gender of democracy -- Afterword: the revolution's last word.
Sommario/riassunto	Paul Downes combines literary criticism and political history in order to

explore responses to the rejection of monarchism in the American revolutionary era. Downes' analysis considers the Declaration of Independence, Franklin's autobiography, Crèvecoeur's Letters from an American Farmer and the works of America's first significant literary figures including Charles Brockden Brown, Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper. He claims that the post-revolutionary American state and the new democratic citizen inherited some of the complex features of absolute monarchy, even as they were strenuously trying to assert their difference from it. In chapters that consider the revolution's mock execution of George III, the Elizabethan notion of the 'king's two bodies' and the political significance of the secret ballot, Downes points to the traces of monarchical political structures within the practices and discourses of early American democracy. This is an ambitious study of an important theme in early American culture and society.
