

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456423603321
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Titolo	Hesiod's Ascra [[electronic resource] /] / Anthony T. Edwards
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2004
ISBN	0-520-92957-8 1-59734-651-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (223 p.)
Disciplina	881/.01
Soggetti	Didactic poetry, Greek - History and criticism Farmers - Greece Poets, Greek Agriculture in literature Farm life in literature Villages in literature Electronic books. Ascra (Greece) Intellectual life To 500 Voiotia (Greece) In literature Ascra (Greece) In literature
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. 185-194) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- 1. Introduction -- 2. External Relations: Ascra And Thespieae -- 3. Internal Relations: Ascra As Community -- 4. The Agricultural Regime Of Works And Days -- 5. The Shape Of Hesiod'S Ascra -- 6. Persuading Perses -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In Works and Days, one of the two long poems that have come down to us from Hesiod, the poet writes of farming, morality, and what seems to be a very nasty quarrel with his brother Perses over their inheritance. In this book, Anthony T. Edwards extracts from the poem a picture of the social structure of Ascra, the hamlet in northern Greece where Hesiod lived, most likely during the seventh century B.C.E.. Drawing on the evidence of trade, food storage, reciprocity, and the agricultural regime as Hesiod describes them in Works and Days, Edwards reveals

Ascra as an autonomous village, outside the control of a polis, less stratified and integrated internally than what we observe even in Homer. In light of this reading, the conflict between Hesiod and Perses emerges as a dispute about the inviolability of the community's external boundary and the degree of interobligation among those within the village. Hesiod's Ascra directly counters the accepted view of Works and Days, which has Hesiod describing a peasant society subordinated to the economic and political control of an outside elite. Through his deft analysis, Edwards suggests a new understanding of both Works and Days and the social and economic organization of Hesiod's time and place.
