

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456528503321
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Titolo	An audience of one : Dorothy Osborne's letters to Sir William Temple, 1652-1654 // Carrie Hintz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	1-281-99476-6 9786611994761 1-4426-7077-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (214 p.)
Disciplina	941.06092
Soggetti	Women - Great Britain - 17th century Electronic books. Great Britain Social life and customs 17th century Sources
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Dorothy Osborne's Letters -- 1. Dorothy Osborne's Courtship -- 2. An Audience of One: Dorothy Osborne as a Letter Writer -- 3. Shared Privacies: Reading in the Osborne-Temple Courtship -- 4. Imagining the Couple: Triangularity and Surveillance -- 5. 'Dearer to mee than the whole world besy'ds': Illness and Emotional Attachment in Osborne's Letters -- Afterword: A 'Round and Populous' World -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	When first published in 1888, the letters of Dorothy Osborne to William Temple - written between 1652 and 1654 - created a kind of cult phenomenon in the Victorian period. Osborne and Temple, both in their early twenties, shared a romance that was opposed by their families, and Osborne herself was almost constantly under surveillance. Osborne's letters provide a rare glimpse into an early modern woman's life at a pivotal point, as she tried to find a way to marry for love as well as fulfil her obligations to her family. Combining historical and biographical research with feminist theory, Carrie Hintz considers

Osborne's vision of letter writing, her literary achievement, and her literary influences. Osborne has long been overlooked as a writer, making a comprehensive and thorough analysis long overdue. While the nineteenth-century reception of the letters is testament to the enduring public fascination with restrained love narratives, Osborne's eloquent and outspoken articulation of her expectations and desires also makes her letters compelling in our own time.

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