Record Nr. UNINA9910456773803321 Autore Willmott Glenn <1963-> Titolo Modernist goods: primitivism, the market, and the gift // Glenn Willmott Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Ontario];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2008 ©2008 **ISBN** 1-4426-8864-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (339 p.) Disciplina 820.9 Soggetti English literature - 20th century - History and criticism Modernism (Literature) Primitivism Literature and anthropology Capitalism and literature Economics and literature Politics and literature Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Beyond Primitivism -- Part 1: After Strange Goods: The Economic Unconscious of Imperialist Modernity -- Part 2: Multiplying the Public: Abject Modernism and Its Institutions -- Part 3: The Parodic Shaman: Imperialist Modernity and the Blackened Gift -- Part 4: The Impure House: Re-imagining Aboriginal Modernity -- Conclusion: Modernism and Utopia -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index The politicised interpretation of literature has relied on models of Sommario/riassunto economic and social structures that oscillate between idealized subversion and market fatalism. Current anthropological discussions of mixed gift and commodity economies and the segmented politics of house societies offer solutions to this problem and suggest invaluable

new directions for literary studies. Modernist Goods uses recent discussions of gift and house practices to counter an influential

revisionist trend in modernist studies, a trend that sees the capitalist marketplace and its public sphere as the uniquely determining institutional structures in modern arts and culture. Glenn Willmott argues that a political unconscious forged by the widespread marginalisation of pre-capitalist institutions comes to the fore in modernist primitivism. Such primitivism, he insists, is not superficially exoticist or simply appropriative of the cultural heritage of others. Rather, it is at once parodic and authentic, and often, in the language of Julia Kristeva, abject. Modernist Goods examines such writers as Yeats, Conrad, Eliot, Woolf, Beckett, H.D., and Joyce to uncover what the author views as their displaced aboriginality and to investigate the relationship between literary modernism and aboriginal modernity. By bringing current anthropological developments to literary studies, it aims to rethink the economic commitments of modernist literature and their political significance.