

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456778203321
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Titolo	Theorizing the ideal sovereign : the rise of the French vernacular royal biography // Daisy Delogu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2008 ©2008
ISBN	1-4426-8938-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (309 p.)
Disciplina	321/.60940902
Soggetti	Kings and rulers, Medieval - History and criticism Biography - Middle Ages, 500-1500 - History and criticism French prose literature - To 1500 - History and criticism Nobility of character Electronic books. France Kings and rulers Biography History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Models of Sanctity and Kingship in Joinville's Vie de saint Louis: Will the Real Louis IX Please Stand? -- 2. Hugh the Butcher: Lineage, Election, and Succession in the Chanson de Hugues Capet -- 3. The Crusading Ideal in Guillaume de Machaut's Prise d'Alixandre -- 4. The Herald Chandos's Vie du Prince Noir: A prince très chrétien -- 5. Reinventing Kingship: Christine de Pizan's Livre des fais et bonnes meurs du sage roy Charles V -- Notes -- Appendix -- Works Consulted -- Index of Subjects -- Index of Places and Proper Names
Sommario/riassunto	Theorizing the Ideal Sovereign, examines the ways in which vernacular biographies of kings from the later French Middle Ages reflected and contributed to transformations in late-medieval political and philosophical thought. Using a lens of literary analysis for works that have more often been read as historical source documents, Daisy Delogu demonstrates how theories of kingship evolved in the period of the "rediscovery" of Aristotle, the rise of the vernacular as a language of

ethics and philosophy, and the Hundred Years' War. By means of a series of close readings of Jean de Joinville's *Vie de Saint Louis*, Guillaume de Machaut's *Prise d'Alixandre*, and Christine de Pizan's biography of Charles V, Delogu examines the ways in which biographical writings on kings could advance precise political aims. She also shows how these texts contributed to nascent ideas of nationhood, exerted pressure upon traditional ideals of kingship, and ultimately redefined the theoretical and practical bases of medieval kingship. This study of vernacular kings's lives illuminates the important role that literary works played in shaping ideas more traditionally discussed in legal, historical, or institutional terms. *Theorizing the Ideal Sovereign* restores late medieval kings's lives to ethical and political conversations of which they were an integral part, and revives the lively interaction between texts and readers that formed the basis for medieval reading experiences.
