Record Nr. UNINA9910456798503321 Autore Insana Lina N. <1970-> Titolo Arduous tasks: Primo Levi, translation, and the transmission of Holocaust testimony / / Lina N. Insana Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Ontario];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2009 ©2009 **ISBN** 1-4426-8736-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (342 p.) Toronto Italian studies Collana Disciplina 853/.914 Soggetti Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in literature Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface: Points of Entry --Nota di contenuto Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction: Translation Matters -- 1. Transmission: The Witness as Translator -- 2. Source Texts and Subtexts: Translation and the Grey Zone -- 3. Transgression: Translation and Levi's 'Trapassar del segno' -- 4. Infinite Transaction: Testimonial Numismatics and the Narrative Exchange -- 5. Palinodic Reversal: The Trials of Translation -- Conclusion: The Witness's Tape Recorder and the Violence of Mediation -- Notes -- Bibliography --Index -- Index of Primo Levi's works Sommario/riassunto One of twentieth-century Italy's greatest thinkers, Primo Levi (1919-1987) started reflecting on the Holocaust almost immediately after his return home from the year he survived in Auschwitz. Levi's powerful Holocaust testimonials reveal his preoccupation with processes of translation, in the form of both embedded and book-length renderings of texts relevant to Holocaust survival. In Arduous Tasks, Lina N. Insana demonstrates how translation functions as a metaphor for the transmission of Holocaust testimony and broadens the parameters of survivor testimony. The first book to study Levi and translation, Arduous Tasks overcomes the conventional views of the separation

> between his own personal memoirs and his translations by stressing the centrality of translation in Levi's entire corpus. Examining not only

the testimonial nature of his work, Insana also discusses the transgressive and performative aspects of transmission in his writings. Arduous Tasks is a superb and innovative study on the importance of translation not only to Levi, but also to Holocaust studies in general.