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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- pt. I. The world of belief. The use and value of Greek legal documents ; Roman perceptions of Roman tablets: aspects and associations ; The Roman tablet: style and language ; Recitation from tablets ; Tablets and efficacy -- pt. II. The evolution of practice. Roman tablets in Italy (AD 15-79) ; Roman tablets and related forms in the Roman provinces (30 BC-AD 260) ; Tablets and other documents in court to AD 400 ; Documents, jurists, the emperor, and the law (AD 200-AD535) -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Greeks wrote mostly on papyrus, but the Romans wrote solemn religious, public and legal documents on wooden tablets often coated with wax. This book investigates the historical significance of this resonant form of writing; its power to order the human realm and cosmos and to make documents efficacious; its role in court; the

uneven spread - an aspect of Romanization - of this Roman form outside Italy, as provincials made different guesses as to what would please their Roman overlords; and its influence on the evolution of Roman law. An historical epoch of Roman legal transactions without writing is revealed as a juristic myth of origins. Roman legal documents on tablets are the ancestors of today's dispositive legal documents - the document as the act itself. In a world where knowledge of the Roman law was scarce - and enforcers scarcer - the Roman law drew its authority from a wider world of belief.

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