Record Nr. UNINA9910458921903321 European collections of scientific instruments, 1550-1750 [[electronic **Titolo** resource] /] / edited by Giorgio Strano ... [et al.] Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden;; Boston,: Brill, 2009 **ISBN** 90-474-2617-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (262 p.) Collana History of science and medicine library, , 1872-0684;; v. 10. Scientific instruments and collections;; v. 1 Altri autori (Persone) StranoGiorgio Disciplina 681/.750744 Soggetti Science - Europe - History Science, Renaissance Scientific apparatus and instruments - Private collections - Europe -History Scientific apparatus and instruments - Europe - History Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Preliminary Materials / G. Strano , S. Johnston , M. Miniati and A.D. Morrison-Low -- The Mathematical Instruments Of Wenzel Jamnitzer (1508-1585) / Sven Hauschke -- Christoph Schissler: The Elector's Dealer / Peter Plaßmever -- Some Lesser-Known Dresden Instrument Makers Of The Seventeenth Century / Klaus Schillinger -- The Waywisers Of Elector Augustus Of Saxony And Their New Use In The Survey Of Saxon Postal Roads / Wolfram Dolz -- Optical Objects In The Dresden Kunstkammer: Lucas Brunn And The Courtly Display Of

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Sommario/riassunto

Collections of scientific instruments originated as part of Renaissance collections of 'naturalia' and 'artificialia'. Surveying and astronomical instruments were common in such collections, their role being to impress visitors by displaying the power that a ruler acquired through the control of nature. This book offers selected studies of notable European collections of scientific instruments from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. These studies also present the work of important instrument makers of the time, and their relations with patrons and rulers. A final section focuses on the role of modern museums and collectors in saving this scientific heritage from dispersal. The result is a contemporary perspective on the formation of the most important museums of the history of science. Contributors include: Paolo Brenni, Filippo Camerota, Gloria Clifton, Wolfram Dolz, Sven Dupré, Karsten Gaulke, Sven Hauschke, Michael Korey, Mara Miniati, Tatiana M. Moisseeva, Peter Plaßmeyer, Klaus Schillinger, Giorgio Strano, Koenraad Van Cleempoel, and Ewa Wyka. Scientific Instruments and Collections,