

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460450703321
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Titolo	Closing the Books : Governor Edward Carstensen on Danish Guinea 1842-50 // translated from the Danish by Tove Storsveen ; introduction by Per Hernaes
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Legon, Accra, Ghana : , : Sub-Saharan Publishers, , 2010 Baltimore, Md. : , : Project MUSE, , 2013 ©2010
ISBN	1-283-00522-0 9786613005229 9988-647-39-5 9988-647-88-3 9988-647-76-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (452 p.)
Collana	University of Ghana readers Current challenges with their evolving solutions in surgical practice in West Africa
Altri autori (Persone)	StorsveenTove
Disciplina	966.701092
Soggetti	Colonial administrators - Denmark Colonial administrators - Ghana Electronic books. Ghana History Danish Settlements, 1659-1850 Sources
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Translation of: Guvernør Edward Carstensens indberetninger fra Guinea, 1842-1850, issued by Georg Norregard, 1964.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; CONTENTS; INTRODUCTION; PREFACE; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; CLOSING THE BOOKS. Governor Edward Carstensen's Official Reports on Danish Guinea 1842-50; PLATES & MAPS; INDEX; Back Cover
Sommario/riassunto	Sitting on the terrace of the royal plantation Frederiks gave, his favourite retreat, Governor Edward Carstensen came to see the inevitable: Denmark had to give up her ipossessionsi in Africa. As fate would have it, he came to be the instrument by which two centuries of Danish involvement on the Gold Coast was terminated, thereby making way for the emergence of the colonial system that developed there. After the abolition of the slave trade, Denmark had struggled to find

ways and means to legitimate her continued stay at the Coast. At an early stage the Danes initiated a number of attempts to establish experimental plantations to cultivate export crops such as cotton, coffee and sugar. But a transition from slave trade to legitimate products required stability and peace, and a need for control, which the rather limited Danish presence was not able to maintain. Closing the Books comprises a compilation of the official reports that the last Danish Governor sent home during his term of office at the Gold Coast. The reports reflect his personal views regarding the economic and political situations there, as well as his ideas on the civilization of Africa.
