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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cultural affairs under Vichy -- Defending French style and beauty -- Exodus -- Museums fit for France -- Saving historic sites -- Archeology and the national revolution -- Recycling French heroes : the destruction of bronze statues -- Endangered local patrimony : bronze statues in Paris, Chambéry, and Nantes -- Jewish art collections -- Art as a negotiating tool -- The Vichy legacy.
Sommario/riassunto	Defending National Treasures explores the fate of art and cultural heritage during the Nazi occupation of France. The French cultural patrimony was a crucial locus of power struggles between German and French leaders and among influential figures in each country. Karlsgodt examines the preservation policy that the Vichy regime enacted in an assertion of sovereignty over French art museums, historic monuments, and archeological sites. The limits to this sovereignty are apparent from German appropriations of public statues, Jewish-owned art collections, and key "Germanic" works of art from French museums. A final chapter traces the lasting impact of the French wartime reforms on preservation

policy. In *Defending National Treasures*, Karlsgodt introduces the concept of patrimania to reveal examples of opportunism in art preservation. During the war, French officials sought to acquire coveted artwork from Jewish collections for the Louvre and other museums; in the early postwar years, they established a complicated guardianship over unclaimed art recovered from Germany. A cautionary tale for our own times, *Defending National Treasures* examines the ethical dimensions of museum acquisitions in the ongoing noble quest to preserve great works of art.
