

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462211903321
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Titolo	At Lincoln's Side [[electronic resource] ] : John Hay's Civil War Correspondence and Selected Writings
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Carbondale, : Southern Illinois University Press, 2000
ISBN	1-280-69734-2 9786613674302 0-8093-8476-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (325 p.)
Disciplina	973.7/092 973.7092
Soggetti	Hay, John, 1838-1905 -- Correspondence Hay, John, 1838-1905 Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 -- Friends and associates Statesmen -- United States -- Biography Statesmen -- United States -- Correspondence United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives United States -- Politics and government -- 1861-1865 Statesmen - United States Regions & Countries - Americas History & Archaeology United States - General Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Frontispiece; Book Title; Copyright Page; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Part One: Civil War Correspondence; 1. 1860-1862; 2. 1863; 3. 1864-1865; Part Two: Selected Writings; 4. Hay's Reminiscences of the Civil War; 5. Biographical Sketches; Appendix 1: The Authorship of the Bixby Letter; Appendix 2: Mary Todd Lincoln's Unethical Conduct as First Lady; Notes; Index; Author Bio; Back Cover

## Sommario/riassunto

John Hay believed that "real history is told in private letters," and the more than 220 surviving letters and telegrams from his Civil War days prove that to be true, showing Abraham Lincoln in action: "The Tycoon is in fine whack. I have rarely seen him more serene & busy. He is managing this war, the draft, foreign relations, and planning a reconstruction of the Union, all at once. I never knew with what tyrannous authority he rules the Cabinet, till now. The most important things he decides & there is no cavil." Along with Hay's personal correspondence, Burlingame include

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