

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463654003321
Titolo	Ancient perspectives : maps and their place in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome // edited by Richard J. A. Talbert
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago ; ; London : , : University of Chicago Press, , [2012] ©2012
ISBN	0-226-78940-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (284 p.)
Collana	The Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., lectures in the history of cartography
Disciplina	526.09/01
Soggetti	Cartography - Iraq - History Cartography - Egypt - History Cartography - Greece - History Cartography - Rome - History Geography, Ancient Surveying - 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	The expression of terrestrial and celestial order in ancient Mesopotamia by / Francesca Rochberg -- From topography to cosmos: ancient Egypt's multiple maps / by David O'Connor -- Mapping the world: Greek initiatives from Homer to Eratosthenes / by Georgia L. Irby -- Ptolemy's geography: mapmaking and the scientific enterprise / by Alexander Jones -- Greek and Roman surveying and surveying instruments / by Michael Lewis -- Urbs Roma to orbis romanus: Roman mapping on the grand scale / by Richard J.A. Talbert -- Putting the world in order: mapping in Roman texts / by Benet Salway.
Sommario/riassunto	Ancient Perspectives encompasses a vast arc of space and time- Western Asia to North Africa and Europe from the third millennium BCE to the fifth century CE-to explore mapmaking and worldviews in the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. In each society, maps served as critical economic, political, and personal tools, but there was little consistency in how and why they were made. Much like today, maps in antiquity meant very different things to different

people. Ancient Perspectives presents an ambitious, fresh overview of cartography and its uses. The seven chapters range from broad-based analyses of mapping in Mesopotamia and Egypt to a close focus on Ptolemy's ideas for drawing a world map based on the theories of his Greek predecessors at Alexandria. The remarkable accuracy of Mesopotamian city-plans is revealed, as is the creation of maps by Romans to support the proud claim that their emperor's rule was global in its reach. By probing the instruments and techniques of both Greek and Roman surveyors, one chapter seeks to uncover how their extraordinary planning of roads, aqueducts, and tunnels was achieved. Even though none of these civilizations devised the means to measure time or distance with precision, they still conceptualized their surroundings, natural and man-made, near and far, and felt the urge to record them by inventive means that this absorbing volume reinterprets and compares.
