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Autore	Ando Clifford <1969->
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 199-220) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Religion, law, and knowledge in classical rome -- Idols and their critics -- Interpretatio Romana -- Religion and Ius Publicum -- A religion for the empire -- Religion and imperialism at Rome -- The palladium and the Pentateuch.
Sommario/riassunto	What did the Romans know about their gods? Why did they perform the rituals of their religion, and what motivated them to change those rituals? To these questions Clifford Ando proposes simple answers: In contrast to ancient Christians, who had faith, Romans had knowledge, and their knowledge was empirical in orientation. In other words, the Romans acquired knowledge of the gods through observation of the world, and their rituals were maintained or modified in light of what they learned. After a preface and opening chapters that lay out this argument about knowledge and place it in context, The Matter of the Gods pursues a variety of themes essential to the study of religion in history.