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Note generali	Contains the Waynflete lectures, given under the auspices of Magdalen College, Oxford in 1994.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 176-181) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Preface; 1 About Heroes: Otto, Sigurðr, Hamðir and Byrhtnoð; 2 Coping with Necessity: Hildebrand, Gunnarr and Volundr; 3 Youth, Education and Age: Beowulf, Ernst of Bavaria and Heinrich of Kempten; 4 In the Hands of the Church: Waltharius the Visigoth and Louis of the West Franks; 5 Shifting Perspectives: Roland; 6 Damage and Damage Limitation: The Nibelungs, Hilde and Kudrun; Bibliography of Primary Texts; Index to Secondary Literature; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; V; W
Sommario/riassunto	In this study, the author looks at the role the warrior-hero plays within a set of predetermined political and social constraints. The hero if not a sword-wielding barbarian, bent only upon establishing his own fame; such fame-seekers (including some famous medieval literary figures) might even fall outside the definition of the Germanic hero, the real value of whose deeds are given meaning only within the political construct. Individual prowess is not enough. The hero must conquer

the blows of fate because he is committed to the conquest of chaos,  
and over all to the need for social s

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