

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910467821003321
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Titolo	Hellenistic science at court // Marquis Berrey
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, [Germany] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	3-11-054015-0 3-11-054193-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (274 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Science, Technology, and Medicine in Ancient Cultures, , 2194-976X ; ; Volume 5
Disciplina	962.05
Soggetti	Science - Egypt Electronic books. Egypt Intellectual life
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. Simmias the Elephant-Hunter and Other People at the Court of Ptolemy -- 2. Kingship, Symposia, Gift-Exchange: Parameters of Friendship -- 3. An Entertaining Genre -- 4. Technology and Performance in Eratosthenes and Andreas -- 5. Herophilus' Pulse and Archimedes' Mechanized Mathematics -- Epilogue -- Editions of Primary Sources -- Bibliography -- Index Locorum -- Index Rerum
Sommario/riassunto	The development of science in the modern world is often held to depend on such institutions as universities, peer-reviewed journals, and democracy. How, then, did new science emerge in the pre-modern culture of the Hellenistic Egyptian monarchy? Berrey argues that the court society formed around the Ptolemaic pharaohs Ptolemy III and IV (reigned successively 246-205/4 BCE) provided an audience for cross-disciplinary, learned knowledge, as physicians, mathematicians, and mechanics clothed themselves in the virtues of courtiers attendant on the kings. The multicultural Greco-Egyptian court society prized entertainment that drew on earlier literature, mixed genres and cultures, and highlighted motion and sound. New cross-disciplinary science in the Hellenistic period gained its social currency and

subsequent scientific success through its entertainment value as court science. Ancient court science sheds light on the long history of scientific interdisciplinarity.
