

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910494589603321
Autore	Kennedy Kirstin
Titolo	Alfonso X of Castile-Leon : royal patronage, self-promotion and manuscripts in thirteenth-century Spain // Kirstin Kennedy [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , 2019
ISBN	90-485-4138-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (228 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Church, faith, and culture in the Medieval West
Disciplina	946.02092
Soggetti	Authors and patrons - Spain - History Books and reading - Spain - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 20 Nov 2020).
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgements -- List of Figures -- Abbreviations -- Introduction: 'the king makes a book' -- 1. Alfonso X, his Literary Patronage, and the Verdict of Historians -- 2. Alfonso in his Texts: literary models and royal authorship -- 3. Reality, Politics, and Precedent in Images of Alfonso -- 4. Codices Laid Out for a King : the appearance and production of Alfonsine manuscripts -- 5. The Circulation of Alfonsine Texts: astrological works and chronicles -- Concluding Remarks -- Manuscript Sources -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Alfonso X 'the Learned' of Castile (1252-1284) was praised in his lifetime as a king who devoted himself to discovering all worldly and divine knowledge. He commissioned chronicles and law codes and composed poems to the Virgin Mary, he gathered together Jewish scholars to translate works of Arab astrology and astronomy, and he founded a university of Latin and Arabic studies at Seville. Moreover, according to his nephew Juan Manuel, Alfonso was careful to ensure that 'he had leisure to look into things he wanted for himself'. The level of his personal involvement in this literary activity marks him out as an exceptional patron in any period. However, Alfonso's relationship with the arts also had much in common with that of other thirteenth-century European royal patrons, among them his first cousin, Louis IX of France. Like his contemporaries, he relentlessly used literary works as a vehicle to promote his royal status and advance his claim to the

imperial crown. His motivation for the foundation of the university at Seville was arguably political rather than educational, and instead of promoting institutional learning during his reign, Alfonso preferred to direct the messages about his kingship in the lavish manuscripts he patronized to a restricted, courtly audience. Yet such was the interest of the works he commissioned, that those who could obtain copies did so, even if these were still incomplete drafts. Three codices traditionally held to have been copied for Alfonso in fact show how this learning reserved for the few began to filter out beyond the Learned King's immediate circle.
