

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910524863703321
Autore	Hardison O. B., Jr. (Osborne Bennett), <1928-1990.>
Titolo	Christian Rite and Christian Drama in the Middle Ages : Essays in the Origin and Early History of Modern Drama / / by O.B. Hardison, Jr
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019 Baltimore, : Johns Hopkins Press, [1965] ©[1965]
ISBN	0-8018-0254-7 1-4214-3046-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 328 p.) : illus
Disciplina	809.251
Soggetti	Liturgical drama Christian drama, Latin (Medieval and modern) - History and criticism Drama, Medieval - History and criticism Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliographical footnotes.
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Copyright -- Table of Contents -- Preface -- Essay I: Darwin, Mutations, and the Origin of Medieval Drama -- Essay II: The Mass as Sacred Drama -- Essay III: The Lenten Agon: From Septuagesima to Good Friday -- Essay IV: Christus Victor: From Holy Saturday to Low Sunday -- Essay V: The Early History of the Quem Quaeritis -- Essay VI: From Quem Quaeritis to Resurrection Play -- Essay VII: The Vernacular Tradition: Form, Episode, Dialogue -- Epilogue: A Note on the Continuity of Ritual form in European Drama -- Appendix I: Translations -- Appendix II: Chronological Index of Early Liturgical Plays -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Originally published in 1965. The European dramatic tradition rests on a group of religious dramas that appeared between the tenth and twelfth centuries. These dramas, of interest in themselves, are also important for the light they shed on three historical and critical problems: the relation of drama to ritual, the nature of dramatic form, and the development of representational techniques. Hardison's approach is based on the history of the Christian liturgy, on critical

theories concerning the kinship of ritual and drama, and on close analysis of the chronology and content of the texts themselves. Beginning with liturgical commentaries of the ninth century, Hardison shows that writers of the period consciously interpreted the Mass and cycle of the church year in dramatic terms. By reconstructing the services themselves, he shows that they had an emphatic dramatic structure that reached its climax with the celebration of the Resurrection. Turning to the history of the Latin Resurrection play, Hardison suggests that the famous *Quem quaeritis*—the earliest of all medieval dramas—is best understood in relation to the baptismal rites of the Easter Vigil service. He sets forth a theory of the original form and function of the play based on the content of the earliest manuscripts as well as on vestigial ceremonial elements that survive in the later ones. Three texts from the eleventh and twelfth centuries are analyzed with emphasis on the change from ritual to representational modes. Hardison discusses why the form inherited from ritual remained unchanged, while the technique became increasingly representational. In studying the earliest vernacular dramas, Hardison examines the use of nonritual materials as sources of dramatic form, the influence of representational concepts of space and time on staging, and the development of nonceremonial techniques for composition of dialogue. The sudden appearance of these elements in vernacular drama suggests the existence of a hitherto unsuspected vernacular tradition considerably older than the earliest surviving vernacular plays.

---