1. Record Nr. UNINA9910646375603321

Autore Shakespeare, William <1564-1616>

Titolo All the Sonnets of Shakespeare / edited by Paul Edmonton, Stanley

Wells

Pubbl/distr/stampa Cambridge,: Cambridge University Press, 2020

ISBN 9781108490399

Descrizione fisica VII, 299 p.; 23 cm

Locazione FLFBC

Collocazione 822.33 SHAK Y7 (6)

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Record Nr. UNINA9910772095203321

Autore Flemming Rebecca

Titolo Bodily fluids in antiquity / / edited by Mark Bradley, Victoria Leonard,

and Laurence Totelin

Pubbl/distr/stampa Taylor & Francis, 2021

Abingdon, Oxon;; New York, NY:,: Routledge,, 2021

©2021

ISBN 0-429-79859-8

0-429-79860-1 0-429-43897-4

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (453 pages)

Disciplina 612.01522

Soggetti Body fluids - History - To 1500

Civilization, Classical

Civilization, Western - Classical influences

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

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Sommario/riassunto

"From ancient Egypt to Imperial Rome, from Greek medicine to early Christianity, this volume examines how human bodily fluids influenced ideas about gender, sexuality, politics, emotions, and morality, and how those ideas shaped later European thought. Comprising 25 chapters across seven key themes - language, gender, eroticism, nutrition, dissolution, death, and afterlife - this volume investigates bodily fluids in the context of the current sensory turn. It asks fundamental questions about physicality and fluidity: how were bodily fluids categorised and differentiated? How were fluids trapped inside the body perceived, and how did this perception alter when those fluids were externalised? Do ancient approaches complement or challenge our modern sensibilities about bodily fluids? How were religious practices influenced by attitudes towards bodily fluids, and how did religious authorities attempt to regulate or restrict their appearance? Why were some fluids taboo, and others cherished? In what ways were bodily fluids gendered? Offering a range of scholarly approaches and voices, this volume explores how ideas about the body and the fluids it contained and externalised are culturally conditioned and ideologically determined. The analysis encompasses the key geographic centres of

the ancient Mediterranean basin, including Greece, Rome, Byzantium, and Egypt. By taking a longue duree perspective across a richly intertwined set of territories, this collection is the first to provide a comprehensive, wide-ranging study of bodily fluids in the ancient world. Bodily Fluids in Antiquity will be of particular interest to academic readers working in the fields of classics and its reception, archaeology, anthropology, and ancient to early modern history. It will also appeal to more general readers with an interest in the history of the body and history of medicine"--