

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777369003321
Autore	Holt Frank Lee
Titolo	Alexander the Great and the mystery of the elephant medallions // Frank L. Holt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif. : , : University of California Press, , 2003 ©2003
ISBN	1-282-35812-X 9786612358128 0-520-93878-X 1-59734-457-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 198 pages, 5 unnumbered pages of plates) : illustrations, maps
Collana	Hellenistic culture and society ; ; 44
Disciplina	737/.22/0938
Soggetti	Coins, Ancient Coins, Greek Elephants in numismatics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 175-189) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS -- PREFACE -- ONE. Man of Mystery -- TWO. A Treasure -- THREE. Picking a Fight -- FOUR. Whose Pachyderm, Whole or Halved? -- FIVE. Another Treasure -- SIX. A Closer Look -- SEVEN. A Dark and Stormy Night -- APPENDIX A. THE PUBLISHED ELEPHANT MEDALLIONS -- APPENDIX B. SOME POSSIBLE FORGERIES OF THE LARGE MEDALLION -- APPENDIX C. THE 1973 IRAQ HOARD -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	To all those who witnessed his extraordinary conquests, from Albania to India, Alexander the Great appeared invincible. How Alexander himself promoted this appearance-how he abetted the belief that he enjoyed divine favor and commanded even the forces of nature against his enemies-is the subject of Frank L. Holt's absorbing book. Solid evidence for the "supernaturalized" Alexander lies in a rare series of medallions that depict the triumphant young king at war against the elephants, archers, and chariots of Rajah Porus of India at the Battle of the Hydaspes River. Recovered from Afghanistan and Iraq in sensational

and sometimes perilous circumstances, these ancient artifacts have long animated the modern historical debate about Alexander. Holt's book, the first devoted to the mystery of these ancient medallions, takes us into the history of their discovery and interpretation, into the knowable facts of their manufacture and meaning, and, ultimately, into the king's own psyche and his frightening theology of war. The result is a valuable analysis of Alexander history and myth, a vivid account of numismatics, and a spellbinding look into the age-old mechanics of megalomania.
