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| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (383 p.) |
| Collana | The Linda Schele series in Maya and pre-Columbian studies |
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| Nota di contenuto | Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- 1. CONTEMPORARY MAYA IMAGES OF THE HEAVENS -- 2. NAKED-EYE ASTRONOMY -- 3. PRECOLUMBIAN AND COLONIAL PERIOD MAYA SOLAR IMAGES -- 4. PRECOLUMBIAN AND COLONIAL PERIOD LUNAR IMAGES AND DEITIES -- 5. VENUS AND MERCURY: THE BODY DOUBLES -- 6. THE CELESTIAL WANDERERS -- 7. STARS, THE MILKY WAY, COMETS, AND METEORS -- APPENDIX 1. Guide to Astronomical Identities -- APPENDIX 2. Table of Classic Period Dates, Monuments, and Associated Astronomical Events -- APPENDIX 3. Table for Calculating the Tzolkin Intervals -- GLOSSARY -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX -- PLATES |
| Sommario/riassunto | Observations of the sun, moon, planets, and stars played a central role in ancient Maya lifeways, as they do today among contemporary Maya who maintain the traditional ways. This pathfinding book reconstructs ancient Maya astronomy and cosmology through the astronomical information encoded in Precolumbian Maya art and confirmed by the current practices of living Maya peoples. Susan Milbrath opens the book with a discussion of modern Maya beliefs about astronomy, along with essential information on naked-eye observation. She devotes subsequent chapters to Precolumbian astronomical imagery, which she traces back through time, starting from the Colonial and Postclassic |

eras. She delves into many aspects of the Maya astronomical images, including the major astronomical gods and their associated glyphs, astronomical almanacs in the Maya codices [painted books], and changes in the imagery of the heavens over time. This investigation yields new data and a new synthesis of information about the specific astronomical events and cycles recorded in Maya art and architecture. Indeed, it constitutes the first major study of the relationship between art and astronomy in ancient Maya culture.
