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Autore	Beaty Bart
Titolo	Fredric Wertham and the critique of mass culture [[electronic resource] /] / Bart Beaty
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Note generali	Based on the author's dissertation, McGill University.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p.209-223) and index.
Nota di contenuto	From Freud to social psychiatry -- Mass culture in the twentieth century -- American concerns about a mass society -- Wertham and the critique of comic books -- Television and media effects.
Sommario/riassunto	This book is a re-examination of the critic whose Congressional testimony sparked the Comics Code. Bart Beaty traces the evolution of Wertham's attitudes toward popular culture and reassesses his place in the debate about pop culture's effects on youth and society. When <i>The Seduction of the Innocent</i> was published in 1954, Wertham (1895-1981) became instantly known as an authority on child psychology. Although he had published several books before <i>Seduction</i> , its sharp criticism of popular culture in general--and comic books in particular--made it a touchstone for debate about issues of censorship, child protection, and freedom of speech. This book reinterprets his intellectual legacy and challenges notions about his alleged cultural conservatism. Drawing upon Wertham's published works as well as his unpublished private papers, correspondence, and notes, Beaty reveals a man whose opinions, life, and career offer more subtlety of thought than previously assumed. In particular, the book examines Wertham's change of heart in the 1970s, when he began to claim that comics

could be a positive influence in American society.

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