Record Nr. UNINA9910781115503321 Autore Willmott Glenn <1963-> Titolo Modernist goods: primitivism, the market, and the gift // Glenn Willmott Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Ontario];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2008 ©2008 **ISBN** 1-4426-8864-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (339 p.) Disciplina 820.9 Soggetti English literature - 20th century - History and criticism Modernism (Literature) Primitivism Literature and anthropology Capitalism and literature Economics and literature Politics and literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction. Beyond Primitivism -- Imperialist and Aboriginal Modernities -- Commodities, Gifts, and Goods -- Stoker's Abject Kin -- pt. 1. After Strange Goods: The Economic Unconscious of Imperialist Modernity -- Yeats's Proper Dark -- Lawrence's Profane Work --Lovecraft's Doubles -- Conrad's Desertions -- Structure and Style -pt. 2. Multiplying the Public: Abject Modernism and Its Institutions -pt. 3. Parodic Shaman: Imperialist Modernity and the Blackened Gift --

Eliot's Savage Possessions -- Woolf's Fugitive Rites -- Beckett's Unnamable Magic -- pt. 4. Impure House: Re-imagining Aboriginal Modernity -- Amatory Modernisms -- Joyce's People -- H.D.'s Heritages -- Conclusion: Modernism and Utopia.

Sommario/riassunto

The politicised interpretation of literature has relied on models of economic and social structures that oscillate between idealized subversion and market fatalism. Current anthropological discussions of mixed gift and commodity economies and the segmented politics of

house societies offer solutions to this problem and suggest invaluable new directions for literary studies. Modernist Goods uses recent discussions of gift and house practices to counter an influential revisionist trend in modernist studies, a trend that sees the capitalist marketplace and its public sphere as the uniquely determining institutional structures in modern arts and culture. Glenn Willmott argues that a political unconscious forged by the widespread marginalisation of pre-capitalist institutions comes to the fore in modernist primitivism. Such primitivism, he insists, is not superficially exoticist or simply appropriative of the cultural heritage of others. Rather, it is at once parodic and authentic, and often, in the language of Julia Kristeva, abject. Modernist Goods examines such writers as Yeats, Conrad, Eliot, Woolf, Beckett, H.D., and Joyce to uncover what the author views as their displaced aboriginality and to investigate the relationship between literary modernism and aboriginal modernity. By bringing current anthropological developments to literary studies, it aims to rethink the economic commitments of modernist literature and their political significance.