

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783799703321
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Titolo	The holy fool : Christian faith and theology in J.M.R. Lenz // Timothy F. Pope
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal ; ; Ithaca : , : McGill-Queen's University Press, , 2003 ©2003
ISBN	1-282-86144-1 9786612861444 0-7735-7141-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 211 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	849/.912
Soggetti	RELIGION / Christian Theology / General
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [203]-207) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Note on Translations -- Acknowledgments -- Lenz as Theologian? -- Theology in Critical Times -- Religious Reawakening -- Christian Confession -- Moral Freedom -- Biblical Theology -- Theology and Literature -- The Tutor -- The Soldiers -- Conclusion -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Previous studies have viewed Lenz's religion as a largely pathological phenomenon that was linked to the temporary lapses into insanity that he experienced after he was banished, at Goethe's insistence, from the court and city of Weimar. Pope reveals, however, that a dynamic shift in Lenz's faith had occurred four years before the debacle of Weimar. Coherent statements during those four years concerning the articles of his new faith, and a consistent application of faith to questions of poetry and dramatic theory, indicate that Lenz's contribution to the literary revolution of the 1770s was conditioned as much by a personal religious renewal as by enthusiasm for the aims and ideals of his generation. Theologically, Lenz's new convictions followed a path that led away from the neology of the late Enlightenment and pointed not only back to conservative traditions but also forward to the Christology of more modern times.

