

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785353803321
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Titolo	Royal prayer : a surprising history // David Baldwin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, England ; ; New York, New York : , : Continuum, , 2009 ©2009
ISBN	1-282-87548-5 9786612875489 1-4411-6632-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (219 p.)
Disciplina	242.60941
Soggetti	Prayers - History Kings and rulers - Prayers and devotions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction: Royal Prayer - A Justification; 1 Royal Launching and Christening of Ships; 2 'Near Miss' Royal Prayers; 3 The Modern Application of Some Old Royal Prayers; 4 Royal Prayers in Scotland; 5 Royal Prayers for Bonapartes; 6 'Royal' Prayers of America; 7 A Prophecy of 1732 Written in the Year of George Washington's Birth; 8 Star-Spangled Banner as Prayer; 9 Royal Prayer at Times of Personal and National Distress; 10 Royal Prayers under Revolution; 11 Royal Prayers of Dedication to Right Governance in Nation, Empire and Commonwealth; 12 Royal Prayers of Royal Patronage 13 Royal Remembrance - Silent Royal Prayer 14 Royal Prayers of Diana, Princess of Wales; 15 Royal Prayer in the Exploration of Earth and Space and the Development of Nuclear Theology; 16 Epilogue: Royal Prayers - The Way Ahead; Appendix: Royal Military Prayers; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Royal Prayer may be a response to personal, natural or man-made disaster, an act of dedication or an expression of national celebration. From local origins thousands of years ago, it has expanded to encompass the exploration of earth and space, the development of nuclear theology and the challenges presented by quantum physics. The blessing of ships down the ages has attracted royal prayer for surprisingly practical reasons, from Nile reed boats to ocean-going

ballistic missile submarines. Unexpectedly, royal prayer has also helped to improve the standing of women in society; today it recognis
