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| Soggetti | Coptic inscriptions - Egypt Graffiti - History Manuscripts, Greek (Papyri) - Egypt Ostraka Printed ephemera - History Syriac language Written communication - Egypt - History Written communication - Middle East - History |
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| Nota di contenuto | Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Informal Writing in a Public Place: The Graffiti of Smyrna -- 2. The Ubiquity of Documents in the Hellenistic East -- 3. Documenting Slavery in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt -- 4. Greek and Coptic in Late Antique Egypt -- 5. Greek and Syriac in the Roman Near East -- 6. Writing on Ostraca: A Culture of Potsherds? -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | Most of the everyday writing from the ancient world-that is, informal writing not intended for a long life or wide public distribution-has perished. Reinterpreting the silences and blanks of the historical record, leading papyrologist Roger S. Bagnall convincingly argues that ordinary people-from Britain to Egypt to Afghanistan-used writing in their daily lives far more extensively than has been recognized. |

Marshalling new and little-known evidence, including remarkable graffiti recently discovered in Smyrna, Bagnall presents a fascinating analysis of writing in different segments of society. His book offers a new picture of literacy in the ancient world in which Aramaic rivals Greek and Latin as a great international language, and in which many other local languages develop means of written expression alongside these metropolitan tongues.
