Record Nr. UNINA9910787528203321 Autore **Engel Katherine Carte Titolo** Religion and profit [[electronic resource]]: Moravians in early America / / Katherine Carte Engel Philadelphia, Pa., : University of Pennsylvania Press Pubbl/distr/stampa Oxford, : Oxford Creative Marketing [distributor], [2011] **ISBN** 0-8122-0185-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (324 p.) Collana Early American Studies Disciplina 284.674822 Moravians - Pennsylvania - Bethlehem - History Soggetti Religion - Economic aspects Economics - Religious aspects Bethlehem (Pa.) History 18th century Bethlehem (Pa.) Religion 18th century Bethlehem (Pa.) Economic conditions 18th century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Originally presented as the author's thesis (doctoral--University of Wisconsin) under the title: Of heaven and earth. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Front matter -- CONTENTS -- NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY --Nota di contenuto INTRODUCTION -- CHAPTER 1: The Pilgrims' Mission -- CHAPTER 2: Interconnected Worlds -- CHAPTER 3: Moravian Expansion in the Mid-Atlantic -- CHAPTER 4: The Moral Parameters of Economic Endeavor --CHAPTER 5: Atlantic Currents: Global War and the Fate of Moravian Communalism -- CHAPTER 6: Two Revolutions: Ending the Oeconomy and Losing the Missions -- CHAPTER 7: A Change in Mission --CHAPTER 8: Unraveled Strands -- Conclusion -- ABBREVIATIONS --NOTES -- INDEX -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Sommario/riassunto The Moravians, a Protestant sect founded in 1727 by Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf and based in Germany, were key players in the rise of international evangelicalism. In 1741, after planting communities on the frontiers of empires throughout the Atlantic world, they settled the communitarian enclave of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in

order to spread the Gospel to thousands of nearby colonists and Native Americans. In time, the Moravians became some of early America's

most successful missionaries. Such vast projects demanded vast sums. Bethlehem's Moravians supported their work through financial savvy and an efficient brand of communalism. Moravian commercial networks, stretching from the Pennsylvania backcountry to Europe's financial capitals, also facilitated their efforts. Missionary outreach and commerce went hand in hand for this group, making it impossible to understand the Moravians' religious work without appreciating their sophisticated economic practices as well. Of course, making money in a manner that be fitted a Christian organization required considerable effort, but it was a balancing act that Moravian leaders embraced with vigor. Religion and Profit traces the Moravians' evolving mission projects, their strategies for supporting those missions, and their gradual integration into the society of eighteenth-century North America. Katherine Carté Engel demonstrates the complex influence Moravian religious life had on the group's economic practices, and argues that the imperial conflict between Euro-Americans and Native Americans, and not the growth of capitalism or a process of secularization, ultimately reconfigured the circumstances of missionary work for the Moravians, altering their religious lives and economic practices.