

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788579703321
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Titolo	Founding the Fathers [[electronic resource] ] : early church history and Protestant professors in nineteenth-century America // Elizabeth A. Clark
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2011
ISBN	1-283-89632-X 0-8122-0432-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (572 p.)
Collana	Divinations : rereading late ancient religion
Disciplina	230.071/173
Soggetti	Theology - Study and teaching - United States - History - 19th century Fathers of the church - Study and teaching - United States - History - 19th century Protestant theological seminaries - United States - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [499]-540) and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. I. The setting : contextualizing the study of early Christianity in America -- pt. II. History and historiography -- pt. III. Topics of early Christian history in nineteenth-century analysis.
Sommario/riassunto	Through their teaching of early Christian history and theology, Elizabeth A. Clark contends, Princeton Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, Yale Divinity School, and Union Theological Seminary functioned as America's closest equivalents to graduate schools in the humanities during the nineteenth century. These four Protestant institutions, founded to train clergy, later became the cradles for the nonsectarian study of religion at secular colleges and universities. Clark, one of the world's most eminent scholars of early Christianity, explores this development in <i>Founding the Fathers: Early Church History and Protestant Professors in Nineteenth-Century America</i> . Based on voluminous archival materials, the book charts how American theologians traveled to Europe to study in Germany and confronted intellectual currents that were invigorating but potentially threatening to their faith. The Union and Yale professors in particular struggled to tame German biblical and philosophical criticism to fit American

evangelical convictions. German models that encouraged a positive view of early and medieval Christianity collided with Protestant assumptions that the church had declined grievously between the Apostolic and Reformation eras. Trying to reconcile these views, the Americans came to offer some counterbalance to traditional Protestant hostility both to contemporary Roman Catholicism and to those historical periods that had been perceived as Catholic, especially the patristic era.

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