

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788946303321
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Titolo	What was history? : the art of history in early modern Europe // Anthony Grafton [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-139-89397-1 1-139-19695-2 1-107-38427-3 1-107-41457-1 1-107-39070-2 1-107-38778-7
Edizione	[Canto Classics edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 319 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Canto classics
Disciplina	940.2/3072
Soggetti	Historiography - Europe - History History - Philosophy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 255-304) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Historical criticism in early modern Europe -- 2. The origins of the Ars historica: a question mal posee? -- 3. Method and madness in the Ars historica: three case studies -- 4. Death of a genre.
Sommario/riassunto	From the late fifteenth century onwards, scholars across Europe began to write books about how to read and evaluate histories. These pioneering works grew from complex early modern debates about law, religion and classical scholarship. Anthony Grafton's book is based on his Trevelyan Lectures of 2005, and it proves to be a powerful and imaginative exploration of some central themes in the history of European ideas. Grafton explains why so many of these works were written, why they attained so much insight - and why, in the centuries that followed, most scholars gradually forgot that they had existed. Elegant and accessible, What Was History? is a deliberate evocation of E. H. Carr's celebrated Trevelyan Lectures, What Is History?.