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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Cast of Characters -- 1. Storms in the Ca rib be an Sea and the Life of Lord Londonderry -- 2. The War of the Spanish Succession and the Jacobite Rebellion -- 3. The Diamond Deal -- 4. Learning by Doing: Law and Londonderry Before the Bet -- 5. The Bet of the Bubbles -- 6. The Blowing and Bursting of Bubbles -- 7. The Workout -- 8. Family Problems -- 9. Did the Speculations of Law and Londonderry Matter? -- 10. Epilogue -- Appendix: Preliminary Cata logue of the Londonderry Papers -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Two of the greatest financial fiascos of all time took place at the same time and were instigated by two acquaintances: the Mississippi Bubble, on which John Law at first made a vast fortune and gained sway over French finances; and the South Sea Bubble, launched by Law and Thomas Pitt, Jr., Lord Londonderry, his main partner in England. This book tells the story of these two financial schemes from the letters and accounts of two leading personalities. Larry Neal, a distinguished economic historian, highlights the rationality of each person and also finds that the primitive exchanges of the day, though informal and completely unregulated, actually performed reasonably well.

