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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910797704603321 |
| Autore | Zysk Kenneth G. |
| Titolo | The Indian system of human marks : with editions, translations and annotations // Kenneth G. Zysk |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Leiden, [Netherlands] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : Brill, , 2016 ©2016 |
| ISBN | 90-04-29982-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (970 p.) |
| Collana | Sir Henry Wellcome Asian Series, , 1570-1484 ; ; Volume 15 |
| Disciplina | 138.0954 |
| Soggetti | Omens - Religious aspects Human body - Religious aspects Divination - India - History |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Front Matter / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Introduction / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Formulations: The System of Human Marks in Jyotistra / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Reformulations: The System of Human Marks in the Puras / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Consolidations: The System of Human Marks in the Nibandhas, Kmastra and Ratistra / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Assimilations: Independent Treatises on the System of Human Marks: Smudrikastra / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Numerology in the Indian System of Human Marks / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Texts and Translations / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Grgyajyotia Chapter I Purualakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Grgyajyotia Chapter II trlakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Bhatsahit 68 (67) Purualakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Bhatsahit 70 (69) Strlakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Utpala's Samudra Chapter I (Purualakaam) / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Utpala's Samudra Chapter II (Strlakaam) / Kenneth G. Zysk -- rdlakarvadnam (Divyvadna 33) / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Agnipura 243 Purualakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Agni Pura 244 Strlakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Viudharmottarapura 2.8 Purualakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Viudharmottara Pura 2.9 Strlakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Garuapura 1.63 Purualakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Garuapura 1.64 Strlakaam / Kenneth G. Zysk -- Garuapura 1.65 |

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Sommario/riassunto

In The Indian System of Human Marks , Zysk offers a literary history of the Indian system of knowledge, which details divination by means of the marks on the bodies of both men and women. In addition to a historical analysis, the work includes texts and translations of the earliest treatises in Sanskrit. This is followed by a detailed philological analysis of the texts and annotations to the translations. The history follows the Indian system's evolution from its roots in ancient Mesopotamian collections of omen on the human body to modern-day practice in Rajasthan in the north and Tamilnadu in the south. A special feature of the book is Zysk's edition and translation of the earliest textual collection of the system in the Gargyajyotia from the 1st century CE. The system of human marks is one of the few Indian textual sources that links ancient India with the antique cultures of Mesopotamia and Greece.
