Record Nr. UNINA9910798726803321 Autore Bilis Helene E. Titolo Passing Judgment: The Politics and Poetics of Sovereignty in French Tragedy from Hardy to Racine / / Helene E. Bilis Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto:,: University of Toronto Press,, [2018] ©2016 **ISBN** 1-4875-1057-8 1-4875-1056-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (279 pages) Disciplina 842,409 Soggetti French drama - 17th century - History and criticism French drama (Tragedy) - History and criticism Sovereignty in literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto The critique of Le Cid: Richelieu, royal judgment, and the rules --Failed judgments, thwarted justice: Alexandre Hardy's Scedase ou l'hospitalite violee -- The ceremony unravels : tragedy's comedic turn -- Learning from experience : on Corneille and coherence -- Corneille's Cinna and Rotrou's Crisante: a search for the emperor's judgment --Racine and royal fathers of injustice: Mithridate and Phedre. Sommario/riassunto "The royal judge was an archetypal character in French tragedy during the 17th century. This figure impersonated the king by asserting his judicial authority and bringing order to an otherwise chaotic world. In Passing Judgment, Helene Bilis examines how an overlooked charactertype-the royal judge-remained a constant of the tragic genre throughout the 17th century, although the specifics of his role and position fluctuated as playwrights experimented with changing models of sovereignty onstage. Her readings analyze how this royal decisionmaker stood at the intersection of political and theatrical debates, and evolved through a process of trial and error in which certain portrayals of kingship were deemed obsolete and were discarded, while others were promoted as culturally allowable and resonant. In tracing the royal

judge's persistent presence and transformation, Bilis argues that we

can better grasp the weighty political stakes of theatrical representations under the ancient regime."--