

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910807120903321
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Titolo	The figures of Edgar Allan Poe : authorship, antebellum literature, and transatlantic rhetoric / / Gero Guttzeit
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, [Germany] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	3-11-052015-X 3-11-051818-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (256 pages) : illustrations, tables
Collana	Buchreihe der Anglia, , 0340-5435 ; ; Volume 56 = Anglia Book Series
Disciplina	818.309
Soggetti	LITERARY CRITICISM / European / English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgements -- Abbreviations -- Note on the Text -- Introduction -- Part I. Authorship, Antebellum Literature, and Transatlantic Rhetoric -- 1 Towards a Rhetoric of Authorship: Theoretical, Poetical, and Performative Figures of the Author -- 2 "Under the Ban of the Empire of Literature": Print Culture, the Rise of the Author, and the Transatlantic Dispersal of Rhetoric, 1776-1849 -- Part II. The Figures of Edgar Allan Poe -- 3 "Letters of Recommendation": The Transatlantic Poet-Critic between the Rules of Rhetoric and Romantic Aesthetics -- 4 The Genius Rhetorician: The Rhetoric of "The Philosophy of Composition" -- 5 "The Ingenuity of Unravelling": Abductive Powers and Rhetorical Inventors in the Tales of Ratiocination -- 6 The Jingle-Man and the Damned Rhetorician: Poetry, Elocution, and the Political Rationale of Verse -- 7 "The Only Proper Stage for the Literary Histro": Delivery and its Dangers in the Antebellum Cultures of Rhetoric and Print -- Concluding Remarks -- Works Cited -- Index of Names -- Index of Subjects
Sommario/riassunto	The Figures of Edgar Allan Poe is the first study to address the rhetorical dimensions of Poe's textual and discursive practices. It argues that Poe is a figure and figurer of the emergence of the modern understanding of literature in the early nineteenth century that resulted from the birth of the romantic author and the so-called 'death of rhetoric'. Building on accounts of Poe as a skilled navigator of American

antebellum print culture, Gero Guttzeit reinterprets Poe as representative of the vital role that transatlantic rhetoric played in antebellum literature. He investigates rhetorical figures of the author in Poe's critical writings, tales, poems, and lectures to give a new account of Poe's significance for antebellum literary culture. In so doing, he also proposes a general rhetorical theory of theoretical, poetical, and performative figures of the author. Beyond Poe studies, the book intervenes in current debates on the romantic origins of the modern author and demonstrates that rhetorical theory offers new ways of exploring authorship beyond the nineteenth century.

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