1. Record Nr. UNINA9910808939303321

Autore Ward Ian <1963->

Titolo Sex, crime and literature in Victorian England / / lan Ward

Pubbl/distr/stampa Oxford:,: Hart Publishing,, 2014

ISBN 1-4742-0132-6

1-78225-369-6

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (161 p.)

Disciplina 820.9'3538'09034

Soggetti Adultery - England - History - 19th century

Bigamy - England - History - 19th century

Crime in literature

English literature - 19th century - History and criticism

Infanticide - England - History - 19th century Prostitution - England - History - 19th century

Women in literature

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Includes index.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Angels in the house -- At home with the Dombeys -- The disease of

reading -- Pleasing and teaching -- One person in law -- Newcome v. Lord Highgate -- Carlyle v. Carlyle -- Oh reader! -- The sensational moment -- Fashionable crimes -- Mrs. Mellish's marriages -- The shame of Miss Braddon -- The precious quality of truthfulness -- Hardwicke's children -- R v. Sorrel -- The lost and the saved -- Walking the streets -- The murder of Nancy Sikes -- Contemplating

Jenny -- Because men made the laws.

Sommario/riassunto "The Victorians worried about many things, prominent among their

worries being the 'condition' of England and the 'question' of its women. Sex, Crime and Literature in Victorian England revisits these particular anxieties, concentrating more closely upon four 'crimes' which generated special concern amongst contemporaries: adultery, bigamy, infanticide, and prostitution. Each engaged with questions of sexuality and its regulation - as well as the legal, moral, and cultural

concerns - which attracted the considerable interest, not just of lawyers

and parliamentarians, but also novelists and poets, and perhaps most importantly, those who, in ever-larger numbers, liked to pass their leisure hours reading about sex and crime. Alongside statutes such as the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act and the 1864 Contagious Diseases Act, the book contemplates those texts which shaped Victorian attitudes towards England's 'condition' and the 'question' of its women - the novels of Dickens, Thackeray, and Eliot; the works of sensationalists, such as Ellen Wood and Mary Braddon; and the poetry of Gabriel and Christina Rossetti. Sex, Crime and Literature in Victorian England is a richly contextual commentary on a critical period in the evolution of modern legal and cultural attitudes to the relation of crime, sexuality, and the family. It is an important study for all those interested in law and literature, legal history, and criminology"--Bloomsbury Publishing.

"An exploration of the texts which shaped Victorian attitudes towards the 'condition' of England and the 'question' of its women. It offers a richly contextual commentary on a critical period in the evolution of modern legal and cultural attitudes to the relation of crime, sexuality and the family."--Bloomsbury Publishing.