

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812318003321
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Titolo	The Great Barrier Reef : history, science, heritage // James Bowen and Margarita Bowen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, UK ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2002
ISBN	1-107-13728-4 1-280-16264-3 9786610162642 1-139-14902-4 0-511-12134-2 0-511-06221-4 0-511-05588-9 0-511-30817-5 0-511-48168-3 0-511-07067-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 454 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Altri autori (Persone)	BowenMargarita
Disciplina	578.7789476
Soggetti	Natural history - Australia - Great Barrier Reef (Qld.) Coral reef conservation - Australia - Great Barrier Reef (Qld.) Great Barrier Reef (Qld.) History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Errata slip inserted.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [429]-445).
Nota di contenuto	Navigators and Naturalists in the Age of Sail -- Quest for the Great South Land -- Navigators in the New World -- Portugal and Spain: first navigators of Terra Australis? -- New explorers: Dutch, English, French -- South Pacific navigation and the Transit of Venus, 1769 -- Voyage of the Endeavour: Cook and the 'Labyrinth' -- The expedition to Tahiti -- Encounter with the Reef: through the 'Labyrinth', 1770 -- An error of judgment? Endeavour holed on a reef -- The Endeavour voyage published: the Reef mystique develops -- A bizarre controversy: did Cook discover the Reef? -- Endeavour Naturalists: 'A Separate Creation' -- Eighteenth century natural science: a ferment of ideas -- Endeavour voyage: first scientific study of the Reef -- Banks' Florilegium: the great

compendium -- Fate of the Endeavour zoological specimens -- Matthew Flinders: Voyage of the Investigator -- British settlement of New South Wales -- Bligh and Flinders: early Reef surveys -- Flinders' surveys 1795-1799 -- The urgent issue: survey of the colony -- New Holland: missing links in nature's chain? -- Robert Brown: plant taxonomy in a new world -- Science assessed: Brown and Bauer in England 1805-1814 -- A Voyage to Terra Australis: the journal published, 1814 -- The Reef Explored: Early Surveys, 1821-1844 -- Expansion of the colony: first decades -- Australian coastline charts completed: Jeffreys and King 1815-1822 -- Geological observations: rise of controversy -- Accurate reef charts: Beagle survey 1837-1844 -- Jukes and MacGillivray: naturalists on the Fly 1843-1845.

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### Sommario/riassunto

One of the world's natural wonders, the Great Barrier Reef stretches more than 2000 kilometres in a maze of coral reefs and islands along Australia's north-eastern coastline. Now unfolding the fascinating story behind its mystique this 2002 book provides for the first time a comprehensive cultural and ecological history of European impact, from early voyages of discovery to developments in Reef science and management. Incisive and a delight to read in its thorough account of the scientific, social and environmental consequences of European impact on the world's greatest coral reef system, this extraordinary book is sure to become a classic.

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