

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816202603321
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Titolo	Dancing around the well : the circulation of commonplaces in Renaissance humanism / / Eric M. MacPhail
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden, Netherlands : , : Brill, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	90-04-27715-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (177 p.)
Collana	Brill's Studies in Intellectual History, , 0920-8607 ; ; Volume 232
Disciplina	809/.024
Soggetti	European literature - Renaissance, 1450-1600 - Classical influences Proverbs - History and criticism Maxims - History and criticism Metaphor Cliches Humanism in literature Commonplace books - 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	Preliminary Material -- Introduction: Dancing Around the Well -- 1 In the Beginning there was Chaos -- 2 A Gem in its Setting -- 3 Words Frozen and Thawed -- 4 Rhapsody in Prose -- 5 The Mosaic of Speech -- 6 The Universal Library -- 7 In a Roman Mirror -- Conclusion: Emptying the Well -- Bibliography -- Index locorum communium -- Index rerum perutilium -- Index nominum illustrium -- Index Erasmianus.
Sommario/riassunto	This study examines the transmission and transformation of commonplace wisdom in Renaissance humanism by tracing a series of filiations between classical sayings, anecdotes, and examples and Renaissance poems, essays, and fictions. The circulation of commonplaces can be understood either as a process of reanimation and revitalization, where frozen sayings thaw out and come to life, or conversely as a process of immobilization and incrustation that petrifies tradition. The paradigmatic figure for this process is the proverbial dance around the well, which expresses both the danger and

the compulsion of borrowed speech.
