

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817956503321
Autore	Urbanski Charity <1970->
Titolo	Writing history for the king : Henry II and the politics of vernacular historiography // Charity Urbanski
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca : , : Cornell University Press, , 2013
ISBN	0-8014-6971-6 0-8014-6972-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (271 p.)
Disciplina	942.02072
Soggetti	HISTORY / Medieval Great Britain History Norman period, 1066-1154 Historiography Great Britain History Angevin period, 1154-1216 Historiography Normandy (France) Historiography
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- List of Abbreviations -- Norman Genealogical Table -- Map of the Angevin Empire -- Introduction -- 1. Situating the Roman de Rou and Chronique des ducs de Normandie -- 2. Henry II -- 3. The Roman de Rou -- 4. The Chronique des ducs de Normandie -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Writing History for the King is at once a reassessment of the reign of Henry II of England (1133-1189) and an original contribution to our understanding of the rise of vernacular historiography in the high Middle Ages. Charity Urbanski focuses on two dynastic histories commissioned by Henry: Wace's Roman de Rou (c. 1160-1174) and Benoît de Sainte-Maure's Chronique des ducs de Normandie (c. 1174-1189). In both cases, Henry adopted the new genre of vernacular historical writing in Old French verse in an effort to disseminate a royalist version of the past that would help secure a grip on power for himself and his children. Wace was the first to be commissioned, but in 1174 the king abruptly fired him, turning the task over to Benoît de Sainte-Maure. Urbanski examines these histories as part of a single enterprise intended to cement the king's authority by enhancing the

prestige of Henry II's dynasty. In a close reading of Wace's *Rou*, she shows that it presented a less than flattering picture of Henry's predecessors, in effect challenging his policies and casting a shadow over the legitimacy of his rule. Benoît de Sainte-Maure's *Chronique*, in contrast, mounted a staunchly royalist defense of Anglo-Norman kingship. Urbanski reads both works in the context of Henry's reign, arguing that as part of his drive to curb baronial power he sought a history that would memorialize his dynasty and solidify its claim to England and Normandy.
