Record Nr. UNINA9910824731803321 Autore Khanmohamadi Shirin A Titolo In light of another's word: European ethnography in the Middle Ages / / Shirin A. Khanmohamadi Pubbl/distr/stampa Philadelphia:,: University of Pennsylvania Press,, [2014] ©2014 **ISBN** 0-8122-0897-8 Edizione [First edition.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (211 p.) Collana The Middle Ages series Disciplina 305.80094 Soggetti Authors, Medieval - Attitudes Civilization, Medieval East and West - History - To 1500 Ethnology - Europe - History - To 1500 Travel, Medieval - History Travelers' writings, European - History and criticism Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. Conquest, Conversion, Nota di contenuto Crusade, Salvation: The Discourse of Anthropology and Its Uses in the Medieval Period -- 2. Subjective Beginnings: Autoethnography and the Partial Gazes of Gerald of Wales -- 3. Writing Ethnography "In the Eyes of the Other": William of Rubruck's Mission to Mongolia -- 4. Casting a "Sideways Glance" at the Crusades: The Voice of the Other in Joinville's Vie de Saint Louis -- 5. Dis-Orienting the Self: The Uncanny Travels of John Mandeville -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index --Acknowledgments Sommario/riassunto Challenging the traditional conception of medieval Europe as insular and even xenophobic, Shirin A. Khanmohamadi's In Light of Another's Word looks to early ethnographic writers who were surprisingly aware of their own otherness, especially when faced with the far-flung peoples and cultures they meant to describe. These authors-William of Rubruck among the Mongols, "John Mandeville" cataloguing the world's

diverse wonders, Geraldus Cambrensis describing the manners of the twelfth-century Welsh, and Jean de Joinville in his account of the

various Saracens encountered on the Seventh Crusade-display an uncanny ability to see and understand from the perspective of the very strangers who are their subjects. Khanmohamadi elaborates on a distinctive late medieval ethnographic poetics marked by both a profound openness to alternative perspectives and voices and a sense of the formidable threat of such openness to Europe's governing religious and cultural orthodoxies. That we can hear the voices of medieval Europe's others in these narratives in spite of such orthodoxies allows us to take full measure of the productive forces of disorientation and destabilization at work on these early ethnographic writers .Poised at the intersection of medieval studies, anthropology, and visual culture, In Light of Another's Word is an innovative departure from each, extending existing studies of medieval travel writing into the realm of poetics, of ethnographic form into the premodern realm, and of early visual culture into the realm of ethnographic encounter.