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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Beginning with No Beginning -- 1. The Errant Letter and the Whispering Gallery -- 2. The Displaced Self in the Novels of Daniel Defoe -- 3. Tom Jones: The "Bastard" of History -- 4. Tristram to the Hebrews: Some Notes on the Institution of a Canonic Text -- 5. Sir Walter Scott and the Institution of History: The Jacobite Novels in the Relation of Fathers -- 6. The Institution of the English Novel -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In Institutions of the English Novel, Homer Obed Brown takes issue with the generally accepted origin of the novel in the early eighteenth century. Brown argues that what we now call the novel did not appear as a recognized single "genre" until the early nineteenth century, when the fictional prose narratives of the preceding century were grouped together under that name. After analyzing the figurative and thematic uses of private letters and social gossip in the constitution of the novel, Brown explores what was instituted in and by the fictions of Defoe, Fielding, Sterne, and Scott, with extensive discussion of the pivotal role Scott's work played in the novel's rise to institutional status. This study

is an intriguing demonstration of how these earlier narratives are involved in the development and institution of such political and cultural concepts as self, personal identity, the family, and history, all of which contributed to the later possibility of the novel.
