

1. Record Nr.	UNISALENT0991001002309707536
Titolo	Musica medievale fino al Trecento / a cura di Dom Anselm Hugues
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Milano : Feltrinelli, 1975
Descrizione fisica	502 p. ; 20 cm
Collana	Storia della musica ; 2
Altri autori (Persone)	Hugues, Dom Anselm
Soggetti	Musica medievale
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910831501203321
Autore	Hutson Scott R
Titolo	Realizing Value in Mesoamerica : The Dynamics of Desire and Demand in Ancient Economies / / edited by Scott R. Hutson, Charles Golden
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2023
ISBN	9783031441684 3031441680
Edizione	[1st ed. 2023.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (461 pages)
Collana	Palgrave Studies in Ancient Economies, , 2752-3306
Altri autori (Persone)	GoldenCharles
Disciplina	970
Soggetti	Economic history Prehistoric peoples America - History Political anthropology Economic anthropology Economic History Prehistoric Archaeology History of the Americas Political and Economic Anthropology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa

## Livello bibliografico

### Nota di contenuto

## Monografia

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### Sommario/riassunto

This edited collection addresses concepts of value and its impact on economies and economic decision-making in Mesoamerica. It brings together various theoretical and methodological approaches to illuminate the little-studied topic of value in ancient economies. While scholars increasingly note that tangible objects found in the archaeological record could assume different values, depending on how they were used and circulated, less attention has been paid to how we might infer consensus (or lack of consensus) on how value was determined in past cultures so different from contemporary ones. These contributions show how multiple and conflicting understandings of what is important and meaningful coexist within any society even as moments of exchange create the impression of shared formulations of value. They consider divergences between shared understandings based on systems of beliefs and patterns of practice and the individual decisions of social actors. They also discuss how inequalities in social structures might inform our understanding of value, and how a multiplicity of values might encourage closer inspection of inequality in turn. The book brings together fifteen chapters focused on many parts of Mesoamerica, including Western Mexico, the Basin of Mexico, Veracruz, Oaxaca, and various parts of the Maya Lowlands, and range chronologically from the Classic period (250-900 CE) to the Spanish Conquest in the early 16th Century. It appeals to those working in archaeology, economic anthropology, economic history, and all those interested in how value can be understood in terms of contemporary cultural and political differences. Scott Hutson is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky. He is the author of several books on the Maya. He has been doing fieldwork in the Maya lowlands, usually focusing on household archaeology, settlement patterns, and ritual practice, since 1996. Charles Golden is Professor of Anthropology at Brandeis University. He has conducted archaeological research in Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico, and his investigations have focused on the borders between Maya kingdoms and the economic,

social, and ritual ties that bind rural villages into larger political communities.

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