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Nota di contenuto	Kepler's place in the history of astronomy -- Religion and natural philosophy -- Late Humanism -- The geometrical cosmos -- The occult sciences -- Kepler's astrology -- Tycho Brahe and observational astronomy -- Beginning the quest for physical causes -- Kepler's theoretical astronomy: the laws of planetary motion -- Kepler's contributions to optics -- Kepler and Galileo: Copernican cosmology, telescopes and comets -- The Rudolphine Tables -- Kepler's contributions to mathematics -- Working continuously: Kepler's investigations into fluid mechanics -- 'A Warning to Astronomers' -- Somnium -- Kepler in Translation -- Kepler's personality and life -- Epilogue: Kepler and the historians -- A Kepler Chronology.
Sommario/riassunto	This volume provides a wide-ranging introduction to Kepler's work, with essays on his religion, his cosmological theories, his work in astronomy, astrology, optics and mathematics and his interactions with Tycho Brahe and Galileo Galilei. Kepler is a major figure in the history of science. His laws of planetary motion overthrew a tradition, going back as far as the ancient Greeks, of constructing the paths of planets

by combinations of circles; and the derivation of the laws was revolutionary in the way it relied upon detailed agreement with observations. Moreover, the laws explicitly relate the motion and path of each planet to the Sun. Thus, when the tables that Kepler based upon the laws proved to be highly reliable over many decades, this played a crucial part in making heliocentrism acceptable. And many years after Kepler's death the laws themselves played an important part in Newton's derivation of the inverse square law of gravitation in his Principia (1687). In this respect, Kepler can look 'modern'. But his work is grounded in his religious belief that the Universe is the visible expression of the nature of the God who created it. This book, whose chapters are written by leading scholars, is primarily addressed to undergraduate and graduate students of science and the history of science but will also appeal to the general reader with an interest in the history of science.
