

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910955375903321
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Titolo	Everyday writing in the Graeco-Roman East // Roger S. Bagnall
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2011
ISBN	9786613277695 9781283277693 1283277697 9780520948525 0520948521
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (179 p.)
Collana	Sather classical lectures ; ; v. 69
Disciplina	302.2/24409394
Soggetti	Coptic inscriptions - Egypt Graffiti - History Manuscripts, Greek (Papyri) - Egypt Ostraka Printed ephemera - History Syriac language Written communication - Egypt - History Written communication - Middle East - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Informal Writing in a Public Place: The Graffiti of Smyrna -- 2. The Ubiquity of Documents in the Hellenistic East -- 3. Documenting Slavery in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt -- 4. Greek and Coptic in Late Antique Egypt -- 5. Greek and Syriac in the Roman Near East -- 6. Writing on Ostraca: A Culture of Potsherds? -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Most of the everyday writing from the ancient world-that is, informal writing not intended for a long life or wide public distribution-has perished. Reinterpreting the silences and blanks of the historical record, leading papyrologist Roger S. Bagnall convincingly argues that ordinary people-from Britain to Egypt to Afghanistan-used writing in

their daily lives far more extensively than has been recognized. Marshalling new and little-known evidence, including remarkable graffiti recently discovered in Smyrna, Bagnall presents a fascinating analysis of writing in different segments of society. His book offers a new picture of literacy in the ancient world in which Aramaic rivals Greek and Latin as a great international language, and in which many other local languages develop means of written expression alongside these metropolitan tongues.

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