

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910965819503321
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Titolo	Imagining Xerxes : ancient perspectives on a Persian king / Emma Bridges
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Bloomsbury Academic, 2014
ISBN	9781472511324 1472511328 9781474260725 1474260721 9781472593160 1472593162 9781472511379 1472511379
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (246 p.)
Collana	Bloomsbury studies in classical reception
Disciplina	935/.705092
Soggetti	Greece History Persian Wars, 500-449 B.C Historiography Iran Kings and rulers Biography
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	Introduction: encountering Xerxes -- Staging Xerxes: Aeschylus and beyond -- Historiographical enquiry: the Herodotean Xerxes-narrative -- Xerxes in his own write? The Persian perspective -- Pride, panhellenism and propaganda: Xerxes in the fourth century bc -- The king at court: alternative (hi)stories of Xerxes -- The past as a paradigm: Xerxes in a world ruled by Rome -- Epilogue: re-imagining Xerxes Introduction: Encountering Xerxes -- 1. Staging Xerxes: Aeschylus and beyond -- 2. Historiographical enquiry: the Herodotean Xerxes-narrative -- 3. Xerxes in his own write? The Persian perspective -- 4. Pride, panhellenism and propaganda: Xerxes in the fourth century BC -- 5. The king at court: alternative (hi)stories of Xerxes -- 6. The past as a paradigm: Xerxes in a world ruled by Rome -- Epilogue: Re-imagining Xerxes -- Bibliography -- Index

Xerxes, the Persian king who invaded Greece in 480 BC, quickly earned a notoriety that endured throughout antiquity and beyond. The Greeks' historical encounter with this eastern king - which resulted, against overwhelming odds, in the defeat of the Persian army - has inspired a series of literary responses to Xerxes in which he is variously portrayed as the archetypal destructive and enslaving aggressor, as the epitome of arrogance and impiety, or as a figure synonymous with the exoticism and luxury of the Persian court. Imagining Xerxes is a transhistorical analysis that explores the richness and variety of Xerxes' afterlives within the ancient literary tradition. It examines the earliest representations of the king, in Aeschylus' tragic play *Persians* and Herodotus' historiographical account of the Persian Wars, before tracing the ways in which the image of Xerxes was revisited and adapted in later Greek and Latin texts. The author also looks beyond the Hellenocentric viewpoint to consider the construction of Xerxes' image in the Persian epigraphic record and the alternative perspectives on the king found in the Jewish written tradition. Analysing these diverse representations of Xerxes, this title explores the reception of a key figure in the ancient world and the reinvention of his image in a remarkable array of cultural and historical contexts

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