1. **Record Nr.**   UNINA9910966965103321

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    Titolo   Cicero and the rise of deification at Rome / / Spencer Cole

    Pubbl/distr/stampa   Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013

    ISBN   9781139892421
1139892428
9781107702844
1107702844
9781107701755
1107701759
9781107667006
1107667003
9781107689848
1107689848
9781107703759
1107703751
9781107598263
1107598265
9781139506373
1139506374
9781107596573
1107596572

    Descrizione fisica   1 online resource (vii, 208 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)

    Classificazione   HIS002000

    Disciplina   292.07

    Soggetti   Apotheosis - Rome
Emperor worship - Rome

    Lingua di pubblicazione   Inglese

    Formato   Materiale a stampa

    Livello bibliografico   Monografia

    Note generali   Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).

    Nota di bibliografia   Includes bibliographical references and index.

    Nota di contenuto   Introduction -- 1. The cultural work of metaphor -- 2. Experiments and invented traditions -- 3. Charting the posthumous path -- 4. Revisions and Rome's new god -- Conclusions.

Sommario/riassunto

This book tells a part of the back-story to major religious transformations emerging from the tumult of the late Republic. It considers the dynamic interplay of Cicero's approximations of mortals and immortals with a range of artifacts and activities that were collectively closing the divide between humans and gods. A guiding principle is that a major cultural player like Cicero had a normative function in religious dialogues that could legitimize incipient ideas like deification. Applying contemporary metaphor theory, it analyzes the strategies and priorities configuring Cicero's divinizing encomia of Roman dynasts like Pompey, Caesar and Octavian. It also examines Cicero's explorations of apotheosis and immortality in the De re publica and Tusculan Disputations as well as his attempts to deify his daughter Tullia. In this book, Professor Cole transforms our understanding not only of the backgrounds to ruler worship but also of changing conceptions of death and the afterlife.