

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910967861803321
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Titolo	Reclaiming Rome : cardinals in the fifteenth century / / by Carol M. Richardson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2009
ISBN	1-282-40054-1 9786612400544 90-474-2515-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (552 p.)
Collana	Brill's studies in intellectual history, , 0920-8607 ; ; v. 173
Disciplina	262/.13509024
Soggetti	Cardinals - Italy - Rome - History Papacy - History - 1378-1447 Papacy - History - 1447-1565 Rome (Italy) Civilization 15th century
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 (p. [471]-504) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Materials / C.M. Richardson -- Introduction / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter One. The Crisis Of The Councils / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Two. From Three Colleges To One / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Three. Dignity And Dress / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Four. Restoring Rome / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Five. The Titular Churches / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Six. The Allocation Of Titles / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Seven. Property Portfolios / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Eight. The St Peter's Problem / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Nine. St Peter's In The Fifteenth Century / C.M. Richardson -- Chapter Ten. Instructions For A Good Death / C.M. Richardson -- Epilogue / C.M. Richardson -- Bibliography / C.M. Richardson -- Index / C.M. Richardson.
Sommario/riassunto	The fifteenth century was a critical juncture for the College of Cardinals. They were accused of prolonging the exile in Avignon and causing the schism. At the councils at the beginning of the period their very existence was questioned. They rebuilt their relationship with the popes by playing a fundamental part in reclaiming Rome when the papacy returned to its city in 1420. Because their careers were usually

much longer than that of an individual pope, the cardinals combined to form a much more effective force for restoring Rome. In this book, shifting focus from the popes to the cardinals sheds new light on a relatively unknown period for Renaissance art history and the history of Rome. Dr. Carol M. Richardson has been awarded the Philip Leverhulme Prize (2008) in the field of History of Arts.

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