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Nota di contenuto

Cover -- Contents -- Part One -- 1. Three Readers: George Grosz, Moritz Bromme, Adelheid Popp -- 2. For and Against Popular Literature -- 3. Enter Siegfried the Wrestler -- 4. Wrestling -- 5. National and Ethnic Stereotypes -- 6. Current Events and Sensation -- 7. Class Conflict: Siegfried as Peacemaker -- 8. Wilhelmine Women and their Wrestler -- 9. The Contradictions of Colportage: Paternalism and Populism -- 10. Postscript: Heinrich Büttner's First Colportage Novel of 1892 -- Part Two -- The Illustrations -- 1A. Siegfried as Rescuer --

1B. -- 2. Siegfried the Wrestler -- 3A. Active Women -- 3B. -- 3C. -- 4A. Romantic Melodrama -- 4B. -- 4C. -- 5A. Luxury and Fancy Dresses -- 5B. -- 6A. Exotic Settings -- 6B. -- 6C. -- 7A. The Mob and Violence -- 7B. -- 7C. -- 8. Official Justice -- 9. Crime and Society -- 10. Trunks and Boxes -- 11. Antisemitism -- 12. Incongruous Illustrations -- 13. Serial Novel Wrapper Covers -- Notes -- Three Readers: George Grosz, Moritz Bromme, Adelheid Popp -- For and Against Popular Literature -- Enter Siegfried the Wrestler -- Wrestling -- National and Ethnic Stereotypes -- Current Events and Sensation -- Class Conflict: Siegfried as Peacemaker -- Wilhelmine Women and their Wrestler -- The Contradictions of Colportage: Paternalism and Populism -- Postscript: Heinrich Büttner's First Colportage Novel of 1892 -- The Illustrations.

Sommario/riassunto

Continually attacked by government officials and educators, installment or colportage novels fascinated their underprivileged readers. Melodrama and sensation were essential ingredients. The hurriedly written, rambling plots sought to electrify fantasies of women with new turn-of-the-century aspirations. They also fused raw political ideas offering populist and paternalist solutions to society's challenges and tensions. Through the study of one rare, surviving colportage novel, Peter S. Fisher offers an unusual mental and visual panorama of a nearly vanished Wilhelmine world.