

1. Record Nr.	UNISA990001794170203316
Autore	MANZINI, Gianna
Titolo	La sparviera / Gianna Manzini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Milano : Mondadori, 1971
Descrizione fisica	189 p. ; 19 cm
Collana	Gli Oscar
Collocazione	VI.3.A. 114 (Varie coll 34/22) VI.3.A. 114a (Varie coll 34/42)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789521503321
Autore	Mayor Adrienne <1946->
Titolo	The first fossil hunters : dinosaurs, mammoths, and myth in Greek and Roman times / / Adrienne Mayor, with a new introduction by the author
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, NJ : , : Princeton University Press, , [2011] ©2011
ISBN	1-283-22741-X 9786613227416 1-4008-3844-4
Edizione	[With a New introduction by the author]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxx, 361 pages) : illustrations, maps
Disciplina	560
Soggetti	Science, Ancient Paleontology - Rome - History Paleontology - Greece - 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 (pages 333-349) and index.

Nota di contenuto

Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- INTRODUCTION TO THE 2011 EDITION -- GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE -- Introduction -- Historical Time Line -- CHAPTER 1. The Gold-Guarding Griffin: A Paleontological Legend -- CHAPTER 2. Earthquakes and Elephants: Prehistoric Remains in Mediterranean Lands -- CHAPTER 3. Ancient Discoveries of Giant Bones -- CHAPTER 4. Artistic and Archaeological Evidence for Fossil Discoveries -- CHAPTER 5. Mythology, Natural Philosophy, and Fossils -- CHAPTER 6. Centaur Bones: Paleontological Fictions -- APPENDIX 1. Large Vertebrate Fossil Species in the Ancient World -- APPENDIX 2. Ancient Testimonia -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Griffins, Cyclopes, Monsters, and Giants--these fabulous creatures of classical mythology continue to live in the modern imagination through the vivid accounts that have come down to us from the ancient Greeks and Romans. But what if these beings were more than merely fictions? What if monstrous creatures once roamed the earth in the very places where their legends first arose? This is the arresting and original thesis that Adrienne Mayor explores in *The First Fossil Hunters*. Through careful research and meticulous documentation, she convincingly shows that many of the giants and monsters of myth did have a basis in fact--in the enormous bones of long-extinct species that were once abundant in the lands of the Greeks and Romans. As Mayor shows, the Greeks and Romans were well aware that a different breed of creatures once inhabited their lands. They frequently encountered the fossilized bones of these primeval beings, and they developed sophisticated concepts to explain the fossil evidence, concepts that were expressed in mythological stories. The legend of the gold-guarding griffin, for example, sprang from tales first told by Scythian gold-miners, who, passing through the Gobi Desert at the foot of the Altai Mountains, encountered the skeletons of Protoceratops and other dinosaurs that littered the ground. Like their modern counterparts, the ancient fossil hunters collected and measured impressive petrified remains and displayed them in temples and museums; they attempted to reconstruct the appearance of these prehistoric creatures and to explain their extinction. Long thought to be fantasy, the remarkably detailed and perceptive Greek and Roman accounts of giant bone finds were actually based on solid paleontological facts. By reading these neglected narratives for the first time in the light of modern scientific discoveries, Adrienne Mayor illuminates a lost world of ancient paleontology.