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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part One. The East -- 1. The Scriptural East: Egeria, Arculf, and the Written Pilgrimage -- 2. The Fabulous East: "Wonder Books" and Grotesque Facts -- 3. The Utter East: Merchant and Missionary Travels during the "Mongol Peace" -- 4. "That other half": Mandeville Naturalizes the East -- Part Two. The West -- 5. "The end of the East": Columbus Discovers Paradise -- 6. "Inward Feeling": Raleigh and the Penetration of the Interior -- Epilogue: A Brief History of the Future -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Surveying exotic travel writing in Europe from late antiquity to the age of discover, The Witness and the Other World illustrates the fundamental human desire to change places, if only in the imagination.

Mary B. Campbell looks at works by pilgrims, crusaders, merchants, discoverers, even armchair fantasists such as Mandeville, as well as the writings of Marco Polo, Columbus, and Walter Raleigh. According to Campbell, these travel accounts are exotic because they bear witness to alienated experiences; European travelers, while claiming to relate fact, were often passing on monstrous projections. She contends that their writing not only documented but also made possible the conquest of the peoples whom she travelers described, and she shows how travel literature contributed to the genesis of the modern novel and the modern life sciences.

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