

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248227003316
Autore	Effros Bonnie <1965->
Titolo	Merovingian mortuary archaeology and the making of the early Middle Ages // Bonnie Effros
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley : , : University of California Press, , 2003
ISBN	1-282-35670-4 9786612356704 0-520-92818-0 1-59734-743-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 272 pages) : illustrations, map
Collana	The transformation of the classical heritage ; ; 35
Disciplina	393.9/09364
Soggetti	Merovingians - Funeral customs and rites Funeral rites and ceremonies - Gaul Gaul Social life and customs Gaul Antiquities France History To 987
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. 223-262) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Map and Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1. Antiquaries, historians, and archaeologists: creating a cultural context for early medieval graves -- 2. Modern Assessments of Merovingian Burial -- 3. Grave goods and the ritual expression of identity -- 4. The visual landscape: Cemeterial topography and community hierarchy -- Epilogue -- Select Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Clothing, jewelry, animal remains, ceramics, coins, and weaponry are among the artifacts that have been discovered in graves in Gaul dating from the fifth to eighth century. Those who have unearthed them, from the middle ages to the present, have speculated widely on their meaning. This authoritative book makes a major contribution to the study of death and burial in late antique and early medieval society with its long overdue systematic discussion of this mortuary evidence. Tracing the history of Merovingian archaeology within its cultural and intellectual context for the first time, Effros exposes biases and

prejudices that have colored previous interpretations of these burial sites and assesses what contemporary archaeology can tell us about the Frankish kingdoms. Working at the intersection of history and archaeology, and drawing from anthropology and art history, Effros emphasizes in particular the effects of historical events and intellectual movements on French and German antiquarian and archaeological studies of these grave goods. Her discussion traces the evolution of concepts of nationhood, race, and culture and shows how these concepts helped shape an understanding of the past. Effros then turns to contemporary multidisciplinary methodologies and finds that we are still limited by the types of information that can be readily gleaned from physical and written sources of Merovingian graves. For example, since material evidence found in the graves of elite families and particularly elite men is more plentiful and noteworthy, mortuary goods do not speak as directly to the conditions in which women and the poor lived. The clarity and sophistication with which Effros discusses the methods and results of European archaeology is a compelling demonstration of the impact of nationalist ideologies on a single discipline and of the struggle toward the more pluralistic vision that has developed in the post-war years.
