Record Nr. UNISA996365043803316
Titolo Literary Hispanophobia and His

Literary Hispanophobia and Hispanophilia in Britain and the Low

Countries (1550-1850) / edited by Yolanda Rodriguez Perez

Pubbl/distr/stampa Baltimore, Maryland:,: Project Muse,, 2020

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Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (363)

Collana Heritage and memory studies

Disciplina 820.9/358

Soggetti Dutch literature - History and criticism

English literature - History and criticism

Electronic books.

Spain Foreign public opinion, Dutch Spain Foreign public opinion, English

Spain In literature

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

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## Sommario/riassunto

Spain has been a fruitful locus for the European imagination for centuries, and it has been most often perceived in black-and-white oppositions -- either as a tyrannical and fanatical force in the early modern period or as an imaginary geography of a 'Romantic' Spain in later centuries. However, the image of Spain, its culture and its inhabitants did not evolve inexorably from negative to positive. From the early modern period onwards, it responded to an ambiguous matrix of conflicting Hispanophobic and Hispanophilic representations. Just as in the nineteenth century latent negative stereotypes continued to resurface, even in the Romantic heyday, in the early modern period appreciation for Spain was equally undeniable. When Spain was a political and military superpower, it also enjoyed cultural hegemony with a literary Golden Age producing internationally hailed masterpieces. Literary Hispanophobia and Hispanophilia in Britain and the Low Countries (1550-1850) explores the protracted interest in Spain and its culture, and it exposes the co-existent ambiguity between scorn and fascination that characterizes Western historical perceptions. in particular in Britain and the Low Countries, two geographical spaces with a shared sense of historical connectedness and an overlapping, sometimes complicated, history with Spain.