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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Copyright Page -- Dedication -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Contextualizing Chaoben: On the Popular Manuscript Culture of the Late Qing and Republican Period in China -- Apologia in Chaoben -- Written in the Margins: Reading into Texts -- Teacher Xu: Entering a Classroom in Late Qing China -- A Qing Dynasty Astrologer's Predictions for the Future -- Constructing the Family in Republican China: Shandong 1944 -- Mr. Bai and Mr. Qian Earn Their Living: Considering Two Handwritten Notebooks of Matching Couplets from China in the Late Qing and Early Republic -- The Troublesome Ghosts: Part 1 -- The Troublesome Ghosts: Part 2 -- Concluding Remarks -- A List of Chaoben in the Author's Personal Collection Used in This Study -- Various Categories of Chaoben Not Discussed in the Text -- Korean and Japanese Chaoben -- Full Translation of Fifty Days to Encounter the Five Spirits -- Back Matter -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In this exciting book, Ronald Suleski introduces daily life for the common people of China in the century from 1850 to 1950. They were semi-literate, yet they have left us written accounts of their hopes, fears, and values. They have left us the hand-written manuscripts (

chaoben) now flooding the antiques markets in China. These documents represent a new and heretofore overlooked category of historical sources. Suleski gives a detailed explanation of the interaction of chaoben with the lives of the people. He offers examples of why they were so important to the poor laboring masses: people wanted horoscopes predicting their future, information about the ghosts causing them headaches, a few written words to help them trade in the rural markets, and many more examples are given. The book contains a special appendix giving the first complete translation into English of a chaoben describing the ghosts and goblins that bedeviled the poor working classes.
