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Nota di contenuto	Introduction, the uses of Johnson's biographies / David Wheeler -- Johnson's beginnings / Lawrence Lipking -- Life, art, and the Lives of the poets / James L. Battersby -- Dr. Johnson's solemn response to beneficence / John A. Dussinger -- Johnson's portraits of Charles XII of Sweden / James Gray -- Johnson, Imlac, and biographical thinking / Catherine N. Parke -- The contexts and motives of Johnson's Life of Milton / Stephen Fix -- Johnson's Lives and modern students / William R. Siebenschuh -- Johnson and biography / Michael Stuprich.
Sommario/riassunto	Biography was Samuel Johnson's favorite among literary genres, and his Lives of the Poets is often regarded as the capstone of his career. The central place of biography in his oeuvre is explored in this collection of nine original essays by leading Johnson scholars. Varied in their focus and approach, the essays range from a philosophical overview of Johnson's notion of the relation between life and art, to a detailed reading of the Life of Milton, to a speculation on the value of the Lives in the classroom. Emerging clearly in the essays are the dual concerns -- artistic and intellectual -