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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Table of Contents -- Old Age in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Also an Introduction / Classen, Albrecht -- Age and Style in Late Antique Epistolography: Symmachus' Polemics against the Rhetoric of the Old / Sogno, Cristiana -- Winter in Heorot: Looking at Anglo-Saxon Perceptions of Age and Kingship through the Character of Hrothgar / Rothauser, Britt C. L. -- Old Age and Women in the Carolingian World / Garver, Valerie L. -- The Withdrawal of Aged Noblemen into Monastic Communities: Interpreting the Sources from Twelfth-Century Germany / Lyon, Jonathan R. -- Medieval Latin Meditations on Old Age: Rhetoric, Autobiography, and Experience / Ruys, Juanita Feros -- Old Age in Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival and Titirel / Lazda-Cazers, Rasma -- Old Age in the World of The Stricker and Other Middle High German Poets: A Neglected Topic / Classen, Albrecht -- Merlin, puer senex par excellence / Berthelot, Anne -- Age-Old Words of Wisdom: The Power of the Aged in Grail Literature / Jost, Jean . -- Old Age and Medieval Misogyny: The Old Woman / Mieszkowski, Gretchen -- De vetula: the Figure of the Old Woman in Medieval French Literature / Pratt, Karen -- Celestina: The

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Sommario/riassunto

After an extensive introduction that takes stock of the relevant research literature on Old Age in the Middle Ages and the early modern age, the contributors discuss the phenomenon of old age in many different fields of late antique, medieval, and early modern literature, history, and art history. Both Beowulf and the Hildebrandslied, both Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival and Titurel, both the figure of Merlin and the trans-European tradition of Perceval/Peredur/Parzival, then the figure of the vetula in a variety of medieval French, English, and Spanish texts, and of the Old Man in The Stricker's Daniel, both the treatment of old age in Langland's Piers the Plowman and in Jean Gerson's sermons are dealt with. Other aspects involve late-antique epistolary literature, early modern French farce in light of Disability Studies, the social role of old, impotent men in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Netherlandish paintings, and the scientific discourse of old age and health since the 1500's. The discourse of Old Age proves to have been of central importance throughout the ages, so the critical examination of the issues involved sheds intriguing light on the cultural history from late antiquity to the seventeenth century.
