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Nota di contenuto	Foreword -- Preface -- Introduction (Purposes and Known Results) -- Chapter: 1 Fundamentals of Algebraic Surfaces -- Chapter 2: Pluri- canonical Systems on Algebraic Surfaces of General -- Bibliography.
Sommario/riassunto	This is an English translation of the book in Japanese, published as the volume 20 in the series of Seminar Notes from The University of Tokyo that grew out of a course of lectures by Professor Kunihiko Kodaira in 1967. It serves as an almost self-contained introduction to the theory of complex algebraic surfaces, including concise proofs of Gorenstein's theorem for curves on a surface and Noether's formula for the arithmetic genus. It also discusses the behavior of the pluri-canonical maps of surfaces of general type as a practical application of the general theory. The book is aimed at graduate students and also at anyone interested in algebraic surfaces, and readers are expected to have only a basic knowledge of complex manifolds as a prerequisite.