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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface; Contents; 1 Introduction: The Setting and the Problem; 2 The Relevant Historical and Doctrinal Background; 3 Ascetic and King: The Iconography of Avalokitesvara and Natha; 4 The Politics of Deification in Medieval Sri Lanka: Avalokitesvara Becomes Natha Deviyo; 5 The Mythicization of History: Natha and Pitiye in Kandyan Folklore; 6 The Power of Place: Oral Traditions at Rural Kandyan Natha Devalayas; 7 Central Power, Sacred Order: Center and Periphery in the Kandyan Kingdom; 8 Natha and the "Rock Chief"; 9 Conclusion: Maitreya-in-the-Making; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Sri Lanka has one of Asia's most pluralistic religious cultures. From a study of the changing role played by one Buddhist deity in Sinhala religious culture, the author of this study develops a thesis about the mechanism of religious change.