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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; A Note on Translation and Transliteration; Introduction; Chapter One: Contest as Ceremony: A Pre-Islamic Poetic Contest in Horse Description of Imru' al-Qays vs. 'Alqamah-al-Fahl; Chapter Two: Remedy and Resolution: Bees and Honey-Gathering in Two Hudhali Odes; Chapter Three: Reality and Reverie: Wine and Ekphrasis in the 'Abbasid Poetry of Abu Nuwas and al-Buhturi; Chapter Four: Sensibility and Synaesthesia: Ibn al-Rumi's Singing Slave-Girl; Chapter Five: Poetry and Portraiture: A Double Portrait in a Panegyric; Conclusion; Appendix of Arabic Texts; Works Cited; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This work deals with ""wasf"" or description which is one of the salient characteristics of the ""qasidah"" (classical Arabic poetry) tradition. It examines descriptive passages in a selected group of Arabic ""qasidah"" from different ages, with the motifs of horses, and bees and honey-gathering.