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| Nota di contenuto       | Arabic literatures, "elite" and "folk" : junctions and disjunctions -- The Egyptian Mawwal : its ancestry, its development, and its present forms -- The Nahda's first stirrings of interest in Alf Layla -- The career of Mustafa Ibrahim 'Ajaj : a giant of Egyptian popular literature -- The prophet's shirt : three versions of an Egyptian narrative ballad -- An uncommon use of nonsense verse in colloquial Arabic -- An early example of narrative verse in colloquial Arabic -- An incomplete Egyptian ballad on the 1956 War -- An honour crime with a difference -- Pulp stories in the repertoire of Egyptian folk singers -- Karam il-Yatim -- Of loose verse and masculine beauty -- A Zajal on the Miraj attributed to al-Xubari -- Two perspectives on the "other" in Arabic literature -- Maltese : Arabic roots and sundry grafts -- Social values reflected in Egyptian popular ballads -- Folk themes in the works of Najib Surur -- Elite treatment of honour crimes in Modern Egypt. |
| Sommario/riassunto      | The character and range of Arab folk literature are investigated by Pierre Cachia in this collection of his pioneering essays in the field.  |