

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788351303321
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Titolo	European modernity and the Arab Mediterranean [[electronic resource] ] : toward a new philology and a counter-orientalism / / Karla Mallette
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2010
ISBN	1-283-89637-0 0-8122-0526-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (321 p.)
Disciplina	492.709
Soggetti	Arabic philology - History - 19th century Arabic philology - History - 20th century Islamic civilization Europe Civilization Arab influences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Chapter 1. Scheherazade among the Philologists (Paris, 1704) -- Chapter 2. Metempsychosis: Dante, Petrarch, and the Arab Middle Ages -- Chapter 3. I nostri Saracini: Writing the History of the Arabs of Sicily -- Chapter 4. The Ramparts of Europe: The Invention of the Maltese Language -- Chapter 5. The Life and Times of Enrico Cerulli -- Chapter 6. Amalgams: Emilio García Gómez (s. xx), Alvarus (s. ix), and Philology after the Nation -- Chapter 7. Scheherazade at Home (Baghdad, a.d. 803; London and Hollywood, 1939) -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	Over the past decade, scholars have vigorously reconsidered the history of Orientalism, and though Edward Said's hugely influential work remains a touchstone of the discussion, Karla Mallette notes, it can no longer be taken as the final word on Western perceptions of the Islamic East. The French and British Orientalisms that Said studied in particular were shaped by the French and British colonial projects in Muslim regions; nations that did not have such investments in the Middle East generated significantly different perceptions of Islamic and Arabic culture. European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean examines Orientalist philological scholarship of southern Europe produced

between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth century. In Italy, Spain, and Malta, Mallette argues, a regional history of Arab occupation during the Middle Ages gave scholars a focus different from that of their northern European colleagues; in studying the Arab world, they were not so much looking on a distant and radically different history as seeking to reconstruct the past of their own nations. She demonstrates that in specific instances, Orientalists wrote their nations' Arab history as the origin of modern national identity, depicting Islamic thought not as exterior to European modernity but rather as formative of and central to it. Joining comparative insights to the analytic strategies and historical genius of philology, Mallette ranges from the complex manuscript history of the Thousand and One Nights to the invention of the Maltese language and Spanish scholarship on Dante and Islam. Throughout, she reveals the profound influences Arab and Islamic traditions have had on the development of modern European culture. *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean* is an engaging study that sheds new light on the history of Orientalism, the future of philology, and the postcolonial Middle Ages.

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