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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910790391103321 |
| Autore | Numan ibn Muhammad Abu Hanifah <d. 974.> |
| Titolo | The Epistle of the eloquent clarification concerning the refutation of Ibn Qutayba // al-Qadi al-Nu'man b. Muhammad ; critical edition with an introduction by Avraham Hakim |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Leiden ; ; Boston : , : Brill, , 2012 |
| ISBN | 1-280-69861-6 9786613675576 90-04-21666-9 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (216 pages) |
| Collana | Islamic history and civilization, , 0929-2403 ; ; v. 90 |
| Altri autori (Persone) | HakimAvraham |
| Disciplina | 340.5/9 |
| Soggetti | Islamic law Ismailites Islam - Doctrines Pillars of Islam |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Preliminary Material / Avraham Hakim -- Introduction / Avraham Hakim -- Abbreviations and Bibliography / Avraham Hakim -- Arabic Text with References and Index / Avraham Hakim. |
| Sommario/riassunto | This is an edition of an early Shiite/Fatimid Arabic epistle that includes a controversy pertaining to several issues on Islamic law. Al-Qadi al-Nu'man (d. 363/974), the most famous jurist of the early Fatimid period refutes the illustrious Ibn Qutayba (d. 276/889). In his book Adab al-Katib, Ibn Qutayba claimed that it was enough for civil servants (kuttab) to memorize a few legal formulas in order to be able to effectively do their work without the need of long dissertations on law from jurists. In the introduction to his epistle, al-Nu'man claims that without these dissertations the civil servants would not be able to apply the law correctly. Following this, al-Nu'man launches lengthy dissertations on each one of the succinct formulas listed by Ibn Qutayba. The main argument of al-Nu'man is that the only lawgivers in Islam are the prophet Muhammad and the Imams descendents of Ali (until the seventh Imam). |

