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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Consuming the periodical text : Hunt, Hazlitt and the anxiety of Cockneyism -- Domesticating the flaneur : Coleridge, De Quincey and the forms of metropolitanism -- The Great Wen and the Rural Gothic -- Utility and pity : Wordsworth, Blake, and Egan, and the act of charity -- Lamb, theatricality and the fool -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	The inherent 'metropolitanism' of writing for a Romantic-era periodical is here explored through the <i>Elia</i> articles that Charles Lamb wrote for the <i>London Magazine</i>. A large number of Lamb's essays are here discussed in their historical context but also, crucially, within the context of the periodical as an integral part of Lamb's construction of self. Hull argues that Lamb's persona of Elia is a pivotal figure in the <i>London Magazine</i> - an embodiment of what London is and what it stands for. Lamb is an author who has proved particularly problematic for literary criticism. Here Hull is able to provide a balanced treatment, interpreting Elia as simultaneously an aspect of Lamb's humour and his political sensibility.