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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Bestial banter -- Homo risus : making light of animal language -- Warming savage hearts and heating eloquent tongues -- From savage orators to savage languages -- French levity -- English energy -- Coda : French levity and English energy in the revolutionary wake.
Sommario/riassunto	Lauzon traces the development of very different French and British ideas about language over the course of the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and demonstrates how important these ideas were to emerging notions of national character.