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	Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material I Introduction: Image and (Con)text II The Manuscript III Text and Sources IV The Frontispieces and Other Human Figures V The Animals of the Nat VI Composition, Iconography and Style VII Date and Provenance VIII Patronage and Milieu Appendix One Analyses of Colours, Ink and Gold Appendix Two List of Illustrations Appendix Three Selected List of Illuminated and Illustrated Manuscripts Cited Colour Plates Catalogue of the Paintings of the Kitb Nat al-Hayawn Bibliography Index.
	Sommario/riassunto	The Kitb Nat al-ayawn is the earliest of a group of illustrated manuscripts dealing with the characteristics of animals and their medicinal uses. The present study considers both the confluence of textual traditions within this work and the stylistic and iconographic relationships of its illustrations, which make it a key witness to early thirteenth-century Arab painting. After a re-evaluation of previous approaches, emphasis is placed on relating image to text, on stylistic affiliations, and on the modalities of production, supported by technical

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analyses undertaken for the first time. In elucidating the particular	ſ
context of this unique manuscript, the study contributes to our	
understanding of a critical period in the development of Middle Ea	astern
painting and art.	