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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS -- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- Introduction: A CENTURY OF WRITING ON OBJECTS -- Part I. EXOTIC OBJECTS AT COURT -- Chapter One. ROSEMARY AND THE CONTEST OF THE CAOS -- Chapter Two. THE AGATE BRIDLE: TRANSFORMING AN INDIAN ROCK INTO A POLITICAL SYMBOL -- Part II. EXOTIC OBJECTS IN THE MAINSTREAM -- Chapter Three. POMEGRANATE: BECOMING CHINESE APPLE -- Chapter Four. MONKEYS: GODS ELSEWHERE, PETS HERE -- Part III. EXOTIC IMAGES IN THE SACRED SPACE -- Chapter Five. PEACOCK: AUSPICIOUSNESS CHALLENGED -- Chapter Six. THE LOTUS: BECOMING A CHINESE ICON -- Conclusion. THE VALUE OF OTHERNESS IN LITERATURE -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the dissemination of ideas and information on the early silk roads between Europe and China, through the first detailed study of the Sinicization of foreign objects in Chinese poetic writing of the third century CE. Third-century literary developments and the prevailing literary works from that era leave us with an impressive amount of information concerning exotic objects, such as plants, animals, and crafts, and record the cultural exchange between distant peoples whose goods, ideas, and technologies entered China. These

hitherto-forgotten rhapsodies express the profound interest and excitement of learned men for foreign objects. They bear witness to the cultural exchanges between China and other civilizations and provide a more nuanced insight of early medieval China as an integrated society rather than an isolated one.
