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Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- TAB

Frontmatter -- TABLE OF CONTENTS -- TOWARDS A DISCIPLINE OF COLOPHONOLOGY AND COLOPHONOGRAPHY -- MANUSCRIPTS OFFERED FOR THE GODS: DEDICATORY COLOPHONS FROM MESOPOTAMIA -- THE COLOPHONS OF ASHURBANIPAL, KING OF THE WORLD -- SACRED AND PROFANE: COLOPHONS AND PARATEXTS EMBEDDED INTO THE TEXT OF MEDIEVAL SAMARITAN PENTATEUCH MANUSCRIPTS -- OPENING FORMULAS BY SCRIBES IN TALMUDIC LITERATURE -- HEBREW PRINTING AND PRINTERS' COLOPHONS IN THE CAIRO GENIZAH: NETWORKING BOOK TRADE IN EUROPE AND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE -- THIS TORAH, A SIGN OF GOOD THINGS TO COME: TRADITION, RELIGION, AND POLITICS IN THE COLOPHONS OF TWO TENTH-CENTURY SIBLING SCRIBES -- EARLY CHRISTIAN ARABIC COLOPHONS FROM THE PALESTINIAN MONASTERIES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS -- THE LITERARY AND LANGUAGE VALUE OF THE ARMENIAN COLOPHONS -- IN COLOPHONS AND MARGINS OF THE SYRIAC LITURGICAL MANUSCRIPTS -- NUN-SCRIBES AND THEIR COLOPHONS: FEMALE SELF-IDENTIFICATION AND REMEMBRANCE IN EARLY MODERN ITALY -- A COLLECTION OF FRAGMENTARY COLOPHONS: MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE MONASTERY OF SAINT MACARIUS -- COLOPHONS OF MEDIEVAL ARMENIAN MANUSCRIPTS AS SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY -- MARQUS OF ALEPPO, A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FORGOTTEN SCRIBE: A BIOGRAPHY RECONSTRUCTED FROM THE COLOPHONS -- COLOPHONS IN ARABIC AND PERSIAN TREATISES ON THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES AND RELATED SUBJECT MATTERS --

TRANSLATION AND IDENTITY IN SIXTEENTHCENTURY TUNISIA: COLOPHONS IN THE WORKS OF AL B. AMAD B. MUAMMAD ALSHARAF FROM SFAX -- STYLISTIC FEATURES OF FOURTH/TENTHCENTURY ARABIC COLOPHONS, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SCRIBAL BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS -- WINDOWS INTO THE WORLD OF PERSIANSPEAKING WEST SYRIANS: A STUDY OF COLOPHONS IN THREE EARLY PERSIAN BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS -- TIMES OF DISINTEGRATION AND CALAMITIES: AHAR AND HIS MYSTERIOUS COLOPHONS -- "A SCHOLARLY COPYIST": EARLY ILKHANID INTELLECTUAL NETWORKS THROUGH THE PRISM OF TWO COLOPHONS

## Sommario/riassunto

The colophon, the ultimate or "crowing touch" paragraphs of a manuscript or a book, provides readers with a the historical context in which the scribe produced the manuscript (or the publisher, a book). At its most fundamental level, the colophon gives us the "metadata" of the manuscript: who was the scribe? When and where was the manuscript produced? For whom was it produced and who paid for it? But colophons are far more rich. They are literary works in their own right, having a style and rhetoric independent of the main literary text of the manuscript. Some are assertive, providing contextual data about the scribe/publisher and manuscript/book; others are expressive. demonstrating the scribe's feelings and wishes. Some are directive. asking the reader for an action; others declarative, providing all sorts of statements about the scribe/publisher or even the reader. The latter sometimes provide historical facts otherwise lost to histories: wars, earthquakes, religious events, legal agreements, etc. This edited volume brings together scholars from various disciplines to study colophons in various languages and traditions across space and time.