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Nota di contenuto	1. The pseudomartyr debate -- 2. 'Spectaculum facti sumus Deo' : the scaffold as text -- 3. 'Spectaculum facti sumus Deo' : the scaffold as image -- 4. Martyrs and murals -- 5. Theatrum crudelitatum : the theatre of cruelties -- 6. 'A trewe reporte of the li[fe] and marterdome of Mrs. Margarete Clitherowe' -- 7. The treatise of three conversions.
Sommario/riassunto	Between 1535 and 1603, more than 200 English Catholics were executed by the State for treason. Drawing on an extraordinary range of contemporary sources, Anne Dillon examines the ways in which these executions were transformed into acts of martyrdom. Utilizing the reports from the gallows, the Catholic community in England and in exile created a wide range of manuscripts and texts in which they employed the concept of martyrdom for propaganda purposes in continental Europe and for shaping Catholic identity and encouraging recusancy at home. Particularly potent was the derivation of images from these texts which provided visual means of conveying the symbol of the martyr. Through an examination of the work of Richard Verstegan and the martyr murals of the English College in Rome, the book explores the influence of these images on the Counter Reformation Church, the Jesuits, and the political intentions of English

Catholics in exile and those of their hosts. The Construction of Martyrdom in the English Catholic Community, 1535-1603 shows how Verstegan used the English martyrs in his *Theatrum crudelitatum* of 1587 to rally support from Catholics on the Continent for a Spanish invasion of England to overthrow Elizabeth I and her government. The English martyr was, Anne Dillon argues, as much a construction of international, political rhetoric as it was of English religious and political debate; an international Catholic banner around which Catholic European powers were urged to rally.
