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Nota di contenuto	1. Wesley's initial position : authority of rubric and canon -- 2. After Aldersgate : authority of a warm-hearted evangelist -- 3. Wesley's assistants : 'sons of the gospel' -- 4. Wesley's expression of authority : 'I am a scriptural Episcopos' -- 5. Ordination of the assistants : is it separation from the Church of England? -- 6. Wesley reflects upon his actions : 'prophets and priests' : Ireland 1789 -- 7. The liturgy : prayer book ordinal adapted -- 8. The text : Wesley's adaptation of the prayer book ordinal.
Sommario/riassunto	The important questions in ecumenical dialogue centre upon issues of authority and order. This book uses the development of ministry in the early Methodist Church to explore the origins of the Methodist Order and identify the nature of authority exercised by John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church. Showing Methodism as having been founded upon Episcopalian principles, but in a manner reinterpreted by its founder, Adrian Burdon charts the journey made by John Wesley and his people towards the ordination of preachers, which became such a major issue amongst the first Methodist Societies. Implications for understanding the nature and practice of authority and order in modern Methodism are explored, with particular reference to the covenant for unity between English Methodists and the Church of England.