

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996247943803316
Autore	Caton Steven Charles <1950->
Titolo	"Peaks of Yemen I summon" : poetry as cultural practice in a North Yemeni tribe // Steven C. Caton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Place of publication not identified], : University of California Press, 1990
ISBN	0-520-91372-8 0-585-13539-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 351 p., [6] p. of plates) : ill.
Disciplina	398.2/095332
Soggetti	Folk poetry, Arabic - History and criticism - Yemen (Republic) Languages & Literatures Middle Eastern Languages & Literatures Yemen (Republic) Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	PART I. Background -- 1. Doing an Ethnography of Poetry -- 2. Gabyilah: Ideologies of Tribalism, Language, and Poetry -- 3. The Social Production of Poetry -- PART II. The System of Poetic Genres -- 4. The Blah: Poem as Play -- 5. The Poetic Construction of Shelf -- 6. The Zmil: Between Performance and Text-Utterance -- 7. Power, Poetry, and Persuasion -- 8. The Qadah: Individual Talent and the Cultural Tradition -- 9. Tribal Ideology, the State, and Communicative Practices -- CONCLUSION: Poetry as Cultural Practice -- APPENDIXES -- A. Yemeni Tribal Arabic Phonology -- B. A Linguistic Theory of Meter -- C. Transcription of the Sample Blah Poem-- D. Transcription of the Sample Blah Development Section-- E. Transcription of al-Gharsi's Poem-- F. Transcription of a-f's Poem-- G. Transcription of al-Malah's Poem
Sommario/riassunto	In this first full-scale ethnographic study of Yemeni tribal poetry, Steven Caton reveals an astonishingly rich folkloric system where poetry is both a creation of art and a political and social act. Almost always spoken or chanted, Yemeni tribal poetry is cast in an idiom considered colloquial and "ungrammatical," yet admired for its wit and

spontaneity. In Yemeni society, the poet has power over people. By eloquence the poet can stir or, if his poetic talents are truly outstanding, motivate an audience to do his bidding. Yemeni tribesmen think, in fact, that poetry's transformative effect is too essential not to use for pressing public issues. Drawing on his three years of field research in North Yemen, Caton illustrates the significance of poetry in Yemeni society by analyzing three verse genres and their use in weddings, war mediations, and political discourse on the state. Moreover, Caton provides the first anthropology of poetics. Challenging Western cultural assumptions that political poetry can rarely rise above doggerel, Caton develops a model of poetry as cultural practice. To compose a poem is to construct oneself as a peacemaker, as a warrior, as a Muslim. Thus the poet engages in constitutive social practice. Because of its highly interdisciplinary approach, this book will interest a wide range of readers including anthropologists, linguists, folklorists, literary critics, and scholars of Middle Eastern society, language, and culture.
