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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Buddhism in the West? Buddhist Indian Sailors on Socotra (Yemen) and the Role of Trade Contacts in the Spread of Buddhism -- 3. Non-Buddhist Customs of Buddhist People: Visual and Archaeological Evidence from North-West Pakistan -- 4. Translation, Transcription, and What Else? Some Basic Characteristics of Chinese Buddhist Translation as a Cultural Contact between India and China, with Special Reference to Sanskrit rya and Chinese sheng -- 5. Stone Hymn - The Buddhist Colophon of 579 Engraved on Mount Tie, Shandong -- 6. "To Overcome the Tyranny of Time": Stars, Buddhas, and the Arts of Perfect Memory at Mt. Asama -- 7. In the Footprints of the Buddha: Ceylon and the Quest for the Origin of Buddhism in Early Modern Japan - A Minor Episode in the History of the Japanese Imagination of India -- 8. From Geographical Periphery to Conceptual Centre: The Travels of Ngagchang Shakya Zangpo and the Discovery of Hyolmo Identity -- 9. Indo-Tibetan Relations in Tibetan Polemical Discourse: Reconsidering Cultural Dynamics between Tradition and Innovation -- 10. Revisiting the Emic Perspective: Lessons to Be Learnt from the Worldly-Other-Worldly Distinction in Tibet and Beyond -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	For over 2500 years, Buddhism was implicated in processes of cultural

interaction that in turn shaped Buddhist doctrines, practices and institutions. While the cultural plurality of Buddhism has often been remarked upon, the transcultural processes that constitute this plurality, and their long-term effects, have scarcely been studied as a topic in their own right. The contributions to this volume present detailed case studies ranging across different time periods, regions and disciplines, and they address methodological challenges as well as theoretical problems. In addition to casting a spotlight on topics as diverse as the role of trade contacts in the early spread of Buddhism, the hybrid nature of religious practices in Japan or Indo-Tibetan relations in Tibetan polemical literature, the individual papers jointly raise the question as to whether there might be something distinct about how Buddhism steers and influences forms of cultural exchange, and is in turn shaped by modalities of cultural interaction throughout Asian, as well as global, history. The volume is intended to demonstrate the need for investigating transcultural dynamics more closely in the study of Buddhism, and to suggest new avenues for Buddhist Studies.
