

# Il Gattopardo at Fifty



14 May 2009 – National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh





# Il Gattopardo at Fifty

Edinburgh, May 14, 2009, National Library of Scotland

*Il Gattopardo* (The Leopard) is the first and only novel by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (1896-1957), published posthumously in 1958. The story of the dying world of a Sicilian aristocratic family after the unification of Italy was the first Italian best-seller, became a classic of 20th century European literature and inspired thousands of readers around the world. In 1963, Luchino Visconti sealed the success of the novel with an award-winning film, starring Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, and Alain Delon.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of this iconic novel, the Italian Institute of Culture, in collaboration with Dr Davide Messina (University of Edinburgh), has organised an international conference which will be generously hosted by the National Library of Scotland. On the day of the conference, the original manuscript will be exhibited in the Library.

Among the distinguished speakers from UK, Italy, and Spain, will be the adopted son of Lampedusa, the musicologist Gioacchino Lanza Tomasi, and the historian David Gilmour, author of a seminal biography of the writer.

In the evening, the Filmhouse will host a special screening of Visconti's film.

THIS EVENT IS FREE, BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

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# Programme of Events

**9.30AM:** Welcome and Opening addresses

**10AM:** Chair: Davide Messina (University of Edinburgh)

Gioacchino Lanza Tomasi

*The Leopard at fifty: Rethinking and appreciation*

David Gilmour

*Lampedusa: A sense of history*

**11.15AM:** Coffee break

**11.30AM:** Chair: Derek Duncan (University of Bristol)

Giorgio Ficara (University of Torino)

*Lo spirito del luogo del Gattopardo* (in Italian)

Joseph Farrell (University of Strathclyde)

*The Sicily of Tomasi di Lampedusa and Leonardo Sciascia*

**12.30PM:** Lunch break

**2PM:** Chair: Jon Usher (University of Edinburgh)

David Forgacs (University College London)

*The Prince and his critics: The reception of Il Gattopardo*

Mercedes Monmany de la Torre

*Recepción e influencia de El Gatopardo en España  
y en los escritores en lengua española* (in Spanish)

Federica Pedriali (University of Edinburgh)

*Gli ultimi della serie, la serie degli ultimi: Gadda, Svevo, Tomasi* (in Italian)

**3.30PM:** Coffee Break

**3.45PM:** Chair: Joseph Farrell (University of Strathclyde)

Jon Usher (University of Edinburgh)

*Squaring the circle: The Leopard between cyclical time and historical novel*

Derek Duncan (University of Bristol)

*The island of Lampedusa: Postcolonial Italy and the view from the South*

Davide Messina (University of Edinburgh)

*Ad limina Gattopardorum: The everlasting Leopard and the decadent Bendicò*

**5.15-6PM:** Round table discussion

Chair: Chris Taylor (National Library of Scotland)

**7.45PM:** Filmhouse

Special screening of *Il Gattopardo* (1963, The Leopard)  
by Luchino Visconti