

Announcing the publication of

THE LEOPARD

the novel by

GIUSEPPE DI LAMPEDUSA

translated from the Italian by Archibald Colquhoun

with a foreword and appendix by

GIOACCHINO LANZA TOMASI

translated from the Italian by Guido Waldman,

and with 32 photographs in color by

Giovan Battista Poletto

taken on the set of the 1963 motion picture

directed by Lucchino Visconti,

in a deluxe, illustrated, limited edition by

THE ARION PRESS

The Leopard is one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century. Its author Giuseppe Tomasi de Lampedusa, who died July 23, 1957, at the age of 60, did not live to see its publication. Although a member of the intellectual elite of Sicily, he published little else and had written the novel only in the last thirty months of his life. A small circle of bright young men benefited from weekly readings and instruction from him in his declining years, but his broader influence came after death, when *The Leopard* was finally published. In his last year, the manuscript had been turned down by such eminent houses as Mondadori and Einaudi; still he was convinced of its merit and refused permission to have a private edition printed posthumously. In the autumn of 1958 the novel was issued by Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore, Milan, edited by Giorgio Bassani. In 1969 a revised edition was published by Feltrinelli, who, in 2002, issued another edition that included new material by the author. The book's intriguing editorial and publishing history is told in the foreword and appendix by Gioacchino Lanza Tomasi, a relative and the adopted son of Lampedusa, who became his literary heir.

The story of the Prince of Salina is based on the life of Lampedusa's grandfather, Giulio Fabrizio Tomasi, Prince of Lampedusa, who was a respected amateur astronomer and lived in the grand tradition of his noble forebears, although after his death in 1885 the economic and social status of his family declined. The novel begins with the invasion of Garibaldi's rebel forces and ends with the aftermath of the death of the Prince and the fraying relationships and lessening prospects of the surviving family members. The social and political history revealed was upsetting to early readers of the novel in Sicily, a Mediterranean island that has been conquered repeatedly throughout history but adapted to each invasion without changing its culture. The novel was attacked from both the left and the right, but was soon recognized internationally for its formal brilliance and subtle view of historical change.

For those interested in more information about the author and the setting of *The Leopard*, a new book by Gioacchino Lanza Tomasi is to be recommended. It is *Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa: A Biography through Images*, published in 2013 by Alma Books Ltd. in England, but generally available in the United States. The young Gioacchino was Lampedusa's model for the manner and appearance, but not the character, of the romantic figure Tancredi in the novel. As Lampedusa's heir, he was very helpful in the publication of this edition. In 2013, Gioacchino and his wife Nicoletta welcomed publisher Andrew Hoyem and his wife and senior editor Diana Ketcham into their home in Palermo, the palazzo that was Lampedusa's last residence, containing his library and other artifacts of his writing life. Lanza Tomasi also referred us to the agency in Rome that licenses the photographs that are the book's illustrations.

The reputation of Lampedusa's literary masterpiece is equaled by that of its adaptation as a film in 1963. As the eminent film historian David Thomson writes:

Lucchino Visconti's movie of *The Leopard* is more than fifty years old, and a monument to another age—not just in recapturing the Sicilian aristocracy of the nineteenth century, but as a three-hour spectacle on 70mm film in Technicolor. So it is a tribute to two past ages. As shot by Giuseppe Rotunno, designed by Mario Garbuglia, and with costumes by Piero Tosi, the ravishing picture is itself like a tourist destination, a thing to explore and marvel at. Its influence on other film-makers was enormous—one cannot imagine *The Godfather* without it. Visconti was a man of contradictions—a Count and a Marxist—but his version of *The Leopard* is a testament to an age when the screen was meant to be large, rich, and a cultural landmark.

During the filming of *The Leopard*, a photographer named Giovan Battista Poletto took color photographs on the set. His images are not identical to those in the motion picture *Il Gattopardo* but show the main characters and key incidents played out at the legendary locations in Sicily. The Italian original was also released in a shortened English version. Burt Lancaster, who played the Prince, won over the director Visconti, who had misgivings at first about a Hollywood actor imposed on him by the studio. Lancaster tells that he studied the manner of the aristocratic Visconti to learn how to play Prince Salina. Tancredi, the nephew of the Prince, is played by Alain Delon; Angelica Sedàra, the beautiful provincial girl he marries, is played by Claudia Cardinale. Out of the many photographs taken by Poletto, thirty-two were chosen, to appear throughout the book in proximity to the action, with identifying captions. A sample illustration is included with the printed prospectus.

This is the one-hundred-and-second publication of the Arion Press. The book is large octavo in format, 9-5/16 by 6-11/16 inches, 288 pages. The paper is Mohawk Superfine. The text type is Neo Didot, composed and cast on the Monotype by Mackenzie & Harris, printed in black. The display type is Narciss, handset, printed in color. The type was printed by letterpress on a Miller two-color cylinder press. The color

photographs were printed by offset lithography, brokered by Susan Schaefer. The binding shows a coat of arms from Lampedusa's ancestors in the early eighteenth century with a leaping leopard. The edition is limited to 300 copies for sale. The price is \$750. A portion of the edition is reserved for Arion Press subscribers, who receive a 30% discount in return for the commitment to purchase the annual series of limited edition books. To place an order or for more information, please contact:

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