

## NEWS RELEASE

### VIVA I LIBRI!

**On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April**, the National Library of Scotland has an opportunity to congratulate the Italian publisher **Alessandro Laterza** on the **centenary** of the renowned publishing house of Laterza and to thank him personally for a generous gift of books when he visits the Library as part of a delegation from the Province of Bari.

On the occasion of the **Laterza Publishing Centenary**, **Alessandro Laterza** has led the way and gifted to the Library one hundred books on Italian Culture as part of a package of over two hundred books gifted from a variety of Southern Italian Publishers through the auspices of the Italian Cultural Institute in Scotland.

The books – from the Southern Italian publishers Adda, BA Graphics, Bastogi, Cacucci, Laterza and Schena – will be on display on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> at a symposium on **‘Culture and Publishing in the South of Italy’** (with special emphasis on Puglia and Laterza) hosted by the National Library of Scotland and organised by the Italian Institute and the Province of Bari in conjunction with the National Library of Scotland.

‘This is a particularly generous donation by the Southern Italian publishers’, says Chris Taylor, Curator French and Italian Collections at the Library. ‘The books illustrate the fascinating culture of the region of Puglia and the high standard of publishing there. The National Library of Scotland is extremely grateful to its friends in Puglia and to the Italian Cultural Institute.’

The collection gifted covers a wide range, of interest both to academic scholars and to the general reader of Italian culture, ranging from poetry anthologies, novels, regional histories and travel guides, to academic studies of literature, philosophy and cinema.

The Library also has several diverse items relating to this area in its own collections. Two Laterza postcards from the highly respected Italian intellectual, Benedetto Croce, a letter written by the Scottish engineer, John Rennie, discussing his travels in Puglia, a handwritten poem by the Italian poet Luigi Fallacara and several printed items from 1848 regarding the Kingdom of Naples are among other items on display to the public.

In this centenary year of Italy’s famous composer many a cry of *Viva Verdi* can be heard in opera houses throughout the world but in the National Library of Scotland the *other* Italian centenary is being celebrated. And the cry is not only ***Viva i Libri!*** (Long Live Books!) but also ***Viva Laterza e il Libro Italiano!*** (Long Live Laterza and Italian Publishing!).

**‘Culture and Publishing in Southern Italy’**

**from the Collections of the National Library of Scotland** will be on display in the **Barrel Vaults** until **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April inclusive**.

**ENDS**