

M.A. THIRD LEVEL EXAMINATION
IT3035: ITALIAN DETECTIVE FICTION

January 2004 - Time allowed: 2 hours

Candidates should answer TWO questions, ONE question from each section.
Candidates CANNOT answer TWO questions from the SAME section.
Section A has questions on single authors.
Section B has questions requiring answers dealing with more than one author.
Candidates CANNOT answer on the SAME author in both sections.

SECTION A

1. **Macchiavelli:** Describe the narrative technique used by Lorianò Macchiavelli in *Fiori alla memoria* and assess its effectiveness.
2. **Sciascia:** How conventional are Sciascia's *Il contesto* and *Una storia semplice* as examples of detective fiction?
3. **Eco:** To what extent does Umberto Eco's *Il nome della rosa* observe the conventions of the detective fiction genre?
4. **Lucarelli:** Is there any suggestion in Carlo Lucarelli's *Carta Bianca* that De Luca is morally compromised simply because the story is set in the Republic of Salò?

5. **Camilleri:** /

5. **Camilleri:** How typical is Camilleri's detective, Montalbano, in terms of the conventions of the genre?

SECTION B

Candidates should not refer to the author chosen in section A):

1. 'L'incorruttibilità e infallibilità dell'investigatore, la sua quasi ascetica vita (generalmente non ha famiglia, non ha ambizioni, non ha beni, ha una certa inclinazione alla misoginia e alla misantropia, quando apertamente non le dichiara e pratica), il fatto che non rappresenta la legge ufficiale ma la legge in assoluto, la sua capacità di *leggere* il delitto nel cuore umano oltre che nelle cose, cioè negli indizi, e di presentirlo, lo investono di luce metafisica, ne fanno un eletto.'
(Leonardo Sciascia, 'Breve storia del romanzo poliziesco')

To what extent can Sciascia's image of the 'classic' Detective be applied to the investigators in three of the novels that you have read? Discuss three novels published in different decades.

2. Discuss the importance of the setting, historical and geographical, in three of the Italian detective novels that you have read.
3. Describe the main features of the 'giallo italiano', or 'giallo nazionale' from the 1970s to the present, with reference to three novels.
4. Do the investigations in the novels you have read simply try to find out 'whodunnit', or do they become a deeper inquiry into the nature of society and ethical issues? Answer with reference to three novels published in different decades.
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