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Abstracts

FABIO PAOLO DI VITA, I consumi dei «Gattopardi». I Paternò di Raddusa nel primo Ottocento

This article aims to analyze the consumption dynamics of an eminent Sicilian aristocratic family during the first twenty years of the XIXth century. In the course of the modern age several components of the Paternò lineage maintained a significant demand for durable goods. So they proved that they belonged to the European élites that gradually abandoned the consumer models of the feudal aristocracy. The Paternò di Raddusa family was no less so, showing prosperity and refinement. About the period 1800-1822, Vincenzo Maria Paternò allocated high amounts to consumptions, not only for ordinary goods but also for less usual objects. This, in particular, is more evident starting from 1808, when Francesco Maria succeeded his father Vincenzo.

This essay aims, by means of an analysis of several account books, to reconstruct the composition of the Raddusas' expenditure, underlining its typology and evolution during the years examined. Furthermore, this research attempts to identify quantities, amounts, suppliers, consumers even though the accounting sources did not always permit, this due to their peculiarities.

Keywords:

*Consumer models of the feudal aristocracy
Sicily
Nineteenth Century*