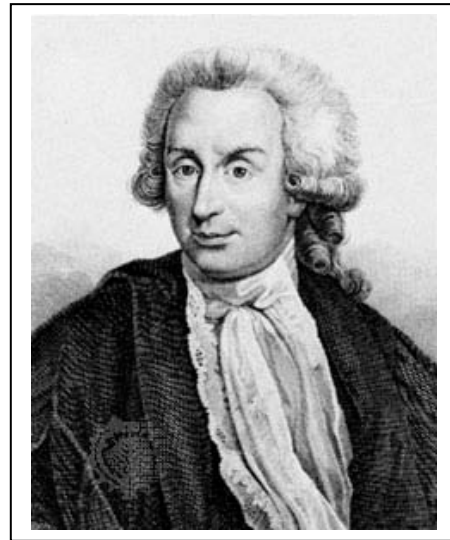


**Luigi Galvani** (1737 – 1798)

He was one of the pioneers of electricity.  
Introduced the theory of galvanism.

Luigi Galvani was born at Bologna on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1737. He was a deeply religious cast of mind, but his parents educated him as a physician. He made anatomy his special study, and in due time was appointed lecturer in that subject at the University of Bologna.



Galvani married the daughter of a physician named Galeazzi; and the story goes that it was mainly to this lady's observant eyes and sound sense that we owe the discovery of galvanism. She noticed that the legs of a dissected frog lying on her husband's table were violently convulsed when they touched a scalpel which had been in contact with an electrical machine.

Galvani seldom stirred out of his native city, never out of his native land.

Galvani published his discoveries which was reprinted several times. He taught as quiet, uneventful respected university professor. But politics invaded the realm of science; and the result was disaster to Luigi Galvani. He had never wavered in his devotion to the Papacy. He was quite prepared to suffer for his fidelity to the Papacy.

Deprived of his post at the University of Bologna, he retired into private life, taking refuge with his brothers. This disastrous end to his career affected his bodily health; and through grief and mortification he fell into a decline. He took no more interest in life, and, though the authorities recognizing his gifts, offered to reinstate him in his post, the offer came too late, for he died in Bologna on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1798.