



Astrophilately in the Italian Space Agency



*On the left: "Intro" panel, explaining what "Astrophilately" is. Centre: some of the 18 panels of the Exhibition.
On the right: Enrico Flamini, Scientific Director of ASI.*

Astrophilately was officially acknowledged by ASI, the Italian Space Agency, on the occasion of the celebration for the 50th anniversary of the launch of San Marco 1 satellite and of the issuing of the commemorative Italian stamp.

Below is reported a summary of the speech addressed by Umberto Cavallaro during the conference to illustrate the meaning of the newly-issued stamp and the importance of the astrophilately as a means to tell, to record and to support the story of the space exploration.

«To celebrate the launch of San Marco 1 that fifty years ago sketched out for Italy the beginning of a successful path, we wanted that an event of historical reenactment, such as this one in which we are participating, was accompanied by something that each could take with them as a tangible and lasting souvenir; something that could both stay as a remembrance of a noble history and be propelled into the future; something that was able to convey the message to the general public, even outside the circle of experts and enthusiasts, and outside the borders of our country. We thought at the issuing of a new Italian stamp dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the launch of the satellite San Marco 1.

The proposal was accepted by the Ministry of Economic Development with great sensitivity and attention to the Aerospace sector in Italy, as it is a field of excellence for which our country is appreciated worldwide. And, rightly, this stamp was inducted into the thematic series "the Excellencies of knowledge."

Prof. Angelo Di Stasi, President of the Commission for the study and the processing of postage stamps within the Ministry of Economic Development, who had so taken to heart this issue, and whom I want to thank on behalf of all of you, could not be here this morning so he has asked me to convey to you his greetings and appreciation.

I like to remember that the idea for today's meeting came almost one year ago, when I was discussing the issue of this stamp with Dr. Enrico Flamini, Scientific Coordinator of ASI.

The importance of the philately, and of astrophilately in particular, as a means to describe, record and perpetuate the memory of the events related to space exploration is concretely shown in the Exhibition that we wanted to prepare to tell half a century of important achievements and successes of Italy in space. The exhibition is open in the lobby of the Auditorium, where you can also find a post office with the newly-issued stamp of San Marco, and the special card made for this event by the artist Carlo Torcelli. Enjoy your visit!"



Umberto Cavallaro during his speech in ASI.

The exhibition covers the main steps of the successful first half century of Italy in space. It consists of 18 panels plus an intro that explains what is Astrophilately.

It was built as a collaboration of ASITAF that defined the guidelines and provided the astrophilatelic items, and ASI who took care of the iconography and texts, and represents a new stage in the search for an innovative approach to astrophilatelic exhibiting which started for ASITAF in 2009 with the trilogy "MERCURY-GEMINI-APOLLO: THREE STEPS TO THE MOON AND BEYOND" and continued last year with the exhibition of "SPACE IN PINK", which was already presented in different towns in Italy (and is available for show even in different Countries).

This show – as Enrico Flamini, the Scientific Director of the ASI outlines – *«will become a permanent exhibition within ASI.»*