



Patron Her Majesty The Queen

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Museum & Archives News

Philatelic History Society

We recently received an enquiry asking about the Philatelic History Society. A quick search of the *LP* revealed that it was set up to encourage a greater awareness of the history of the subject, issuing a quarterly journal *Philatelic Paraphernalia* which we have in the library covering 1984–1992.

In essence, Philatelic History is what we cover in the Archives. For example, the Royal seeks to maintain an archive of all the Great Britain philatelic societies and clubs, as well as the important international organisations. We also have records relating to philatelic studies and the trade.

If anyone has records of the activities of GB Societies that we could add to the archives for the preservation of our heritage and for researchers, please do get in touch. A listing of our current holding may be found on the RPSL catalogue (please select 'museum' for your search).

Temporary Display: 1 May – 31 May 2016

Staff and frequent volunteers exhibit their favourite items from the museum collection. After delving into the museum store, staff members and volunteers, including the 'Monday Club', have chosen items for the displays, explaining why they have chosen these items.

You can also view this online at: http://www.rpsl.org.uk/museum_news.asp

Temporary Display: 1 June - 28 June 2016 U3A Cinderellas

This year's University of the Third Age has concentrated on designing and producing Cinderella Stamps for the U3A organisation to use. The group's stamps, proofs etc. will be on show in June and then again during the Cinderella Stamp Congress (16–18 September at the Royal). More details regarding this interesting project will be in the next issue of the *LP*.

Standing Display: 1–31 May 2016

Umberto Cavallaro: Half a century of Italian Space

Umberto Cavallaro provides a fascinating display covering the history of Italian Space work from a philatelic viewpoint.

For those who cannot view the displays at the Royal, all the Standing Displays may be accessed via the 'Events' page on the RPSL website: http://www.rpsl.org.uk/events_Standing-Displays.asp

Mark Copley has a brief Q and A with the Umberto:

MC: This is the first time we have had a Standing Display on astrophilately. What got you interested in the subject? Did you watch the early live launches?

UC: I've been involved with space work for a long time. In the early 1980s, I worked at the European Space Agency as a consultant. I now live in Turin, the town where the main Italian Aerospace Company is based (Thales Alenia Space Italy, formerly Aeritalia). I have many friends who are astronauts both American and European, and I know all of the eight Italian astronauts. I'm interested in the subject both as a writer and as a collector.

I've seen launches, but mainly I'm usually involved with the official deliveries of the space components or satellites which are sent for launch to Kourou or Baikonur or other spaceports. More than half of the pressurised habitable modules of the International Space Station (among others) have been built in Turin.

MC: Why were you really keen to show the display now?

UC: The first Italian satellite, the San Marco, was launched from Wallops Island (USA) on 15 December 1964. Actually, I was the one who organised the Italian stamp for commemorating San Marco (and a few special postmarks). So we've had 50 years of Italian Space.

MC: Are you still collecting this material – is there much more to get?

UC: Yes, this specific collection is improving as it aims to document the history of the Italy contribution to the space exploration, which is a live history, still progressing. Then there many other possible topics. I have other collections including one on the American early space programmes. This includes many rare items, such as covers flown in space aboard various Apollo spacecraft and also one flown to the Moon. Moreover, as President of ASITAF and Italian National Delegate for the FIP Astrophilately Section, I help others (mainly in Italy) to build up their own exhibits. More than 16 astrophilately exhibits have been officially presented in astrophilately competition in Italy in the last eight years.