

2008 –ASITAF was born

It all started on 24 March 2008 when, after intense months of preparation, a small group of collectors met in Villarbasse (Turin) to sign the Memorandum of Association.



Historical photo taken on 24 March 2008, immediately after the signing of the ASITAF Memorandum of Association, with some of the founding members: the late Giovanni Martina (the first Secretary of ASITAF who passed away in 2014), Umberto Cavallaro and Luigi Bussolino, who left us on the last day of 2022.



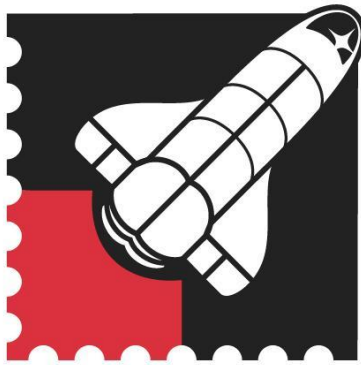
The Board Member Annibale Rega during the days of preparation, with Umberto Cavallaro.

Despite the fact that in Italy there were many "inviting" astrophilately-related pieces, and a significant part of the historical Apollo flown covers (including the ones brought to the Moon) had been dealt in our Country, for various reasons the "cosmogram collectors" did not have an association of reference.

The birth of AS.IT.AF. was warmly welcomed both in Italy¹ and abroad²

¹ https://www.vaccarinews.it/news/Nasce_1_Asitaf/5527

² See Section ASITAF IN THE MEDIA/EVENTS and EXHIBITIONS



AS IT AF
ASSOCIAZIONE
ITALIANA
ASTROFILATELIA



The ASITAF logo was designed by Carlo Torcelli, son of Giancarlo Torcelli, one of our first members.

When Chris Calle learned about AS.IT.AF., he asked to join. The Board, honored by his request, decided to welcome both Chris and his father Paul as Honorary Members.



Paul and Chris Calle, designers of the US Apollo stamps.

One of our first initiatives was to organize a meeting in Rome in October 2008 with our friend Walter Cunningham, Apollo VII astronaut, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his mission which occurred at that time.



From left: Paolo D'Angelo, ASITAF vicepresident at the time, Walter Cunningham and Umberto Cavallaro.

AS.IT.AF. immediately launched a series of initiatives, first of all the quarterly magazine AD*ASTRA, and an ambitious program aimed at "culture making" to help enthusiasts to correctly approach astrophilately and to learn its sometimes strict rules.

AS.IT.AF. has today the largest number of astrophilately collectors who, in Europe and in the western world, compete in the official exhibitions.