

2010 – Official competitive astrophilately exhibitions resume in Italy

The second year of life of ASITAF saw the consolidation of its presence in the associative astrophilately context.

With MilanoFil 2010 (which took place in March) the Astrophilately class returned, after some years, in the official competitive exhibitions. We had the pleasure of welcoming 6 exhibitors, all with excellent results: 2 collections were awarded Gold.

The Italian Federation awarded AS.IT.AF. with a Vermeil Medal in recognition of its many initiatives in 2009.

On the right: Chairman Cavallaro receives the award in the name of ASITAF.

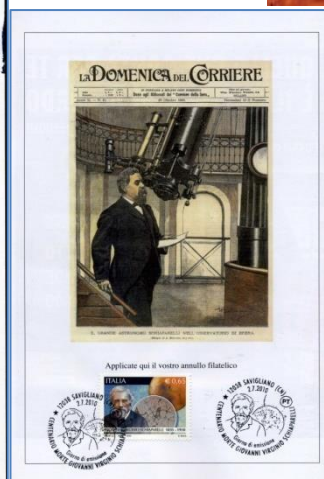


As in 2010 recurred the centenary of the death of the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli, AS.IT.AF. took an active part in the commemorative celebrations that took place in July. Making a great effort, we accepted the invitation to participate in three different events at the same time: We took part in the official exhibition organized by the Municipality of Savigliano, Schiaparelli's birthplace, where we exhibited an astronomical-themed collection, prepared by ASITAF Member Renato Dicati.



Simultaneously ASITAF was charged with organizing an exhibition and conference in Turin, at the prestigious premises of the National Library and an exhibition in the ESOF hall, which at the time was taking place in the Turin-Lingotto Fair area.

Paul Calle, honorary member of ASITAF, designed the official postcard, reworking a famous fresco he had created for NASA in Huntsville.



In July the first AS.IT.AF. booklet "Schiaparelli and the Exploration of Mars" was published. It was edited by Renato Dicati who, in thirty pages traces, through philately, the history of man's approach to the "red planet", starting from the observations made three thousand years ago by Babylonians, Egyptians and Chinese and to then arrive to the missions of the Martian probes.

In October Umberto Cavallaro participated, as National Delegate for Astrophilately, in the FIP Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, together with the Delegates of 16 countries who on October 21, 2010 celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Astrophilately Class, that took place in Rome in November 1985.



AS.IT.AF. announced at the meeting that it had promoted a special commemorative portmark to be used in Rome on the day of the anniversary, a few weeks later.

The postmark was designed by the artist Carlo Torcelli, creator of the ASITAF logo.

The news of the postmark aroused keen interest and was taken up by various FIP¹ and FEPA², information channels, and by the astrophilately media of several countries including Italy³, Germany⁴, The Netherlands⁵, and the United States⁶.



Delegates from 16 Countries celebrate the 25th anniversary of astronomy at the World Philatelic Exposition in Lisbon. Among the Delegates are some Members of AS.IT.AF., including Jürgen Esders (Germany – far right), Jean-Marie Verhalle (Belgium – centre) and Antonio Rigo (Spain – far left). In addition to President Igor Rodin, there are also familiar characters in AS.IT.AF, such as Beatrice Bachmann and Charles Bromser (alongside Rodin) Viacheslav Klochko (behind Cavallaro) and Miri Mateika. [Photo Trömmer-Schiltz (FIP)]

On December 30, we received the sad news of the death of our Honorary Member Paul Calle, aged 82.

¹ http://astrophilatelist.com/news/astrophilately_25_years_today/2010-11-05-242

² See www.asitaf.it, Section **ABOUT US/STAMPS AND POSTMARKS**

³ https://www.vaccarinews.it/news/Da_venticinque_anni_uno_spazio_a_s_/9337

⁴ See www.asitaf.it, Section **ABOUT US/STAMPS AND POSTMARKS**

⁵ See www.asitaf.it, Section **ABOUT US/STAMPS AND POSTMARKS**

⁶ <http://www.space-unit.com/postmark/2010/pmks2010.htm> and www.asitaf.it, Section **ABOUT US/STAMPS AND POSTMARKS**