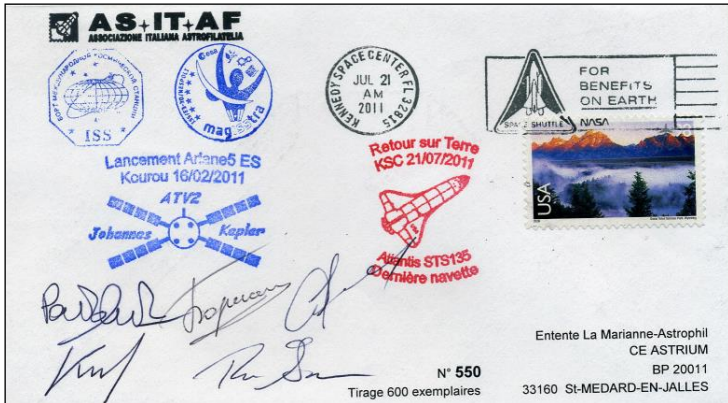


## 2012 : Twenty years of Italian Astronauts in Space

At the beginning of 2012 (February 28) we had the pleasure of meeting Paolo Nespoli in Milan and presenting him the folder with one of the envelopes that ATV-2 had carried to the ISS in February 2011 and which Paolo Nespoli, after personally collecting the container from ATV, had signed in space with the Crew of Expedition 26-27: Dmitry Kondratyev, Cady Coleman, Andrey Borisenko, Alexander Samokutyaev and Ron Garan. In addition to the octagonal "seal" on board the ISS, Nespoli also affixed on the cover his personal seal of the MagISStra mission, which, on his return to earth, was scratched to make it unusable. The signed envelopes then returned to Earth via Shuttle STS-135's historic last flight.



*This cover and the elegant folder (the creation of the artist Alec Bartos) were reserved exclusively for ASITAF members*

In September we were invited to participate in the 45<sup>th</sup> UAI Symposium (Unione Astrofili Italiani) held that year in Frascati, where we held a conference and presented the book "Propaganda and Pragmatism". Also present were astronaut **Paolo Nespoli** and ASITAF Members **Pietro Pantanella** and **Lodovico Sacchi**.



On 28 September we took part in the European Researchers' Night, during which we organized a live connection with the astronaut **Franco Malerba**, first Italian Astronaut in Space who that year was celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his flight.

The 2012 ASITAF postcard – designed by **Alec Bartos** – was dedicated to the TWENTY YEARS OF ITALIAN ASTRONAUTS IN SPACE and was presented at VeronaFil at the end of November, with a special pictorial cancellation designed by ASITAF Member **Renzo Turino**.

*The commemorative postcard was designed by Alec Bartos  
The pictorial Postmark was by Renzo Turino  
(who in the 80s and 90s designed most of the  
Aeritalia/Alenia Spazio commemorative envelopes).  
Below the card signed by Alec Bartos and Franco Malerba*



Alec Bartos also designed for us the "Flight Water" covers commemorating the delivery via ATV-3 to the Space Station of the Public Water Company of Turin, supplied according to two different preparations that respectively met the specifications of the NASA and ROSKOSMOS protocols.



Other covers issued during the year commemorated, among others, the launch of VEGA 1, the delivery of ATV-5 to EADS ASTRIUM, the completion of the MPCV feasibility study performed in Thales Alenia Space, for the future ORION/ARTEMIS engine, and the ESA Ministerial conference held in Naples.