

2014: 50 years of the San Marco satellite

2014 was a very intense year from an astrophilately point of view.

After the announcement of an international exhibition to be held in Milan, involving all classes in 2015, 2015, we began to get prepared for this event.

In the frame of MilanoFil, on March 22, 2014 we organized the **first Federal Seminar of Astrophilately** held in Italy, open to all interested collectors. . We had the honor of hosting **Igor Rodin**, then President of the FIP Astrophilatelic Commission who spoke about the "appropriate materials in an astrophilatelic exhibition". The institutional part of the presentation was delivered by Umberto Cavallaro, FIP Italian delegate for Astrophilately.



*Left: the speakers of the Seminar: Umberto Cavallaro and Igor Rodin¹.
Right: a large group of astrophilatelic follows the works.*



To allow a greater number of collectors to qualify for the international exhibition, the Federation organized that year two competitions open to astronophilatelic: a first qualifying competition in **Vasto**, in May 2014, and a national competition in **Rome** in October.

Four collectors qualified in Vasto. **Seven** astrophilately exhibits took part in tthe RomaFil exhibition in October. Three won the gold medal.

Pietro Pantanella a RomaFil

In October we took part in the “Rossica 2014” International Philatelic exhibition held in Moscow, where the **ASITAF website** was awarded with **Gold Medal** and **AD*ASTRA** with **Vermeil²**



¹ http://astrophilatelist.com/index/milanofil_2014/0-1070

² http://astrophilatelist.com/index/rossica_2014/0-1072

From November 15th to 30th, at the start of Samantha Cristoforetti's FUTURA mission, we organized an exhibition in Verano Brianza – the birthplace of Paolo Nespoli – where we showed the updated version of the WOMEN IN SPACE exhibit and set up a small exhibition of SPACE FOOD, and presented, among others, the bonus foods chosen by Samantha.



The Exhibition remained open for two weeks and was visited by a large audience. The program was also completed by 3 conferences that involved general public, schools and amateur astronomers.



The closing ceremony was attended by Paolo Nespoli who illustrated the FUTURA mission



Paolo Nespoli visits WOMEN IN SPACE and the SPACE FOOD exhibition



AS.IT.AF members visiting the exhibition, Franco Mauri, Luciana and Umberto Cavallaro, Paolo Nespoli, Andrea Poli and Massimiliano Chiolo, Deputy Mayor of Verano at the time.

On 15 December 2014 we celebrated in Rome half a century of Italian success in space, with the issue of the commemorative stamp sponsored by AS.IT.AF



The Official Bulletin for the new stamp is signed by Umberto Cavallaro (ASITAF), who presented the initiative during the conference organized in Rome at the headquarters of the ASI (Italian Space Agency).



For the first time, astrophilately officially entered ASI, which has collaborated in the creation of the 18 panels of ITALY IN SPACE.

The exhibition consists of 18 panels plus an introductory one which explains what astrophilately is. It traces the main goals reached during half a century of Italian space successes.



On the left :the introductory board. On the right: 18 display panels at the exhibition.

it was born from the collaboration of ASITAF – that defined the guidelines and supplied the astrophilatic items – and of ASI that took care of the iconography and texts. of the iconography and texts.



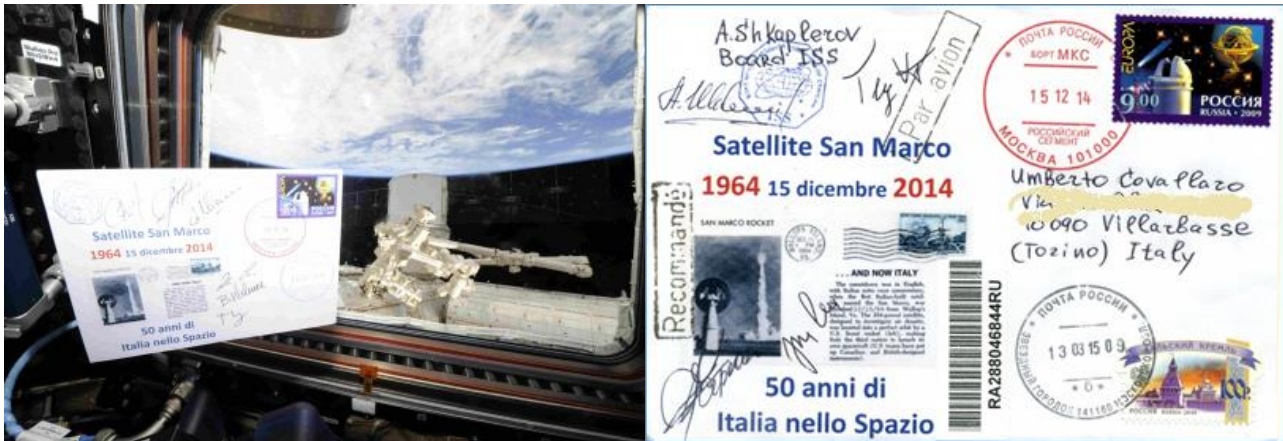
It represented a further step in the search for an innovative approach to philatelic exhibitions and ASITAF has been actively engaged in it since 2009, when it launched the trilogy "MERCURY-GEMINI-APOLLO: THREE STEPS TO THE MOON AND BEYOND" and continued in 2013 with WOMEN IN SPACE.

Right: Enrico Flamini, Scientific Coordinator of ASI, who collaborated in the preparation of the panels.

Left: The official postcard of the event designed by Carlo Torcelli



The ITALIA NELLO SPAZIO exhibition became then a permanent exhibition in the ASI Auditorium.



While we celebrated the event on Earth with the important conference organized by ASI in collaboration with the Air Force (in honor of Prof. Luigi Broglio who designed and built the San Marco satellite), on the initiative of AS.IT.AF. the event was also commemorated **aboard the Space Station**, where Commander **Anton Shkaplerov** canceled a dozen commemorative covers and had them signed by the entire crew (including Samantha Cristoforetti who at that time was part of Expedition 43).

[Škaplerov and Cavallaro](#)



A dozen commemorative covers were issued by ASITAF in 2014 to commemorate space events involving Italy, including the launch of GAIA and Sentinel 1-A, the official delivery of Bepi Colombo to ESA, the 50th anniversary of San Marco.

During the year, a new version of the website www.asitaf.it was prepared, on a renewed technological platform. The site was awarded a gold medal at ROSSICA 2014 (Moscow).

A series of educational articles on astrophilately and its rules was issued on QuiFilatelia, the magazine of the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies.

Unfortunately, by the end of 2014, the Federation had to communicate that due to the complete lack of interest of Poste Italiane, the planned World Philatelic Exhibition was cancelled.

We considered therefore participating in the international exhibition to be held in August 2015 in Gmunden, Austria.