

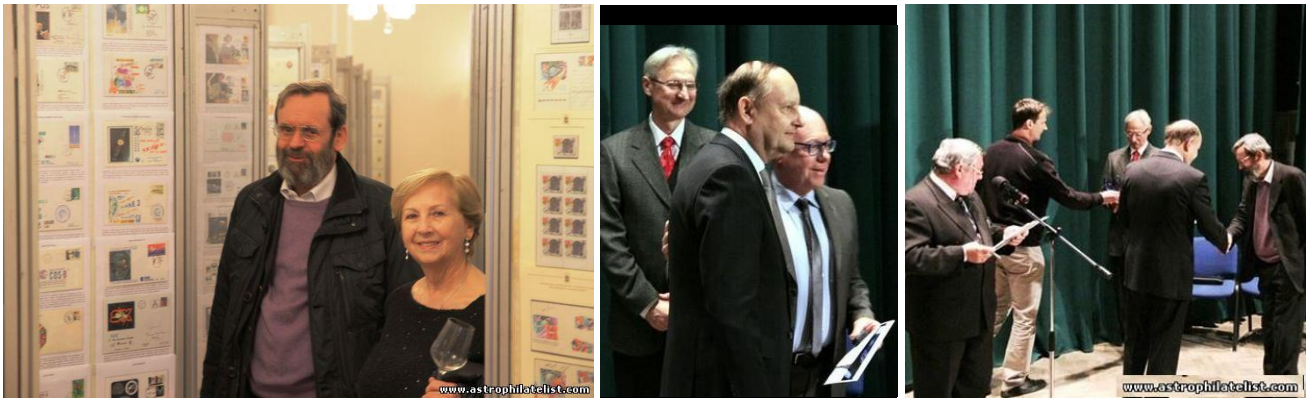
2016 : the ExoMars adventure begins

In March 2016, on the occasion of Women's Day, the **DONNE NELLO SPAZIO** panels were hosted for a week at the **Galleria dell'Accademia**, a prestigious art gallery in Turin.

From 12 to 17 April we took part in **Eurospace 2016**, the event organized in **Prague (The Czech Republic)** on the 55th anniversary of Gagarin's flight. 24 astrophilatelic and space-themed collections from nine countries were exhibited, as well as non-philatelic collections, such as collections of photos and autographs. The "National Exhibition with International Participation" (and FEPA recognition) was inaugurated by **2 cosmonauts: Oldřich Pelčák** (from the Czech Republic, who in 1978 was backup of the Czech Cosmonaut Vladimír Remek for the Soyuz 28 mission) and **Michal Fulier** (Slovakia, who was Ivan Bella's backup for the Soyuz TM-29 mission in 1999).



AS.IT.AF. participated with 3 exhibits (Cavallaro, Della Maddalena, Rega), and received a Gold medal with a special prize from the Jury, and two Large Vermeil medals.



(photos by Igor Rodin)¹



The "WOMEN IN SPACE" panels were on show in the Foyer, where the opening ceremony was held and which was used for the relaxation and entertainment of visitors

As always in this type of event, there were plenty of opportunities for meetings, since many of the main European collectors of Astrophilately and Space Thematics participated, as well as the FIP National Delegates of Astrophilately.

Ernst Leu (CH), Walter Hopferwieser (AT), and Miri Mateika (AT) relaxing in the Foyer



The ASITAF exhibition of "Space food", in Czech and English versions, presented around 50 samples of "bonus food" including those prepared by ALTEC for Luca Parmitano (2013) and by ARGOTEC for Samantha Cristoforetti (2015)

¹ See http://astrophilatelist.com/index/eurospace_2016_prague/0-1105

As many National Delegates were visiting the exhibition, this offered the opportunity to meet at an **informal meeting of the FIP Astrophilately Section**.



The FIP informal meeting. Left: Umberto Cavallaro, Walter Hopferwieser, Julius Cacka, Ernst Leu, Chris Schmied [photo Jürgen Esders]. Right: Igor Rodin, Miri Mateika, Antoni Rigo, Jürgen Esders [photo: Umberto Cavallaro]

Attention was immediately drawn to the debate raised within the FIP to merge Astrophilately with Aerophilately. From here to the discussion on the **updating of the FIP rules for astrophilately (SREV)** the step was short. Two **documents**, prepared respectively by **Umberto Cavallaro** and **Jürgen Esders**, had been circulated in advance and distributed to all the Delegates. Unfortunately, neither of the two documents was seriously tackled and discussed, due to the disinterest of the councillors who were at the end of their mandate.



Left: At coffee with Sergey Poznachirko. Right: dinner with ASITAF members Jürgen Esders and Toni Rigo.

There were many opportunities to see old friends and meet great collectors from all over Europe. I was able to exchange long pleasant conversations with **Sergey Poznachirko**, a great Russian expert and collector of Thematic Philately, who won the first prize in this competition.



After receiving a gold medal at Eurospace in April 2016, Umberto Cavallaro's exhibit "ITALIA NELLO SPAZIO" ("ITALY IN SPACE") was in London at **41 Devonshire Place**, in **standing display** throughout May 2016 in the prestigious historic centre of the **RPSL, Royal Philately Society of London**, the oldest Philatelic Association in the world,

which was founded in 1869 and has over two thousand members worldwide



Towards the end of May, the **DONNE NELLO SPAZIO (WOMEN IN SPACE)** collection was exhibited for fifteen days in Crescentino (Vercelli) where our Partners **Renzo Monateri, Giovanni Bandirali and Pino Pezza** set up the exhibition "**PINK AMONG THE STARS**".



At the end of July ASITAF sponsored the fourth edition of the **SCIENZA FANTASTICA 2016 (FANTASTIC SCIENCE 2016)** event in Spotorno, and organized the "SCIENCE" part, including the participation of **Franco Malerba** and the live connection with **Paolo Nespoli**, who was in training in Moscow.

Malerba entertained a large audience with a very interesting conference on "*The future of space exploration*" which was followed by an animated debate and finished with meetings with the public and signature and dedication of the new edition of his book "*La Vetta*" (The Summit).

A new, entirely renewed edition of the 20 panels of **ITALIA NELLO SPAZIO (ITALY IN SPACE)** were on show, created with the financial contribution of the Municipality of Spotorno.



The official card of SCIENZA FANTASTICA 2016, by artist Roberto Giannotti



Gian Luca Giudice, Councilor for Culture of the Municipality of Spotorno and creator of the Event, and some ASITAF members (Lodovico Sacchi, Massimo Trenta, Umberto Cavallaro) with Franco Malerba during the visit to exhibition



Left: Children in the "space laboratory" with Roberto Giannotti. Right: traditional launch with Franco Malerba.



During the live connection with Paolo Nespoli

Astronaut **Paolo Nespoli**, the first Italian to make two long term space expeditions. participated in the **SCIENZA FANTASTICA** event connected live from **Star City (Moscow)**, where at that time he was being trained, in preparation for his long lasting expedition that would have seen him engaged in research on the Space Station, for the third time.

The last official "astrophylatelic" event of 2016 was **ITALIAFIL** in which the national competition organized by FSFI took place in **Bologna** on October 21-22.

A total of **8 exhibits** participated in the "Astrophilately" Class: Bussolino, Della Maddalena, Mauri, Pantanella and Rega in the National competition (EN), Matteassi and Mauri (with a new collection) in the Qualification area (EQ), Bussolino in the ONE FRAME section with a second exhibit.

Visiting the exhibition. From the left: Rega, Bussolino, Trenta, Vaccari, Cavallaro



The 20 panels of ITALIA NELLO SPAZIO and the 10 panels of WOMEN IN SPACE were also exhibited at ITALIAFIL in Bologna, but not as part of the competition.

The main topic of the moment was the **exploration of Mars**.

A thematic collection by **Lodovico Sacchi** was dedicated to **MARS EXPLORATION**, and a special cancellation was prepared by ASITAF to commemorate the arrival of EXOMARS, which took place a few days earlier.



Besides the official appointments we also participated in various events including the meeting of the Italian thematic philately organized in Saluzzo (CN), where we brought two collections on the exploration of Mars, prepared respectively by Cavallaro and Sacchi, and the WOMEN IN SPACE panels.

The two collections by Sacchi and Cavallaro went then to Latina – Borgo Faiti, in November to participate in the “**Giornate del Collezionismo Pontino**” (an event in the Lazio region), with which we also collaborated for the preparation of the EXOMARS cancellation, designed by Mario Picca Garin (Thales Alenia Space) who had already designed our envelopes in October.

During the year, commemorative covers were prepared by ASITAF for space events that involved Italy, such as the launch of IXV (for which we collected 4 envelopes in a very successful Folder), ISSpresso, Neemo-20, delivery of Exomars to Baikonur, arrival of Exomars/Schiaparelli on Mars.

