

2018: ASITAF turns 10

AS.IT.AF. was founded in Villarbasse (Turin) on **24 March 2008** by a small group of collectors, and immediately took steps to bring astrophilately back to life in Italy.

In its first 10 years of life, over 20 collections have participated in 10 official exhibitions in Italy and have qualified to participate in international competitions.

A nice postcard designed with artistic imagination by Alec Bartos was distributed at MilanoFil 2018 with a special pictorial postmark designed by Carlo Torcelli who was the creator of the ASITAF logo.



Overall, in these 10 years we have actively participated in no less than 80 events, conferences and exhibitions, and organized or co-organized at least twenty events in various cities in Italy and abroad.

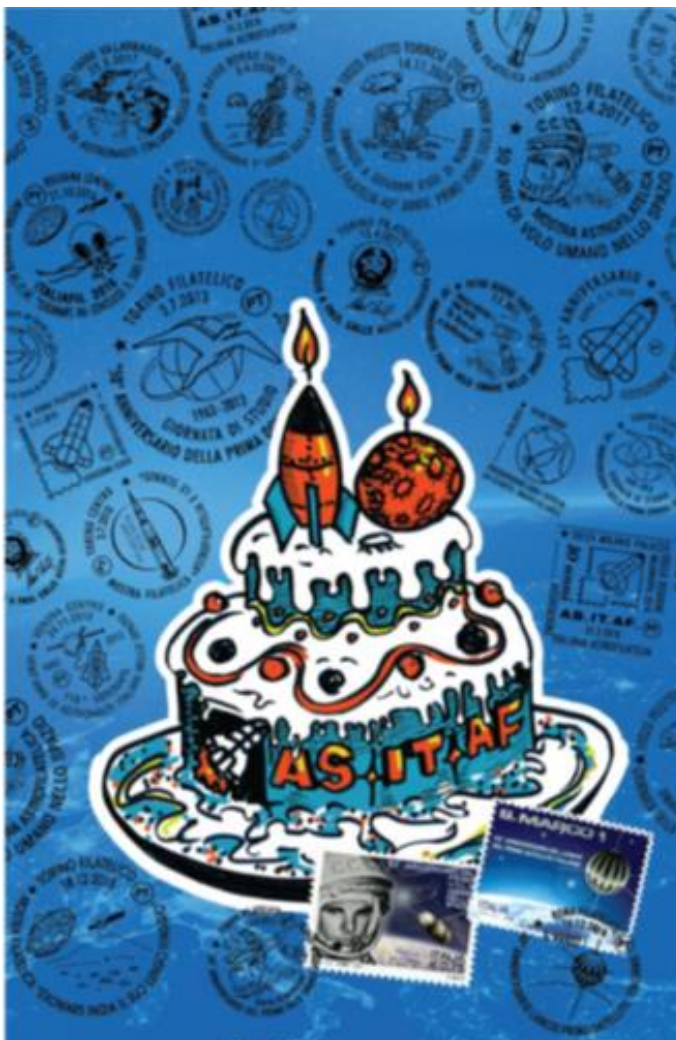
We have prepared 17 special cancellations (nicely reproduced in Alec Bartos's postcard) designed by Ottavio Irio Fantini, Chris Calle, Carlo Torcelli, Alec Bartos, Renzo Turino, Marco Morando, Mario Picca Garin, Valentina Zanoni, Umberto Cavallaro.

At the request of AS.IT.AF. the two stamps illustrated on the postcard were issued by the Italian Postal Administration.

76 postcards and commemorative envelopes were made, many with astrophile value, canceled from time to time in Turin, Rome, Colleferro, Naples, Kourou, Panama, Baikonur, Houston, Wallops Island, Key Largo and Cape Canaveral.

From the beginning AS.IT.AF. was supported by great artists such as Carlo Torcelli (to whom we owe, among other things, the design of our logo and of the first historic postcard), the late Ottavio Irio Fantini (who designed the first cancel) and Chris Calle (who designed the cancellation and postcard of the 40th anniversary of the Apollo mission). Chris was co-opted into AS.IT.AF. since the beginning as an Honorary Member, together with his father Paul Calle, the designer of what is perhaps the best known of all the American postage stamps: the "Man on the Moon" stamp.

Faithful to the commitment, declared in its Statute, to "promote studies, research and publications on the historical and technical aspects relating to astrophilately and space mail", AS.IT.AF. over the years has published several booklets and books.



Exactly on the day of our 10th anniversary we were at **MILANOFIL 2018**, which that year changed location and moved to the "Superstudio Più" in the fashion, design and creativity district, and, above all, changed its look becoming the "International Fair of Stamps and Collectables". The 2018 theme was "Philately for Space and Astronomy".



The guest of honor was the astronaut **Walter Villadei** who entertained the audience talking about the two years of training he spent in Star City (near Moscow), and about the future of Italy in space. Villadei then visited with great interest the exhibitions of Asitaf **ITALY IN SPACE**, which summarizes in twenty panels 50 years of Italian successes and **SPACE FOOD: WHAT ASTRONAUTS EAT IN SPACE** which presented a hundred samples of "bonus food": the specialties of our dishes brought into space in the last 10 years by Italian astronauts.



On the left, the ASITAF stand: Mauri, Cavallaro, Walter Villadei, Giovanni Caprara, Pantanella and Della Maddalena. Right, table with the astronaut; Trenta, Pantanella, Ricci, Poli, Cavallaro, Villadei, Caprara, Chiolo, Toniaccini, Dicati (© Photo: Della Maddalena)

The conversation with the astronaut continued not far from the Exhibition site, in a characteristic restaurant where a dozen ASITAF Members gathered. We toasted the future successes of Walter Villadei, and ASITAF's 10th anniversary which occurred on that very day.

On June 10, 2018 we participated in the "**NESPOLI DAY**", a veritable flood of crowds with which **Verano Brianza**, the birthplace of **Paolo Nespoli**, welcomed him as a "star": "**AstroPaolo**", as they call here this illustrious fellow citizen who has been three times in space and who, after the 139 days of the "Vita" mission, was returning for a day with colleagues from Expedition 53. They were all wearing their blue astronaut uniforms: the Russian commander **Sergey Ryazanskiy**, the NASA astronauts **Randy Bresnik**, **Mark Vande Hei** and **Joe Acaba**.



Welcomed in the BCC residential park at the gates of Verano Brianza by the mayor **Massimiliano Chiolo** (ASITAF member), the astronauts boarded resplendent vintage cars and paraded through the streets of the Brianza municipality.

The parade was welcomed along its run by a cheering crowd, who waved Italian, American and Russian flags, by the banners of the Municipality and of the Associations, and by the notes of the city's musical band. Once at the Town Hall building, a simple but heartfelt greeting ceremony was held by the civil and military authorities of the Province, the Region and the State.



Left: arrival of the astronauts. Right: Mayor Chiolo greets the astronauts

In the crowd were many ASITAF members. The welcome party continued in the MrBrown Restaurant, where 250 friends and supporters were admitted by invitation..



In the restaurant hall ASITAF presented an exhibition of samples of space food that the Expedition 53 astronauts had available during their mission. In addition to the, now customary, samples of the Italian "bonus food", prepared by ALTEC and Argotec, there were also Russian samples (brought by Sergei Ryazanskyi) and NASA samples brought for the occasion by Paolo Nespoli, and JAXA and CNSA.



The day ended in the crowded Auditorium where over 800 people were seated.



The astronauts talked about their experience in space, especially about the last expedition they shared, that started on July 28, 2017 from the Baikonur cosmodrome, the same launch pad from which Sputnik had been launched 60 years earlier and from which Gagarin had departed in 1961.

The launch that brought Sergey Ryazansky, Paolo Nespoli and Randy Bresnik to the ISS is remembered as one of the most beautiful launches in

history, both because everything went smoothly, as by the book, and for the special light conditions that made it **spectacular**, tracing a brilliant plume of exhaust, visible **for miles in the clear** early evening sky.

The five then described how life is on the Station and how research is done. They spoke of the many "meetings" held with important personalities and heads of government. One of the connections that left a mark was the one with Pope Francis, "in which everyone, although not all of them Catholics, wanted to participate", testifies Nespoli.

Nespoli then showed some of the photos taken from the Station in a very intense period, in which there were several eruptions of volcanoes, fires, typhoons, all clearly visible from the ISS. During the mission, the record number of 800,000 photographic and video shots was reached.

The conference ended with some thought provoking ideas: *"From space we can better understand how fragile the earth is" and "In the Space Station which is our planet traveling through space, we all feel like a single crew and the ship only works if we all collaborate relying on and trusting each other, regardless of background and nationality"*



We invited Paolo Nespoli to participate a few weeks later, in **SCIENZA FANTASTICA 2018** in **Spotorno**, (FANTASTIC SCIENCE 2018) where he was Guest of Honor. Nespoli visited the exhibition on "**What do astronauts eat in space?**" which in this edition, in his honor, was obviously focused on the menus of the crew of Expeditions 52-53 of the International Space Station, of which Nespoli was part in the last semester of 2017.



The exhibition remained open to the public for about ten afternoons and was visited by a thousand people.



On the evening of July 26, Nespoli entertained the public by talking about his three space missions and answering the numerous questions of a very attentive and curious audience. Paolo is the Italian astronaut who spent the longest time in orbit and was the first Italian astronaut to carry out a long-duration mission on the International Space Station and the first European to carry out two.



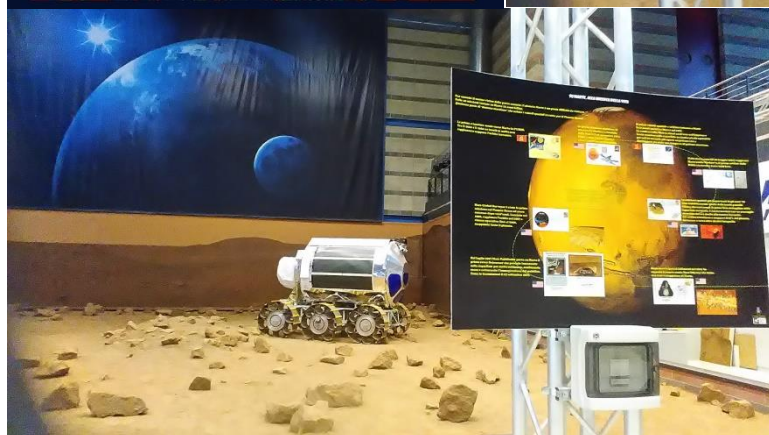


In August we participated in the informal **meeting** of the **FIP Astrophilately Commission** which took place in Prague. The Italian contribution has made it possible to broaden the concept of "event" in astrophilately, that now includes events such as the delivery of space vehicles or important conferences that have marked history.

From left: Walter Hopferwieser, Julius Cacka, Umberto Cavallaro, Chris Schmied, Charles Bromser (photo Jurgen Esders).



In October we participated in the exhibition organized in Turin by **CRAL ALTEC** whose theme this year was space themed publications. Many visitors, but few buyers, who were more interested in science fiction, in the wake of the editions of previous years.



In addition to our publications we brought our Panels on **MARS EXPLORATION** which were displayed in the simulation area used by the **ALTEC ExoMars Mission Control Center**.

We also complemented the display of **space food** produced by ALTEC for ESA with samples produced by NASA and ROSCOSMOS.





The following week, from October 20 to 28, we were invited to set up at the **Moncalvo Civic Museum (Asti)**, on the occasion of the **64th Truffle Fair**, the exhibition "ABSENCE OF GRAVITY ABSENCE OF HUNGER? FOOD IN SPACE". We also presented the panels of the **WOMEN IN SPACE** exhibition and the book of the same name.

Guest of honor was the astronaut **Franco Malerba**

LA STAMPA

Alla Fiera del tartufo di Moncalvo si vola nello spazio con due astronauti storici

GIUSEPPE PROSIO

20 Ottobre 2018



La Fiera nazionale del tartufo, a Moncalvo edizione 64ª dal 20-21 ottobre al 27-28, propone un inedito e doppio volo nello spazio chiamando a dibattere due personaggi, lo storico dell'astronautica Umberto Cavallaro e, il 27 Franco Malerba, il primo astronauta italiano andato in orbita sulla Space Shuttle Atlantis nel 1992.

Città di Moncalvo
2018
6 ottobre 16 dicembre

MONFERRATO
GIORNO NOTTE
al di là de
Gianni Col

UMBERTO CAVALLARO
DONNE NELLO SPAZIO
MURSIA

ORARI DI APERTURA
sabato e domenica dalle ore 10,00 alle 19,00
durante la settimana su appuntamento.

A.L.E.R.A.M.O. ONLUS

Sabati al museo

Moncalvo piazza Buronzo, 2

Musica
Parole
Presentazioni editoriali
Incontri con gli autori

20 ottobre 2018 ore 16,30
Donne nello Spazio - Divagazioni con l'autore
Umberto Cavallaro
con Piero Messidoro
modera Maria Rita Mottola

Mostra temporanea
20 - 21 e 27 - 28 ottobre 2018
10,00 - 19,00

UMBERTO CAVALLARO
DONNE NELLO SPAZIO

L'altra faccia della luna
Donne nello Spazio

Museo civico di Moncalvo via Caccia, 5 - informazioni 3277841338