

## 2019 – 50th Anniversary of the first moon landing.

An intense year, in which ASITAF promoted/organized various initiatives and took an active role in a dozen celebrations that took place in different locations to celebrate the anniversary of the first moon landing:

- Villarbasse (TO) convention/exhibition and lecture by Paolo Nespoli,
- Aosta (conferences and exhibitions),
- Volpiano (TO) conferences and exhibitions,
- Sesto San Giovanni (MI) Space models' and Philatelic Exhibition June-August,
- Asti/Castello d'Annone (AT) exhibition and stratospheric balloon launch,
- Spotorno (SV) "Scienza Fantastica 2019" exhibition, conference by Paolo Nespoli,
- Mirasole Observatory (MI) Exhibition, conference and booth,
- Turin-Pingone exhibition,
- Acqui Terme (AL) Exhibition and conference,
- Turin Altec, Space models' and Philatelic Exhibition,
- Turin Central Post Office, Philatelic Exhibition,
- Turin Space Adventure, philatelic exhibition, space food exhibition.

For a few days, during the "Spring Festival", **Villarbasse** was the center of attention for space exploration enthusiasts who, on May 18, 2019 flocked in large numbers, to meet the astronaut **Paolo Nespoli** who was inaugurating the Apollo 11 **50<sup>th</sup> Moon Landing Exhibition**.

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ASITAF prepared, with its well established style, the set of 12 panels "**APOLLO PROGRAM: 5 STEPS TO THE MOON AND BEYOND**" which retells the history of the Mercury-Gemini-Apollo program, traced with astrophilatelic documents.

The exhibition – which had about 500 visitors – was staged in the splendid eighteenth-century Palazzo Mistrot. Despite the inclement weather, the public attended en masse, so much so that many had to listen to the inaugural speeches from outside, under the umbrella



*Paolo Nespoli during his speech "In Space for the Earth"*



*Opening of the exhibition*



The historical part of the exhibition consisted of

- 12 historical-didactic panels,
- a collection of "memorabilia" flown in space on Apollo missions (emblems, flight procedures, flags, etc.),
- photos of the 6 moon landing sites; each photo signed by a moonwalker,
- the commemorative covers of the Apollo mission launches (from the collection of Walt Cunningham, Apollo VII), signed by all the Apollo astronauts.

The **panels** allowed visitors to immerse themselves in the story of what led Man to the Moon 50 years ago: a heated competition engaged during the Cold War by the two Superpowers. This will be probably remembered in the future centuries as the most important event of the 1900s: when for the first time a human being set foot on a celestial body other than the Earth.



The exhibition "**What astronauts eat in space**" presented a large sample of space food, which included the "standard dishes" provided to its astronauts, and "guests", by NASA, and those provided to cosmonauts by ROSKOSMOS (the Russian space agency), the "bonus food" provided by ESA (with the dishes chosen by the Italian astronauts Paolo Nespoli, Luca Parmitano, Samantha Cristoforetti, Roberto Vittori, but also by Andreas Mogensen (DK) and Tim Peake (UK)).



There were also samples of space food for the JAXA Japanese astronauts, and for the Chinese taikonauts of the CNA (Chinese space agency). There was no shortage of water from SMAT (Turin aqueduct) which in the past years won two tenders for the official supply of water to the ISS. In all, about 80 samples which for many visitors represented a real discovery.





The Convention was attended by many ASITAF Members from Turin and its province, Acqui Terme, Milan, Monza, Como, Modena and Verona.

(from left):  
Rega, Ricci, Mauri, Festa, Lo Campo,  
Nespoli, Vaccari, Cavallaro,  
(in front) Poli, Sacchi.

## Aosta e Volpiano





## Sesto San Giovanni (Milano)

From July 4 to 29 ASITAF took part in the exhibition **OLTRE LA TERRA (BEYOND THE EARTH)** organized in the **SPAZIO MIL** exhibition AREA in **Sesto San Giovanni (MI)**





## Castello d'Annone TSV3 Apollo CosmicRay mission

On Saturday July 13, 2019, ASITAF sponsored the **TSV3 Apollo CosmicRay** mission prepared by **Turin Space Activity (TSA)**, the Space Division of **Italian Virtual Pilots (PVI)** to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 (<https://turinspaceactivity.wixsite.com/space>). The capsule had been officially presented during the **Villarbasce** event and **Paolo Nespoli** had placed his signature on it and signed a hundred cards that were taken into the stratosphere by the capsule. It was the third time that the PVI/TSA skimmed into space with their new **Near Space mission** starting from the Astigiana airfield of Castello di Annone, transformed for the occasion into our new Spaceport: let's say a "miniature Cape Canaveral".



MISSIONE TERRA NEAR-SPACE	
LANCIO TSV - 3 - APOLLO MISSION	
PROGETTO	R. ALBERTI L. MOLINARI
TELEMETRIA	R. GALTER A. BUOSO
ESPERIMENTI	P. NAVONE R. BORELLI
DECOLLO	AVIOSUPERFICIE ASTIGIANA H 13,35
ALTITUZIONE	KM 32,600 H 15,00
RECUPERO	CHIARIANA PIAZZA H 15,32
VOLO POSTERIORE	A. REGA 13/07/2019



*Handwritten signature and date: 9/1/19*

The mission, which also had a scientific aspect, and was equipped with special equipment for detecting and measuring cosmic radiation, set out to bring into the stratosphere the 1:6 scale reproduction of the Apollo 11 Columbia capsule which carried on board the faithful reproduction (by the ASITAF Member Marco Ambrosio) of the three astronauts who reached the moon in 1969.



At 13.26, the meteorological conditions at the Annone area proved to be optimal, and the TSV3 capsule, with its 8370 liters of helium, detached from the ground greeted by thunderous applause from those present.



After an hour and a half the capsule with its three miniature astronauts reached the full stratosphere at an altitude of 32,600 meters; due to lack of pressure, the balloon reached a diameter of 20 meters and exploded. The splashdown took place at 3.32 pm, approximately 11 miles off Chiavari.



## Mirasole



On July 20, 2019, on the exact day of the 50th anniversary of the first step on the Moon, we were guests of **AstroMirasole**, the **Opera Astronomical Association** which is based in the historic Mirasole Abbey, just outside Milan, AstriMirasole is engaged in an intense activity of astronomical-scientific dissemination, to which our Members Francesco Brusca and Andrea Poli give a valuable contribution.

## Torino Pingone

At the same time also in **Turin** in the medieval **Casa del Pingone**, through the work of member **Antonio Lo Campo** and Paolo Navone (ALTEC), was organized an event that combined a conference and an exhibition. For the exhibition – presented in an original “lunar” atmosphere – ASITAF made available part of the material that had been exhibited in Villarbasce in March, including a selection of space food from various Space Agencies and photos with the landscapes of the lunar sites of the landings of the 6 Apollo missions, signed by the Moonwalkers.





## Spotorno

The topic of the 7th edition of SCIENZA FANTASTICA, sponsored by ASITAF was **RITORNO ALLA LUNA** (BACK TO THE MOON). Guest of honor was Paolo Nespoli.



ASITAF presented the panels “**APOLLO PROGRAM: 5 steps towards the moon and beyond**”.



Paolo Nespoli entertained the large audience on the theme "In Space for the Earth"





## Acqui Terme



From October 26 to November 3, 2019 we participated in the exhibition organized in **Acqui Terme** (Alessandria) by the Acqui Numismatic-Philatelic Club, at the invitation of our ASITAF member **Claudio Ricci**, who did the honors. Many ASITAF members attended.



*Link: Claudio Ricci, Umberto Cavallaro, Furio Ghiso and Annibale Rega with wives, during the opening of the exhibition. Right: at the conference.*

ASITAF contributed by exhibiting the historical-educational panels on the history of the Apollo program, four astrophile exhibits by ASITAF Members (Luigi Bussolino, Umberto Cavallaro, Renato Rega and Lodovico Sacchi), and about eighty samples of Space Food. We also held a conference. The exhibits were shown within original elegant frames. Even the exhibition "What do astronauts eat in space?" attracted, as always, the curiosity of the public and many questions.





## Torino, (ALTEC e POSTE ITALIANE)

On November 16 and 17, 2019 we participated in the exhibition, **LA LUNA E OLTRE** (The Moon and beyond), organized in Turin at **ALTEC**, the space engineering company connected with Thales,



The nice exhibition moved then to the Central Post Office of **Poste Italiane** in Turin where ASITAF presented, among other things, the "intriguing" thematic exhibit by **Lodovico Sacchi** entitled "**Dubbi Spaziali – Apollo 11: la Luna calpestata?**" (*Space doubts - Apollo 11: was there ever a step taken on the Moon?*) with rare and special items, like a beautiful



envelope signed by Von Braun and the "unknown astronaut" stamp.

There were also some peculiar exhibits never shown before, including "**Apollo Epic in Moncalvo**" prepared with the active collaboration of **Franco Fassio**, one of the early ASITAF members, who made available the cover prepared by his father, Giuseppe Fassio, between the years' 60 and 70s- Giuseppe Fassio was for many years the municipal secretary of Moncalvo (Asti) where at the time there was a large group of philatelists, including the Mayor of the time. The "*Moncalvo lunar postmarks*" were a noteworthy phenomenon, not only for the relative novelty they represented, but above all for their organisation. In fact, a postmark accompanied every single Apollo mission, and as a whole they represent one of the largest collections of this type in Italy. This initiative significantly contributed to give visibility to the "smaller city of Italy", which at the time counted less than 4000 inhabitants and suddenly acquired great notoriety. In fact, these cancellations also had a great diffusion abroad. Some of these envelopes went to testify Italy's philatelic activities in the important Washington Post Museum, where also is on show the only cover carried to the moon by Apollo 11



*On the left some visitors having a discussion in front of the Ludovico Scacchi collection.*



*On the right Franco Fassio and Umberto Cavallaro in front of the Frame "Moncalvo" during the inauguration of the Fair*



## Torino SPACE ADVENTURE



After being shown in many countries, and recently in Copenhagen, Tel Aviv, Johannesburg, Warsaw and Bucharest, the **SPACE ADVENTURE** landed in Turin. The itinerant exhibition originates from the US Space & Rocket Center, the **NASA** museum of **Huntsville**, Alabama, which was the NASA site where Wernher von Braun worked.



*Manifesto of the exhibition and special postmark designed for the SPACE ADVENTURE by Stefania Battista, the artist who had designed the poster of the Villarbasce event and had edited the graphics of the "Apollo program: 5 steps to the moon and beyond". To the right; ASITAF COVER produced for the opening of the exhibition.*

ASITAF prepared the official cancellation used on the day of the inauguration of the exhibition and took care of two sections of the exhibition: the **Astrophilately** and the **Space Food** section, which was very successful. The organizers asked to make it an integral part of the exhibition in the following editions.



Despite, due to the Covid emergency the exhibition had to close in advance, in four months it welcomed over 45,000 visitors.

In four years the exhibition was visited so far by over 4 million people in 12 countries.