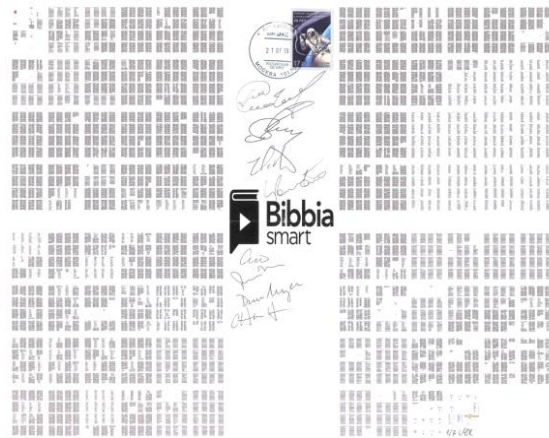
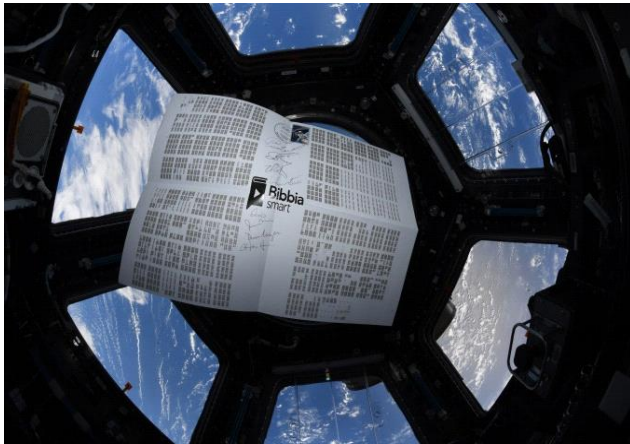


## 2020: COVID-19 emergency

After an intense year of celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, 2020 was a year of very limited activities due to the COVID emergency

On February 6, 2020 Soyuz MS-13 brought back to Earth the **first Catholic Bible in Italian** flown into space. Thanks to ASITAF the **SMART Bible** in Italian was sent to the ISS on July 21, 2019 and remained in space for six months.



Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 emergency, it was not possible for us to officially present the initiative, as scheduled, at MilanoFil (March 2020) or even to deliver the copies to the prestigious Personalities and Institutions for which they were intended.

For the same reason, was also canceled **AEROMFILA 2020** was also cancelled. The event was planned in Bucharest from April 23 to 25, 2020 and Italian astrophilatelists were to participate, together with aerophilatelists. The ASITAF President had been appointed Commissioner representing the FSFI, and astrophilately juror.

The **FIP meeting to be held in London** on May 4 was cancelled as well. The meeting was scheduled with regards to the approval of new Guidelines for Astrophilately. in which Italy gave a decisive contribution.

The very stringent safety standards adopted discouraged many other initiatives planned during the year. .

During the summer we managed to participate in one of the few events that could take place, albeit on a smaller scale: the eighth edition of **SCIENZA FANTASTICA** in Spotorno. Credit must be given to the Municipal Administration of Spotorno and in particular to the Councilor for Culture **Gian Luca Giudice** and his closest collaborators for the courage and tenacity shown, which made it possible to overcome many challenges, including the financial one, in a year when the primary needs of the Municipalities multiplied.

As usual, the event was also sponsored by ASITAF which took care of the Space section, even if, inevitably, the traditional exhibition was reduced. In the Science Fiction section, were exhibited only some samples made available by Mufant (Museo del Fantastico in Turin). In the Space section, models created by our partner Marco Ambrosio and by the CMT (Centre of Turin Models) were on show with a small representation of philatelic-didactics panels made in recent years by ASITAF.



The influx of the public was limited, as participants were admitted only by reservation, and entry was conditioned by a rigorous and lengthy procedure of health and administrative checks.

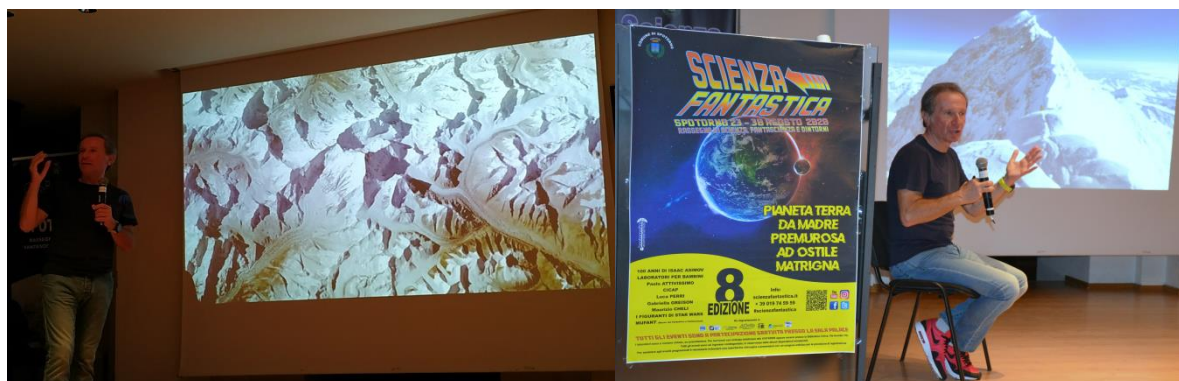


Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, Poste Italiane did not grant cancellation or Temporary Postal Service, and consequently the traditional postcard created by the well-known cartoonist **Roberto Giannotti**, could not be printed and distributed as it had been for many years, but remained sadly displayed on the stage where the events took place.

The guest of honor was the astronaut **Maurizio Cheli** who visited the exhibition and chatted with the children of the now usual "space laboratory", animated by Roberto Giannotti,



In the evening Cheli entertained the audience for over an hour on the theme "Flying beyond the clouds" speaking of his Shuttle mission STS-75 in which he participated in 1996, flying aboard the Columbia to release the Italian satellite Tethered. He then spoke of his book *TUTTO IN UN Istante* (*Everything in an instant*) that visitors were able to buy at the end of the evening.



Stimulated by the many questions, he also talked about his ascent on Everest, with which he had made a bet when he first admired it from the Shuttle.

In 2020, two commemorative covers were prepared to celebrate the delivery by Italian Industry of ESM-3 (*Artemis* project) and the completion of the Franklin rover (*ExoMars* project).