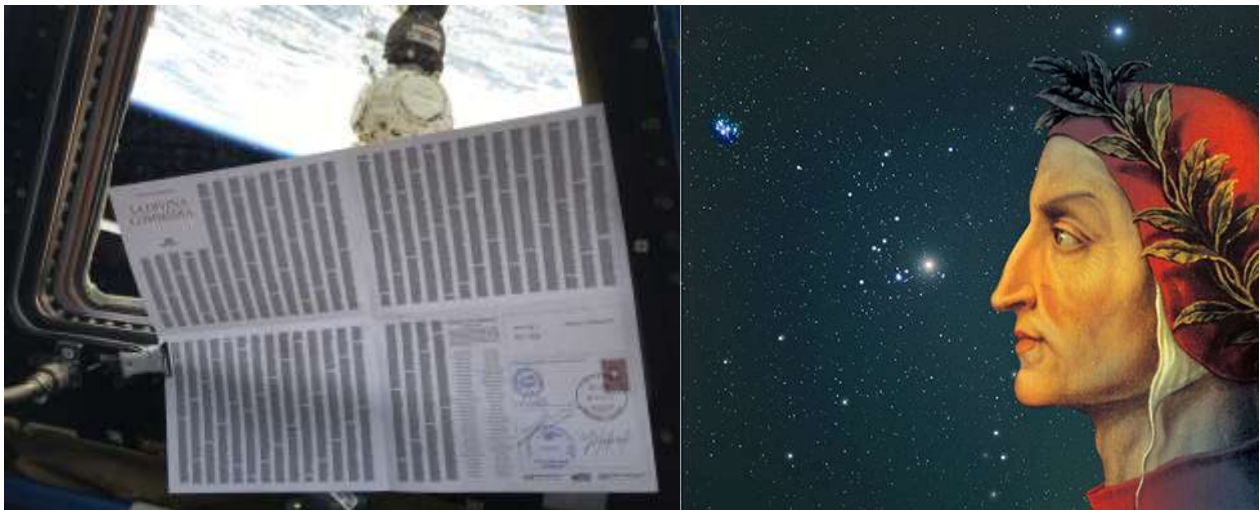


## 2022: The DIVINE COMEDY into space – “to see again the stars”

Seven centuries after Dante Alighieri's death, the Divine Comedy went into space where for 176 days it was closest to the stars.

That Dante's gaze was turned to the Universe is evident from the word with which he closes each Book of the Divine Comedy: "... the stars", the horizon of a journey that already in the 14th century did not concern only the afterlife but a broader vision, which highlighted new theories on the structure of the Universe and the solar system.



With the help of ASITAF, on October 5, 2021, twenty copies of the A3 sheet with the entire text of the 100 Cantos of the DIVINE COMEDY were brought into space on board the Soyuz MS-19 spacecraft and returned back to Earth on March 30, 2022.



Once on the ISS, the copies were franked with the 24 Rubles postage stamp of the "Coat of arms" series. They were canceled on the same day of 'docking, on October 5, with the official postmark of the Russian Segment of the ISS. The octagonal border seal of the ISS was also affixed to the sheet in blue ink. The copies were then signed by Anton Škaplerov, Soyuz commander, by actress Julija Peresild and director Klim Šipenko who had

arrived at the Station to shoot, in space, the scenes of the film "ВЫЗОВ" (Vyzov), "Challenge" in English. Before undocking from the ISS, the non-postal cancel of Energyia was added with the date of the departure day, March 30, 2022.

After two years of forced lockdown due to the Covid emergency LIBEREC 2022, the FEPA exhibition held in the Czech Republic in October attracted 238 exhibitors (plus 19 in the “Polar Hall”) from all over Western and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine (but also from North America, Australia, China, Israel, Oman and United Arab Emirates). 1139 frames were on show.



Also were on show 18 astrophilathic exhibits. Astrophilately was belatedly introduced as "Class No. 10" at the request of ASITAF, which did its utmost to ensure a wide participation: and in fact 10 out of the 18 exhibitors were ASITAF members and this was the most numerous astrophilately exhibition in the last 20 years, in Liberec also were on show 80 samples of the ASITAF *space food* collection, just returned from Ankara (Turkey) where it was exhibited as part of the NASA LIFE IN SPACE



The last day of the years (on Dec. 31, 2022) the sad nes arrived that Luigi Bussolino had passed away. Luigi was one of the ASITAF Founding Members and vicepresident for 10 years. Ho also was an expert exhibitor.



*On the left: Historic photo taken on March 24, 2008, when ASITAF was founded: with Giovanni Martina (the first Secretary of ASITAF), Umberto Cavallaro, and Luigi Bussolino.  
Center: Luigi in front of his collection exhibited at VeneziaFil 2011.  
Right: with Walt Cunningham in Turin on April 11, 2011.*