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Philatelic literature does not seem to know what recession is; while many aspects of philately have been going through a rollercoaster for over ten years, philatelic publishing is on the rise. Suffice it to say that at *Milanofil* in mid-March there were official presentations of three new books, and in November 2016 at the Verona show as many new books were presented. A month earlier at Bologna's *Italiafil* the same trend, more new books were launched. Many of them sell fast, others are slower, but eventually you discover that they are out of print.

In case you did not notice, books can now be printed at reasonable prices even for quantities of a few hundred copies; this fact alone makes many philatelic and postal history publishing projects easier to manage financially. However, like it even happened to Charles Dickens, publishers get into a book project when there are a number of subscribers. Even University presses nowadays take your order for a book but do not give a publication date. That is a very wise and safe way to go about it as it avoids publishers warehouses from getting filled with unsold copies. On the other hand, if you wait too long to buy a book you may find that it is out of print and then when you look at Amazon or Abebooks you may find it with a price that is three, four times its original price. In reality, philatelic literature is a wise investment that pays dividends in knowledge and in many instances in the market value of the books on your bookshelf.

My special thanks for this issue go to Clive Griffiths, Kevin Newson, Martino Laurenzi and David Lee who have made my task much easier. And by the way, congratulations to Martino Laurenzi for winning a welldeserved gold medal at Westfield Stamp Show with his collection "Communications between Italy and Great Britain 1875-1914"