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EDITOR: **GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA**, PO Box 7007, St. Thomas VI 00801-0007 USA

e-mail address: issun@candwbvi.net

Fil-Italia is the official journal of THE ITALY & COLONIES STUDY CIRCLE

For all queries regarding membership, contact: **SECRETARY: RICHARD HARLOW**

7 Duncombe House, 8 Manor Road, Teddington, Middx, TW11 8BE United Kingdom -- Telephone: 020 8977 8737

email address: RichardHarlow@outlook.com

TREASURER: ALAN BECKER 4 Reynolds Court, Eaton Ford, Cambs, PE19 7RW United Kingdom

Tel:- 01480 215009 Email:- alan@kerbec.fsworld.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: ANDY HARRIS 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx, UB9 6NG United Kingdom
Tel:- 07976 916360 Email:- andyharris@blueyonder.co.uk

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Contents

- 107 Fiume's Revenue Stamps for Passports
- 110 The De La Rue Co. Archives *John Davies*
- 116 "Il Novellario" Vol. I Part I *Franco Filanci*
- 128 1702: Letter from Alexandria to Livorno
Paul J. Phillips
- 130 Multiple Disinfection *Alan Becker*
- 134 Can You Help? Strade Ferrate; Italian Tariffs
- 136 Mail to Italian Zone in Crete *John Davies*
- 137 Conferences on Lake Maggiore *Alan Becker*
- 139 Witch Hunt Is this what you get *Danilo Bogoni*
- 142 ICSC Weekend at Kenilworth
- 144 On the Bookshelf
- 151 New Issues
- 154 Philatelic Weather in Italy *GM*
- 156 Honorary Secretary's Notes

Editorial

"*Il diavolo fa le pentole ma non i coperchi*", an Italian proverb recites: it means that the devil makes pots but no lids and when the soup comes to a boil it spills all over the stove. I am citing this proverb because, in my view, it suits a story we cover in this issue of Fil-Italia. I leave it to the readers to figure out which story it is.

On a positive note, I report about the Italian stamp market which I found to have slightly improved compared to previous years. As for new books the reader will see that the hobby has a healthy publishing activity which augurs well for the future.

When it comes to Fil-Italia, I am appealing to our contributing writers to make sure that your editor has more articles in his drawer so that planning can be done well ahead of time. It does not have to be a lengthy article and potential contributing writers should not be intimidated by the scope and scholarship of some articles we publish. Every time I read an article of mine of the 1970s I do not know if I should laugh or cry, but you would be surprised by the fact that I posted some of them on *academia.edu* and they have been downloaded or read by scores of readers from all over the globe. It is said that practice makes perfect and I fully agree with that: there is always a first step in a long journey.

I have known a number of scholars who very rarely wrote an article and I wondered why. When I asked them, they responded that they were busy writing the ultimate reference book on a given aspect of philately or postal history. There is no doubt in my mind that they were fully capable of that, but years went by and their Maker decided otherwise. Unfortunately their books were never completed and published; perhaps it would have been wiser to begin writing some articles. They might have helped the learned author acquire information from unexpected sources.

GM