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Editorial

Here I am, after my 12th and 13th hurricane, both very dangerous and ferocious. You must have seen the pictures on tv, but the impact when you are in the midst of such a catastrophe is traumatic to say the least. However, the British Virgin Islands people and residents are very resilient and it will not be too long before we will be back to business as usual. The islands are green again and some of the resorts plan to open before Christmas.

I must thank all readers, members, and friends who e-mailed me in the aftermath of hurricane Irma; although I suffered contusions and bruises, my health was not seriously impacted. Home still has a solid roof, but there is some painful damage to furniture, windows and doors. Although it was quite a fight to prevent Irma from entering the western wing, books, covers and stamps are in very good condition.

Unfortunately this issue of Fil-Italia suffered a delay beyond my control in an environment where, to this day, there is no electricity, no utilities, no telephone and no internet. Being involved with the local newspaper has some advantages, including a good generator, and greater attention from the telecoms. As customary, the contents of this issue of our journal are varied and very useful to both the advanced specialist and the traditional collector.

When John Davies expressed the need for more information about the tariffs of the last decades I contacted CIFO's president Dr. Manzati who was very receptive. During Summer, CIFO has published a digital book dealing with the Italian postal tariffs from 1974 to date, more details are given by our Honourary Secretary in his page. This volume includes all the charts with rates for the various services and types of mail and fills a gap that will permit collectors to make sense of the various frankings, especially those of the transition years from Lira to Euro.

GM