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## Editorial

This issue of Fil-Italia starts our 44th year with a good variety of very interesting articles; and while looking at our past achievements I extend to all of you a warm invitation to contribute articles to our quarterly.

It is important that you make a note of my changed e-mail address which is listed above: it is simple to remember and much more efficient and free of cost to me when compared to my telecom (Flow a.k.a. Cable & Wireless) who charges \$100 per month. 100 days after hurricane Irma Flow has not been able to be operational. On the other hand Digicel (competing telecom) is doing well and government has re-established electricity to 50% of the population - no small achievement. Much more remains to be done, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Hope and faith will do the rest.

Despite the philatelic market rollercoaster and notwithstanding the lethargic performance of organized philately in many countries, there are hundreds of auctions every month, some of which succeed in finding new homes for huge stamp estates and collections ranging into the millions of dollars.

On the bright side is the continued global interest in postal history; however, some collectors view with concern the steady phasing out of adhesive postage stamps replaced by computer generated postage labels. Rather disquieting is also the fact that lots of mail franked with postage stamps is delivered without cancellation or, worse yet, obliterated by ballpoint pen or felt tip pen doodles.

My personal opinion is that stamps are here to stay, perhaps they will not be issued in such large quantities and some of the extravagant themes and depictions will decrease significantly in which case we will all rejoice.

It is my pleasure and honour, both as editor and president of the I.C.S.C. to extend to all our members and readers my best wishes for a healthy and happy 2018. *GM*