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## Editorial

Weather used to be a conversation topic for people who did not want to discuss politics, religion and gossip. Be it global warming, climate change and greenhouse effects we are talking about lunatic weather even though we do not care for it. It has been a long and somewhat stressful Winter for all humanity: and indeed, something is wrong with our old planet! Following the late Summer hurricanes last September I have heard horror stories from collectors based in the Caribbean who have lost, among other things, their collections; of course they feel grateful for being alive, but the trauma for the devastations and - in some very unfortunate cases - the loss of family members and friends will be there for quite some time.

On to more pleasant topics such as Postal History and stamps, I was lucky enough to secure the articles featured in our Spring issue while already having some lined up for the Summer edition.

My desk is more chaotic than ever having irresponsibly accepted to translate two major books as well as becoming member of the editorial board of a new international Postal History magazine that will be launched before Christmas. Hopefully, these new assignments may have some positive outgrowth for Fil-Italia in the form of new articles and new contributing writers.

During my recent trip to France and Italy I was able to witness Valentine Day, Carnival and Christmas all wrapped into one due, again, to the vagaries of the February weather. On a positive note, I confirmed the impression I had on this side of the ocean which is now corroborated by many sources: indeed, the philatelic market is witnessing some recovery. Although not yet something to celebrate with champagne, there is some light at the end of the tunnel; this has also been confirmed by Italians who visited the recent Stampex. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

GM