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Editorial

Every time I finish a new issue of Fil-Italia I take a deep breath - that's easy to imagine! What you may not know is that I start working on the next one and to make sure we do not fall short of articles I write one myself. By the time I re-start Fil-Italia I see that there are enough articles to fit the new edition; as a result my article goes to the shelf. That also deserves a deep breath and while I pull up my sleeves I am happy to see that members and non-members provide interesting articles.

If you think that the editor's job is just "cut-and-paste" and 1-2-3 pronto, it is because you are unaware of what actually goes into a journal. My predecessors, Colin Pilkington and Andy Harris, have set such high standards that it sometimes is a challenge to follow in their footsteps. I am also very grateful to the proofreaders and translators who include learned philatelists and postal historians. It is highly rewarding to see new members and more people interested in recent and old copies of Fil-Italia. I will never tire to praise Andy for having digitalised our journal from the first issue 44 years ago to date.

Fil-Italia is always in need of new articles and I invite you to contact me if you are working on one. If you think it is quite a task, just get your first article published and then you will see how easy it is to write the next one. Feedback from readers is rarely an immediate reward; in the event of some criticism to your article look at it as an incentive. I myself recently read articles I wrote forty years ago and I am far from satisfied, but when I see an article of mine on *Academia.edu* getting traction and readers from the four corners of the globe I feel a sense of achievement. It is a priceless feeling because you see that some of your research is useful and is being passed on to a keen audience, big or small it's unimportant. What really matters is that a big wall needs many bricks to be built and your are contributing to it.

GM