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Editorial

This issue of Fil-Italia inaugurates the 45th year of life of this quarterly - a birthday that not many philatelic periodicals have been able to celebrate. This longevity of our journal has been recently pointed out by Franco Filanci, the learned editor of "Storie di Posta", in his prestigious publication. Apart from the survival aspect in troubled times like ours, I must add that Fil-Italia's content has since its inception been extremely useful to collectors and specialists of the Italian area who do not speak or read Italian. The calibre of the articles we publish has also earned us high praise and this brings me to conclude that any publication owes much gratitude to both its writers and readers.

This issue has suffered some delay due to a bout of influenza I caught before Christmas in Milan; it is now history, I hope, but I must apologize for the delay. In the good news department is the recent large vermeil medal won by this journal at the international philatelic literature exhibition "Italia 2018" held in Verona last November. This issue benefits from a number of excellent articles that shed more light in areas where one would have thought there was nothing new to add to the existing literature and articles; here again we are indebted to the contributing writers for having given us the privilege and honour of publishing their work. Meanwhile, from Italy comes a lot of bad news about a proposed new law that will have devastating effects on collectables. The text of the law has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies and is being sent to the Senate. Unfortunately, the law does not define to which cultural assets the rules should be applied and such vagueness implies that anything can be considered, from the grandmother's lingerie to the letters of the soldiers of the First World War, from a vintage car to old letters. At this rate half of Italy will be in the court house. GM