

Fil-Italia ESTABLISHED 1974 * AFFILIATED TO A.P.S. **GOLD MEDAL A.P.S. STAMP SHOW 2015, 2016, 2018**

Price per copy £6

EDITOR: GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA, PO Box 7007, St. Thomas VI 00801-0007 USA

Volume XLV, No. 3 Whole number 181 Summer 2019 e-mail address: giorgiomigliavacca@hotmail.com

Fil-Italia is the official journal of THE ITALY & COLONIES STUDY CIRCLE

For all queries regarding membership, contact: **SECRETARY: RICHARD HARLOW**

7 Duncombe House, 8 Manor Road, Teddington, Middx, TW11 8BE United Kingdom -- Telephone: 020 8977 8737
email address: RichardHarlow@outlook.com

TREASURER: ANDY HARRIS 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx, UB9 6NG United Kingdom Tel:-
07976 916360 Email:- andyharris@blueyonder.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: ANDY HARRIS 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx, UB9 6NG United
Kingdom Tel:- 07976 916360 Email:- andyharris@blueyonder.co.uk

Annual subscription £24 (or £16 digital subscription). For payment options, please see below.

- Payment in Sterling can be made by cheque (or cash) to the Membership Secretary (Please make cheque payable to the "Italy and Colonies Study Circle")
- Overseas members are encouraged to pay by debit or credit card via Paypal (see payment link on our web site).
- Payment can be made by including with auction purchases or deducting from auction sales.
- Payment can also be made in cash (US Dollars or Euros) to the Membership Secretary.

PACKET SECRETARY: TONY CLAYTON. To participate in the Exchange Packet, as a buyer or a seller, please contact Tony on 01476 585711, or by email at tony@italianstamps.co.uk or write to:- Arncliffe, Lenton, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG33 4HE United Kingdom

web site: <http://www.icsc-uk.com> © I.C.S.C. 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Contents

- 107** When high denominations ran out
Emilio Calcagno
- 113** Fiume Region WW2: Quarantine Stations
and Civilian and POW Camps
Giorgio Migliavacca
- 124** The Mayors and the 1933
North Atlantic Cruise
Claudio R. Incerti
- 131** Fiume Varieties Part II
Ivan Martinas
- 135** United Exhibitions: Milan 1894
Alan Becker
- 140** San Marino & Vatican incorporate
respective Philatelic & Numismatic Bureaux
Danilo Bogoni
- 142** TPC Carabinieri salvaging stolen art
Danilo Bogoni
- 144** On the Bookshelf
- 151** New Issues Italy - Vatican - San Marino
- 154** ICSC Meeting in Norwich
Paul Woodness
- 155** Italian Area Stamp Experts
- 156** Honourary Secretary Notes

Editorial

Auction houses in Italy and worldwide are reporting better results at their sales; the number of unsold items is decreasing and prices realised indicate that there are buyers (new and old) out there.

In December a major auction was held in Milan on a day when I was going to be out of town; I forgot to give my agent the list of my bids. When I returned I was quite upset with myself; however as I looked at the prices realised list I saw clearly that postal history lots not only sold but fetched high prices. I called the secretary of the auctioneer and asked her if the unsold lots I might have been interested in were still available: she said 90 per cent of them were still on the premises. That sounded promising and I did not ask to set them aside for me because I hate to buy cat in the bag. A few days later I went to the auction house and to my dismay I discovered that only one lot out of eight was available

When it comes specifically to the Italian area common sense dictates that if you do not buy now, you will buy later at much higher prices. The sellers who needed to divest at any cost to obtain needed cash have inflated the auction market with low and medium price stamps. Wise or unwise as it may be, the move lowered the retail prices despite some Italian catalogues not conceding to reality. However, now you see the *Gronchi Rosa* and *Cavallino* parcel post winged wheel watermark being sold at auctions at higher prices. If this trend continues the market will gradually recover. The market could do better but the major deterrent is the 20 to 25 percent commission charged to the buyers plus VAT, where applicable, as well as fees and commissions charged to the sellers. At the end of the day the auctioneers retain 30 to 40 percent of the prices realised. But if the markets recover, competing auctioneers will lower commissions and fees will drop.

GM