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

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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

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Editorial

This issue, with quite a few stimulating articles, brings to an end Fil-Italia's and ICSC 45th year.

Speaking about the articles I must admit that the one reminding us of our 45th anniversary by-lined by Alan Becker took me down memory lane. In 1973 I rented an apartment at Stuart Tower (Maida Vale, London) since I was spending more time in Great Britain than in Italy. During my absence, a message was forwarded to me to let me know that two "customers" asked to view some lots of my upcoming mail auction. A date was set and I travelled to London with the requested items. The customers turned out to be two important philatelists who - in so many ways - changed the course of my philatelic life: Richard Harlow and Denis Vandervelde. After introducing themselves and some pleasantries I was told by Richard about the imminent founding of The Italy & Colonies Study Circle and 'lo and behold' I became a founding member. Speaking of Fil-Italia I will comment that even in Italy only one stamp magazine has been published uninterruptedly for over 45 years.

The other article unveils an aspect of Italian philately known to very few foreign philatelists; it is the story of maestro Gastone Rizzo narrated by Danilo Bogoni. Its author, like yours truly, saw the Cremifrutto years from the very beginning. At the time I was an 8-year-old boy who had already started to collect stamps in an attempt to outdo his cousin of the same age who went on to become...a postmaster. By age 11 your editor was a budding stamp dealer selling to schoolmates: boys and girls! After you read Bogoni's article you will appreciate the role Rizzo and Cremifrutto played in Italian philately; only another development came close to it for its role in promoting stamp collecting: the famous, so-called, unissued 1961 *Gronchi Rosa*. Happy reading!

GM