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

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

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Editorial

One of my editorials during the 35 hurricane seasons I lived through was titled "Expect the Unexpected" and a similar one was titled "Overprepared is better than unprepared". I need not elaborate, you know what I am aiming at during our Covid-19 trying times.

The impact of the emergency has also affected the stamp world, suffice to mention the postponement of London 2020. Yet, for many of us, philately and postal history are proving therapeutic during the lockdown and restrictions caused by the pandemic. Our brain activity does not waste time to feed depression and hypochondria; instead, we should be fully absorbed in our puzzles about overprints, postal tariffs, reprints, "return to sender" covers (speaking of which we should return Covid-19 to the sender). We watch less television and read fewer newspapers; we happily soak stamps, measure perforations, look for a sideways watermark, and the location of a certain Field Post Office. We ought to thank: Rowland Hill for inventing this piece of gummed paper; the Tassis dynasty of postal entrepreneurs who served most of Europe and modernised the service; thanks go to the wise men who instead of throwing away letters and covers they archived them, thus perpetuating the enjoyment of postal historians who delve into postal minutiae of the past, thereby reconstructing a whole epoch of hitherto neglected, yet important details. Even erudite historians of wide acclaim are appreciating postal history and philately.

This edition does not feature the new issues of the Italian area because many of them have been postponed; instead of confusing corrigenda, we prefer to wait for the "all clear" to present a valid list of new stamps.

On a positive note, I mention the gold and large vermeil medals won at Sarasota 2020 by articles published in recent issues of Fil-Italia. You may seriously consider writing an article for our journal. GM