

# Fil-Italia

ESTABLISHED in 1974 \* Affiliated to A.P.S. -

The Official Quarterly Journal of THE ITALY & COLONIES STUDY CIRCLE Price per copy £6

**GOLD MEDAL A.P.S. StampShow 2015, 2016, 2018 - GRAND AWARD for Tuscany Article at Sescal 2022**

**VOLUME XLIX, No. 1 WHOLE NUMBER 194, WINTER 2023**

**EDITOR:** GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA - e-mail address: [giorgiomigliavacca@hotmail.com](mailto:giorgiomigliavacca@hotmail.com)

**SECRETARY:** ANDY HARRIS 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx, UB9 6NG, United Kingdom TEL: 07976 916 360 e-mail: [andycharris@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andycharris@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Annual SUBSCRIPTION** UK £26, Europe £30, and Rest of the World £32 (or £16 digital)

6 (or £16 digital subscription) \* For payment options please see below:

- Payment in Sterling can be made by cheque (or cash) to the Secretary (Please make check payable to: The Italy & Colonies Study Circle)
- Overseas members are encouraged to pay by debit or credit card via PAYPAL (see payment link on our website)
- Payment can be made by including with ICSC auction purchases or deducting from auction sales
- Payment can also be made in cash (USA Dollars or Euros) at the prevailing exchange rate.

**PACKET SECRETARY:** TONY CLAYTON - packet is circulated only in the UK. To participate in the Exchange Packet, as a buyer or a seller, please contact Tony on 01476 585 711, or by e-mail at [tony@italianstamps.co.uk](mailto:tony@italianstamps.co.uk) or write to: Arncliffe, Lenton, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG33 4HE United Kingdom

**WEB SITE:** <http://www.icsc-uk.com>

Copyright 2023©

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

## CONTENTS

### 3 Cesare Sabelli and the forgotten 1934 Transatlantic Flight New York-Rome

*Claudio Riccardo Incerti*

### 22 Treasure discovered in batch of Austrian covers

*G.M.*

### 23 Vatican's Christmas Stamps designed with mouth and heart

*Danilo Bogoni*

### 26 Great writers and small stamps

*Francesco Giuliani*

### 34 AQe sheets: The first "Official Postal Stationery"

*Alan Becker*

### 38 Faiths of Health and Green Pass

*Franco Rigo*

### 39 On the Bookshelf

*G.M.*

### 42 German Customs clearance fees

*Stephan Jürgens*

### 52 The Secretary's Notes

*Andy Harris*

## Editorial

It is a great honour for both the contributing writers and the editor of this periodical to see their efforts to publish noteworthy research that impresses a highly qualified jury to the point of bestowing gold medals and the Grand Award at Sescal 2022, a truly prestigious virtual philatelic literature exhibition held annually in Sothern California.

The Zoom jury critique made me blush a few times as congratulations to the writers and editor and the comments about the level reached by Fil-Italia began to pour in. This is an achievement for Italian philately in general and for The Italy and Colonies Study Circle - something we should all be proud of.

To get there, I must say, takes a lot of patience, elbow grease, good synch and good collaboration with authors, and takes much more time than publishing recipes of warmed-up minestrone.

As you can see in this issue we have some very interesting articles whether they are intrinsically technical, or good reading after Sunday breakfast.

My gratitude goes to publishers who give unconditional permission to Fil-Italia to translate and reprint major articles published in other magazines. This type of collaboration is the source of many rewards because it produces mutually beneficial results.

Sometime, as an Italian expression aptly puts it, the devil gets its tail in the midst of the journal's deadline. The best approach is not to feel depressed or victimised but to move forward and defeat the devil's misdeeds.

Modern technology let us down, returning to your country after 38 years in the West Indies is not the simplest thing especially when bureaucracy has gotten much worse than it was four decades earlier.

Nevertheless I must push ahead, contribute to other philatelic projects even though I no longer have much spare time. Money may be very important for most human beings, but I feel there are also other significant achievements in life. GM