

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. 2 WHOLE NUMBER 195, SPRING 2023

EDITOR: GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA - e-mail address: giorgiomigliavacca@hotmail.com

SECRETARY: ANDY HARRIS 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middx, UB9 6NG, United Kingdom TEL: 07976 916 360 e-mail: andyharris@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:

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Editorial

There are situations where the editor must make decisions that are not always the most popular.

One such decision for which I was expecting readers reactions and feedback was the discontinuation of the listings of the Italian Area new stamp issues. For almost a century such listings were deemed indispensable for any philatelic periodical, and indeed there are still many philatelic magazines carrying on the old tradition.

Unfortunately the inflationary mode of issuing stamps in Italy and elsewhere is more and more resembling a daily milking of cows that does no longer produce tangible returns - which may be deemed a secondary aspect - but on the other hand we are seeing stamps commemorating and promoting the manufacturing and the food industry, pop singers and silver screen actors and actresses of days gone by, cartoonists that may be popular...may be...and so on. The post office and many stamp issuing entities have increased the face value of most issues and developed new issuing strategies such as the stamp folder for most stamp issues, sometimes creating both enthusiasm and frustrations for strange limited quantities that spiral speculation on the retail price of such marketing inventions and manipulations. Maximum cards and special pictorial postmarks collectors are lamenting that the stamps on their maxicards and covers are poorly postmarked. This is only the tip of the iceberg and much more could be said. It is sad but it's true.

GM