

January 26, 2015

Report on the Astrophilatelic Activities in Italy 2014

In March 2014 the first Astrophilately Seminar in Italy was held in Milan, with the participation of 20 collectors. Igor Rodin contributed to the seminar with his presentation “*Appropriate material for an Astrophilatelic Exhibit*”. The institutional part of the Seminar was presented by Umberto Cavallaro, Italian FIP delegate for Astrophilately.

In view of the International Philately Exhibition to be organized in the frame of the World Expo ITALIA 2015, two astrophilately exhibitions have been held in Vasto (Vastophil – May 2014) and in Rome (Romafil – October 2014). In total 16 Astrophilately exhibits are now qualified for International Astrophilately Exhibitions. At the end of December 2014 the Italian Philately Federation had however communicated that due to complete lack of sponsorship by Poste Italiane, the World Philately Exhibition have been cancelled.

Italy is therefore considering to participate in the exhibition to be held in August in Gmunden, in Austria.

An exhibition on WOMEN IN SPACE has been presented in November for two weeks in Verano Brianza (hometown of the Italian Astronaut Paolo Nespoli), in occasion of the launch of Samantha Cristoforetti, the first Italian female Astronaut. The thematic exhibition features the 60 female space travelers who have been in space so far, and the event also included three conferences and presentation to general public, schools and amateurs astronomers. Paolo Nespoli participated in the closing Ceremony and discussed about the Cristoforetti’s mission. The exhibit will be presented in other Italian towns in the next months.

A dozen of commemorative covers were issued by ASITAF during 2014 for space events dealing with Italy, such as the launch of GAIA and Sentinel 1-A, the official delivery of Bepi Colombo to ESA, the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of San Marco, etc.

For the latter celebration ASITAF has sponsored the issuing of an Italian commemorative stamp and the ASITAF President Umberto Cavallaro was invited by Poste Italiane to prepare the Official Bulletin for the presentation of the stamp.

An event has been organized by ASITAF and ASI (Italian Space Agency) at the ASI headquarter in Rome, where ASITAF has prepared an exhibition on ITALY IN SPACE which has become a permanent show in the ASI Headquarter.

Four annual issues of the “AD*ASTRA” quarterly Journal have been published in Italian and English and provide members with background information on space events and astrophilately.

A new version of the website www.asitaf.it, available both in Italian and English has been reloaded.