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Italian San Marco Anniversary Stamp Promoted by our Sister Organisation



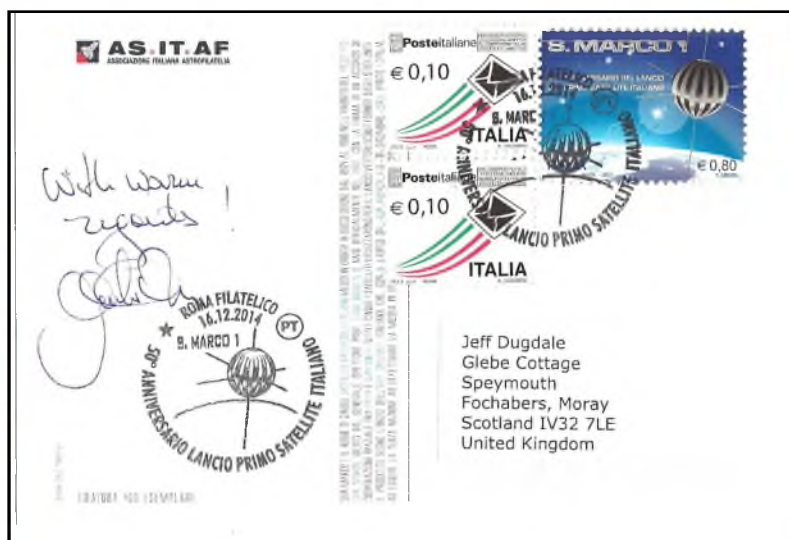
The launch of the San Marco 1 satellite on December 15th 1964 rewarded the efforts endeavoured with talent, dedication and vision by Gen. Luigi Broglio, (pictured on the card) and started the long sequence of successful enterprises that Italy achieved in space in the past 50 years.

The important anniversary was celebrated by the Italian San Marco commemorative stamp, proposed and heavily sponsored by **AS.IT.AF** issued on December 16th 2014.

Astrophilately was officially acknowledged by ASI, the Italian Space Agency, on the occasion of the celebration for the 50th anniversary of the launch of San Marco 1 satellite and of the issuing of the commemorative Italian stamp.

Below is reported a summary of the speech given by Umberto Cavallaro (pictured) during the conference to illustrate the meaning of the newly-issued stamp and the importance of the astrophilately as a means to tell, to record and to support the story of the space exploration.

«To celebrate the launch of San Marco 1 that fifty years ago sketched out for Italy the beginning of a successful path, we wanted that an event of historical re-enactment, such as this one in which we are participating, was accompanied by something that each could take with them as a tangible and lasting souvenir; something that could both stay as a remembrance of a noble history and be propelled into the future; something that was able to convey the message to the general public, even outside the circle of experts and



The postcard sent to your editor and signed by by **AsItAf** member Umberto Cavallaro, Editor of *AdAstra*—with the full story of the stamp's begetting explained in the December 2014 edition of his journal , a little of which is quoted below.



enthusiasts, and outside the borders of our country. We thought at the issuing of a new Italian stamp dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the launch of the satellite San Marco 1.

The proposal was accepted by the Ministry of Economic Development with great sensitivity and attention to the Aerospace sector in Italy, as it is a field of excellence for which our country is appreciated worldwide. And, rightly, this stamp was inducted into the thematic series "the Excellencies of knowledge."

Prof Angelo Di Stasi, President of the Commission for the study and the processing of postage stamps within the Ministry of Economic Development, who had so taken to heart this issue, and whom I want to thank on behalf of all of you, could not be here this morning so he has asked me to convey to you his greetings and appreciation.

I like to remember that the idea for today's meeting came almost one year ago, when I was discussing the issue of this stamp with Dr. Enrico Flamini, Scientific Coordinator of ASI. The importance of the philately, and of astrophilately in particular, as a means to describe, record and perpetuate the memory of the events related to space exploration is concretely shown in the Exhibition that we wanted to prepare to tell half a century of important achievements and successes of Italy in space. The exhibition is open in the lobby of the Auditorium, where you can also find a post office with the newly-issued stamp of San Marco, and the special card made for this event by the artist Carlo Torcelli. Enjoy your visit!"