

5. LOOKING AT THE POST WITH ANOTHER EYE - THE “TAVOLO DEI POSTALI” (POSTAL TABLE)

The term “Postal Table” is challenging to translate, as the word “postal” does not necessarily mean workers in that sector. It is instead a forced definition as it includes philatelists, philatelic journalists, and students of postal communications. Conceived in 2018 and realised in the following year, it sees at the forefront the Historical Museum of Communication (headed by the Ministry of Business and Made in Italy), the Institute of Postal Historical Studies “Aldo Cecchi”, the Unione stampa filatelica italiana and the digital newspaper “Vaccari news”. They all are interested in “The post with another eye”, including features such as the post as art, conservation, culture and entertainment,



‘Postali’ in Palermo, 2023

where it involves institutions (from municipalities to museums), associations (including festivals) and individuals (for example, scholars, artists and collectors). Here, the concept of possession is superseded by cultural and scientific interest to address the sector in various aspects, from mail to stamps, and specialised buildings to mail art. The goal is to have organisations and people interested in addressing the topic seated at the same table (hence the name) to present, discuss, share experiences, and collaborate. So far, three national meetings have been held (in Prato in 2019, Trieste in 2022, and Palermo in 2023), which included on-site visits and reports of fifteen minutes each. In addition, the “Table” organised three cycles of one-hour conferences on a digital platform: 31 presentations, recorded and available on YouTube. And a new programme will be launched soon.