



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE



FONDEE EN 1926

Section for Astrophilately

Illustrations and Information to the F.I.P. Seminar paper

“Advice on Judging Astrophilatelic Exhibits” in accordance with the SREV and Guidelines.

Elaborated by Beatrice Bachmann

Some of the special characteristics of Astrophilately are covers and cards cancelled by the post office at the place and exact date on which the special event took place. SREV 3.3

Information on this subject
in concern of the Space Programmes of the USA

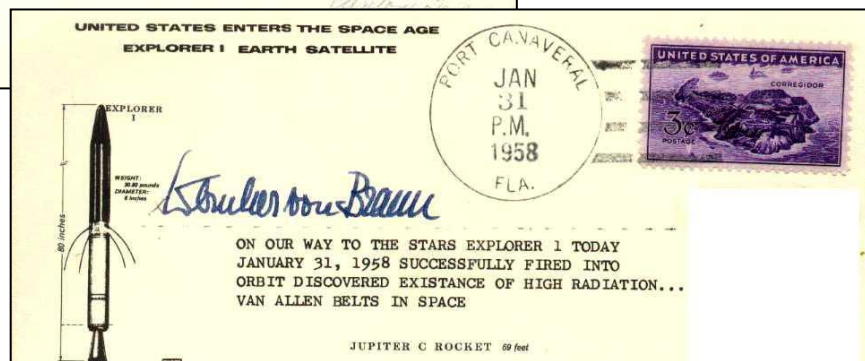
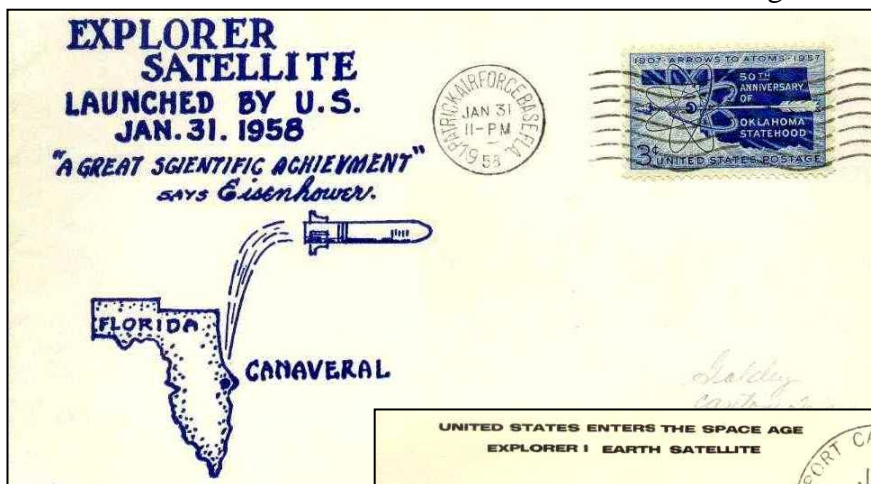
Additional remarks and illustrations to Guidelines 3.3.8 – 3.3 13

For early launches from **Cape Canaveral** the postmark of the post office **Port Canaveral, PC** later on **Cape Canaveral –CC-**, as well as from **Patrick Air Force Base –PAFB-**, the administration headquarter of Cape Canaveral launch site, up to the inauguration of **Kennedy Space Centre –KSC-** post office in 1965 are valid.

Info on the correct date in the postmark recording a space event, ref. Guidelines 3.3.8

On January 31st, 1965 at 10.48 PM

The first US satellite - **Explorer 1** - was launched from Cape Canaveral
under the direction of the German rocket engineer Wernher von Braun



Covers with postmarks **not** corresponding with the **correct date** and place of the launch of a spacecraft are of **no conformity** with the **Guidelines** and **not valid**



Ref. Guidelines 3.3.9

In case the post office was closed at the time when launches, landings or other space activities took place, the postmark of the next working day is valid.

*At Wallops Island launch site a test rocket Nike Apache was launched to study the magnet field for Mercury Redstone 4 space flight with astronaut Gus Grissom, on July 13th, 1961 at 9.53 PM when post office was already closed.

Information on postmarks of the launch sites where launches of spacecraft took place, ref. Guidelines 3.3.10

Postmarks for launches should be shown only from the post office nearest to the launch site.

EXPLORER 42, co-operation of Italy and USA, provided for astronomical research, was



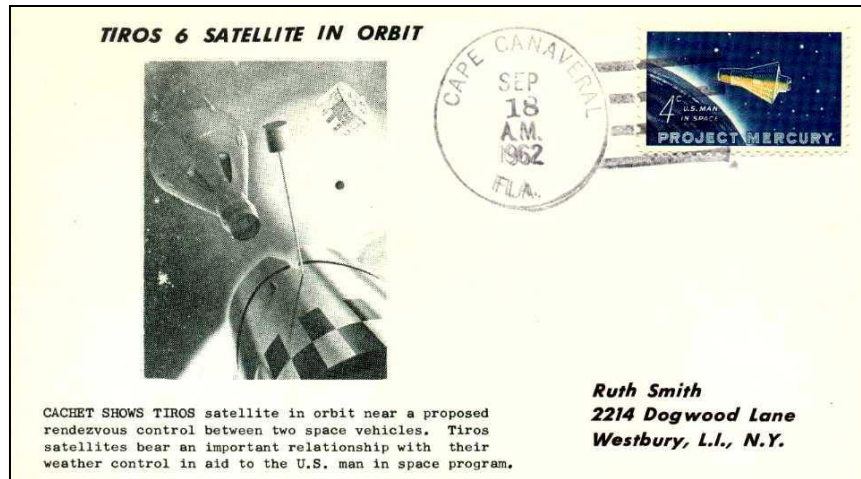
launched on Dec, 12th 1970 from San Marco platform at **Mombasa** (Kenya).



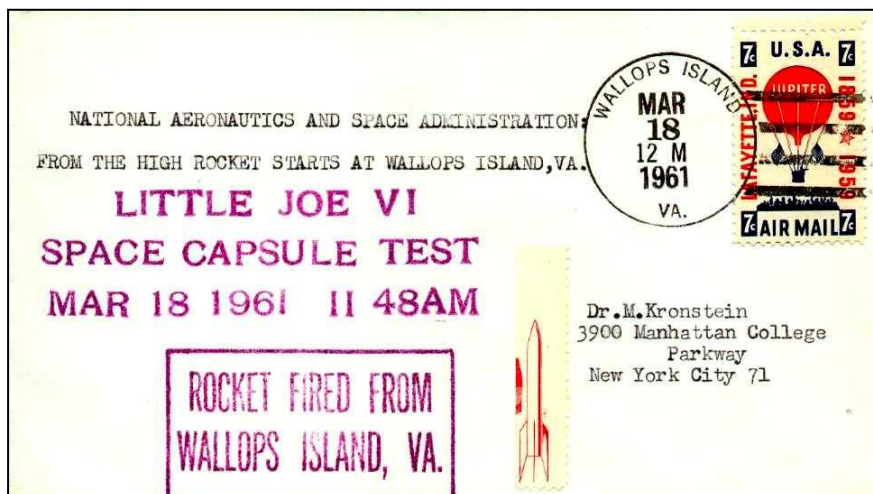
There are also covers existing with postmark of Cape Canaveral or KSC applied to the same event which are **not** appropriate.

Information on US launching sites and the related postmarks, ref. Guidelines 3.3.11

One of the first postmarks of the launch site **Cape Canaveral** after inauguration of a post office on 1st Sept. 1962 records the launch of the weather satellite **Tiros 6** on Sept. 18th 1962.



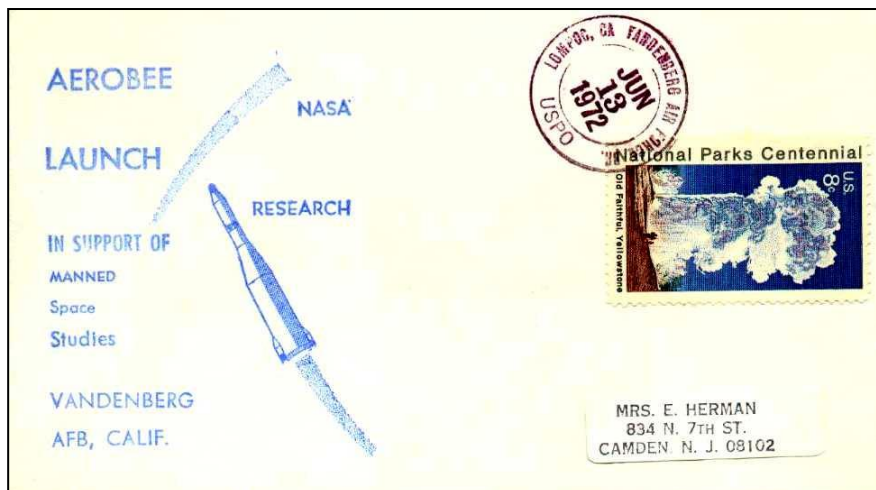
From **Wallops Island, VA**, launch site, provided for launches of scientific unmanned space craft postmarks were already available from the early period of space craft launches. **Little Joe 6 + 7** launched on March 18th and April 28th, 1961 were the last and finally successful tests of an escape system for capsule recovery after lift-off in view of the Mercury manned space flights, recorded by hand and machine cancel of Wallops Island.



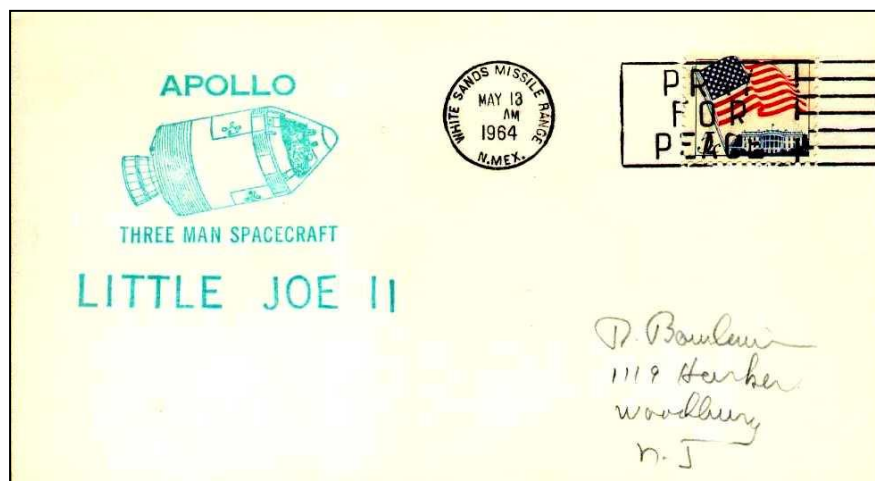
Vandenberg Air Force Base ,is known as early launch site of US unmanned spacecraft. The postmark records the launch of **Discoverer 13** on Aug. 10th, 1960 ., the first successful orbit recovery of a space object after re-entry into earth atmosphere on August 11th, 1960.



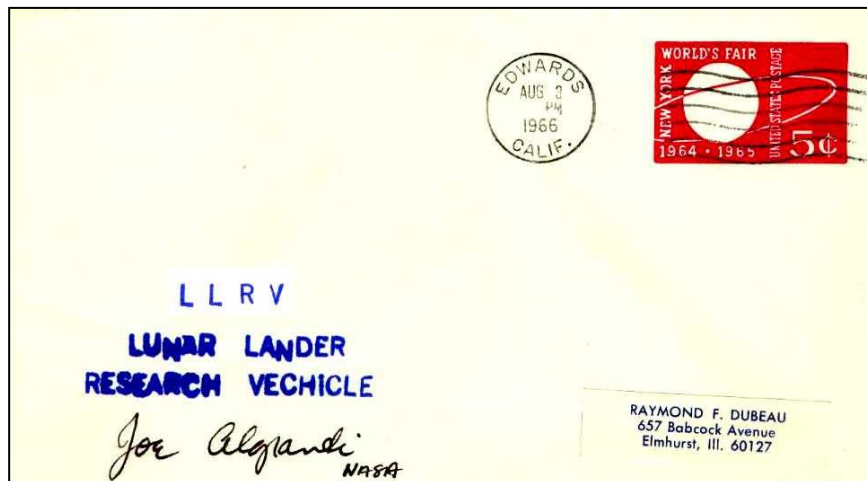
Postmarks from **Lompoc, CA** Vandenberg Air Force Base **are also valid** for launches of spacecraft ,e.g. **Aerobee** research rocket launch for manned space flights on June 13th, 1972.



At **White Sands Missile Range** , launch site in New Mexico also unmanned test flights of rockets took place as on May 13th, 1964 launch of **Little Joe** research rocket for **Apollo** flights.



At **Edwards Air Force Base**, known as the earliest test site of Bell X rocket plane flights in the 50ies, a test flight on a **Lunar Lander Vehicle**, like “Eagle” took place on Febr.14th, 1966.



There exist also places where rockets were tested which can be recorded by postmarks from:

Marshall Space Flight Centre, Bay St. Louis, MS, where the Main engine of **Space Shuttle** was tested on Dec. 6th 1976 referred to by postmark and official MSFC cachet.



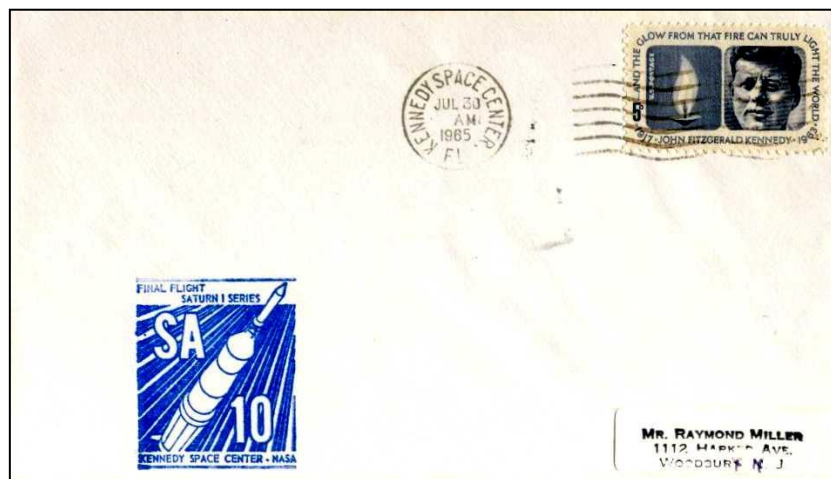
At **Moffett Field** one of the **Wind Tunnel Tests** took place on 12 Oct.1976 before the first Space Shuttle STS 1,Columbia, could make its Maiden flight on March 17th, 1981.



NASA post office at **Kennedy Space Centre , KSC**, was inaugurated on July 1st, 1965. From this time onwards the KSC post office applied together with the postmark of launch date of a spacecraft an official NASA cachet , mainly related to manned space flights from GEMINI 5 up to APOLLO SOYUS referring to each mission. These official NASA cachets were solely applied on individual postal forwarded mail and not available in great quantities.



The **first** postmark applied at KSC post office with the official NASA cachet refers to the launch of **SATURN-APOLLO 10** on July 30th, 1965, when a last **unmanned** test flight took place of a research programme related to manned Apollo space flights.



The **first** NASA cachet referring to a **manned** space flight was applied at KSC post office at the launch of **GEMINI-TITAN 5** on August 21, 1965.

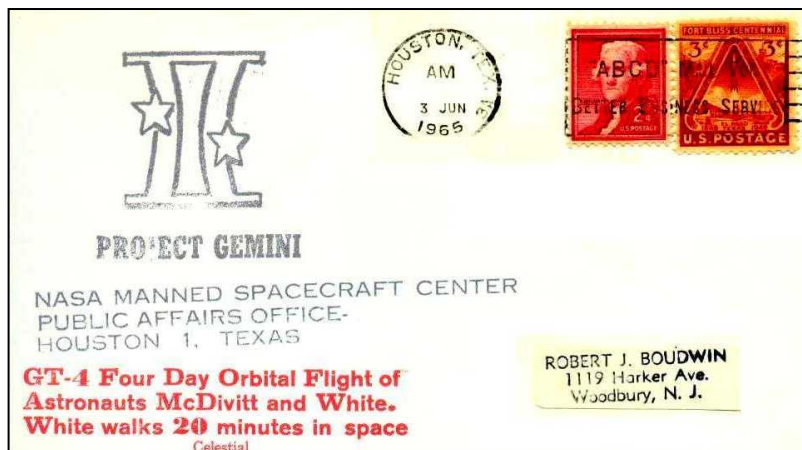


Additional information on NASA cachets ref. Guidelines 3.3.11

Information on Manned and Unmanned Mission Control Centres, Guidelines 3.3.13

The **Mission Control Centre for manned space flights** was inaugurated in **January 1965** at **Houston**.

A test operation took place with **Gemini-Titan 2** on January 19th, 1965, by supervising this last unmanned space flight of the Gemini programme, recorded by the postmark of Houston.



When **GEMINI-TITAN 4 (GT-4)** with the astronauts J. Mc Divitt and E. White aboard was launched from Cape Canaveral on **June 3rd, 1965** it was **for the first time** that immediately after take-off the spacecraft was directed during the 4 days flight until splashdown on June 7th, 1965 by the **Manned Spacecraft Control Centre in Houston**, also responsible for the

supervision of the mission, as e.g. the first US space walk (EVA) of Ed White.

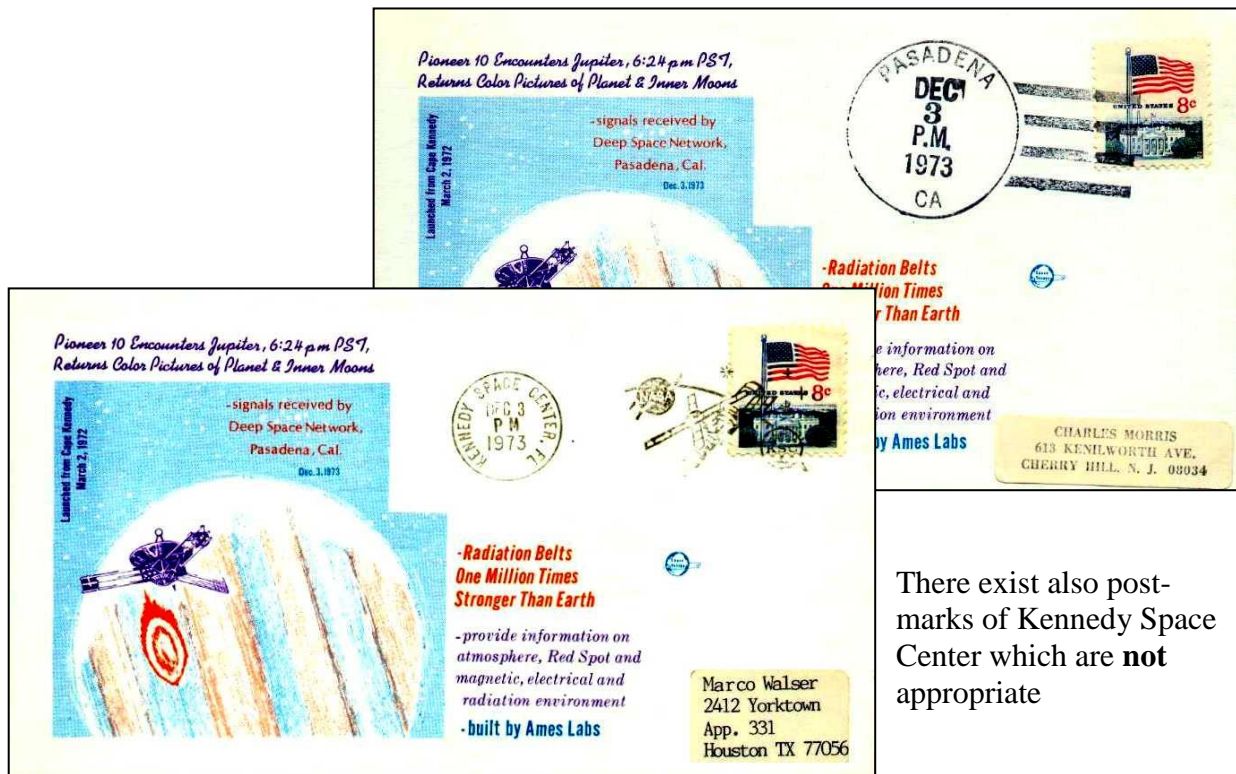
From this time onwards the postmark of Houston should be shown when recording special missions performed during manned space flight, e.g. the docking of two spacecraft, EVAs, Moonlandings etc.

For Unmanned Earth Satellites the Mission Control Centre Greenbelt is responsible

Cover referring to the first image relayed from Hubble Space Telescope and received by the Mission Control Centre on May 20th, 1990 recorded by the postmark of Greenbelt



For **Unmanned Space Probes**, travelling into **Outer space**, the mission should be recorded by postmarks of the **Deep Space Network at Pasadena**. responsible for supervision , as e. g. when **PIONEER 10**, launched on March 2nd, 1972 at KSC, encountered the planet Jupiter and sent the first pictures to the earth on December 3rd, 1973.



There exist also postmarks of Kennedy Space Center which are **not** appropriate

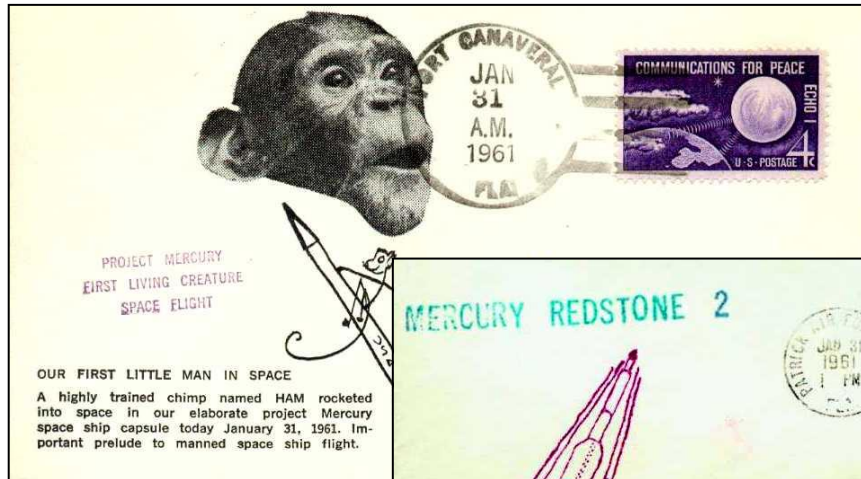
Viking space probes were also under control of Moffet Field. When on September 3rd, 1976 **Viking 2** landed on Mars the AMES Research Centre was also in charge for supervision.



Information on recovery after splashdowns of spacecraft, ref. Guidelines 3.3.12

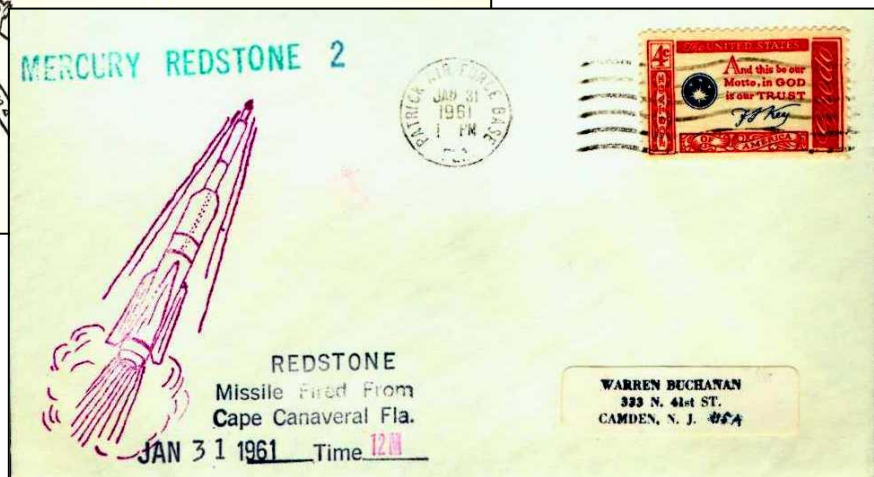
As far as **splashdowns** and **recovery** of the early period of space flights as precursors to manned space flights took place where no covers with postmark of the Prime recovery ships are known, as from test flights with chimpanzees, postmarks of Port Canaveral or Patrick Air Force Base with exact date and time may be shown when recording these early splashdowns. Ref. page 13 with remarks on list of Mercury main recovery ships to early space events.

On January 31st, 1961 at 12 M the chimp HAM was launched into space with Mercury-Redstone 2 and was recovered by U.S.S. Donner after splashdown at 1 PM



Postmark of Port Canaveral, recording the launch on Jan. 31 1961 AM (launch time 12 noon)

Postmark of PAFB recording splashdown on Jan. 31 1961 at 1 PM

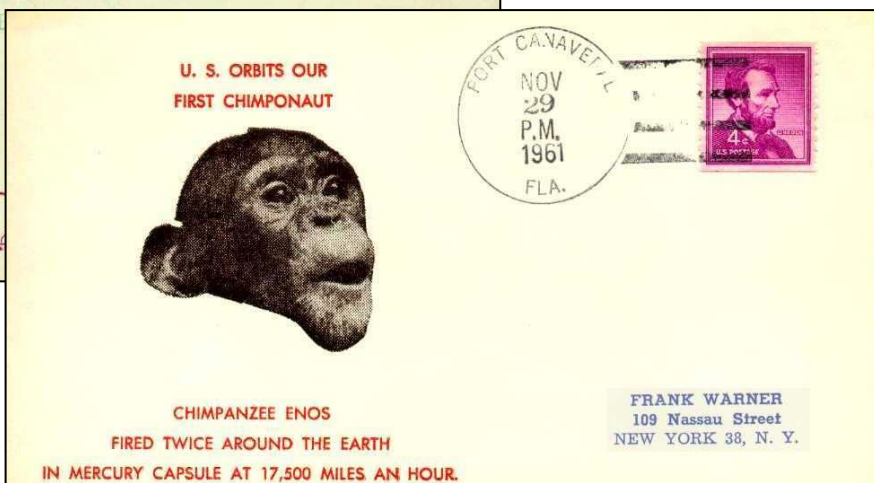


Chimp Enos orbited twice the earth on November 29th, 1961 and was recovered after splashdown by USS Stormes,



Postmark of PAFB recording launch of chimp Enos on November 29th, 1961 at 10.30 AM

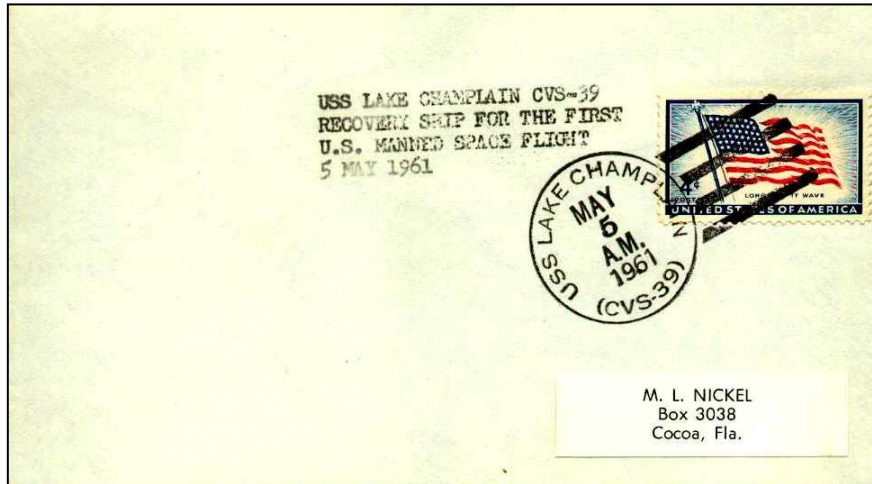
Postmark of PC recording splashdown on November. 29th, 1961 PM



When on **May 5th, 1961** astronaut **Alan Shepard** succeeded in a first US manned ballistic space flight, the Main recovery ship **USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN** took him and his spacecraft "**Freedom 7**" on board.

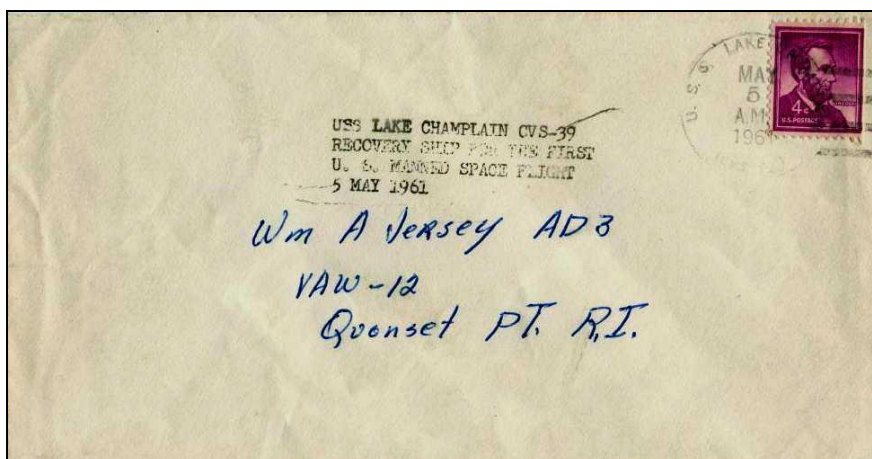
A small amount of covers are recorded with postmark applied by the post office aboard the USS Lake Champlain on date of recovery.

An additional official ship cachet applied refers to this event.



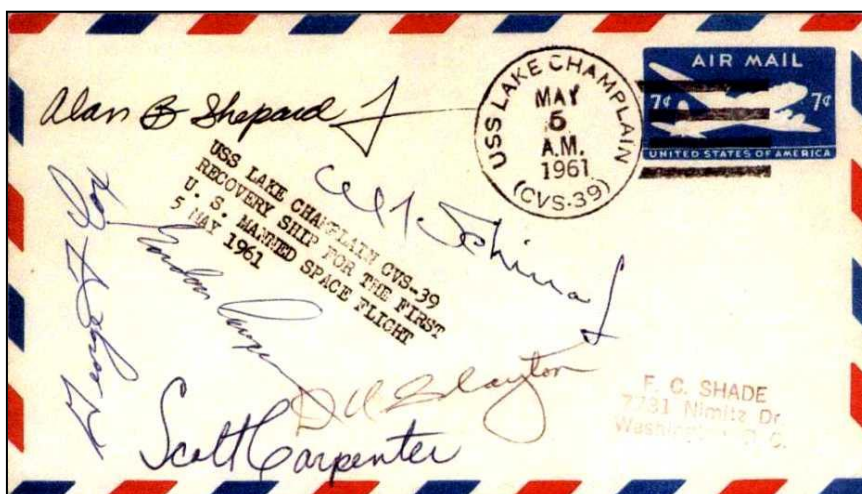
There are two types of hand cancels known

Type 1 = 3.1 Ø



Type 2 = 3.3 Ø

with **points** between U.S.S. and 5 **lightly displayed to the left**



There exist also **fakes** which are mainly to be defined by: same kind as postmark **Typ 1** **with-out points** between USS but with **displaced 5 to left** same as in hand cancel **Type 2** , 3.3. Ø

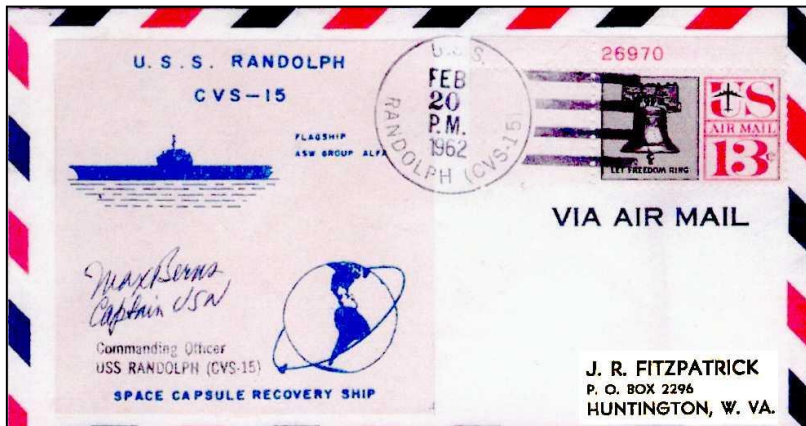
Faked cover



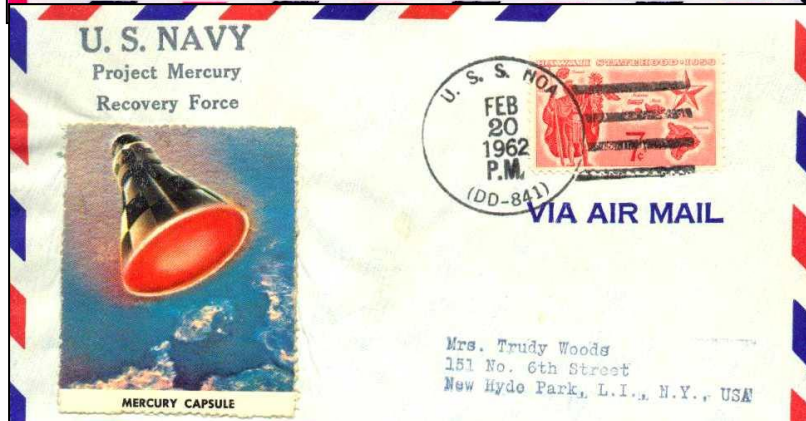
Ref. Guidelines 3.2.4

A philatelic study of postmarks applied at post offices aboard the recovery ships is indicated. To give an example:

When astronaut **John Glenn** on **Feb. 20th 1962** performed with his spacecraft the first US earth orbit, troubles during re-entry caused a splashdown at another place than scheduled.



Due to emergency splashdown the scheduled Prime recovery ship **USS RANDOLPH** acted some hours after recovery by picking up John Glenn and carrying him to the mainland.



U.S.S NOA, like other Secondary recovery ships in action in case of emergency landing and nearest to the place of splashdown, acted as Prime recovery ship by taking Glenn and his spacecraft aboard.

* There exist a small quantity of covers postmarked aboard of **U.S.S NOA** on exact date of recovery on Feb. 20th 1962.



On the same day of Glenn's space flight—Feb. 20th 1962 PM—a 4ct "Mercury" stamp was issued.

Covers from **U.S.S NOA** postmarked on Feb. 20th 1962 with Mercury stamp are **backdated** since at the time of recovery these stamps were **not** available aboard of the Prime recovery ship and USS Randolph.



Covers with Mercury stamp postmarked Feb. 23rd 1962, arrival of U.S.S NOA at the harbour, are correct and **valid**.

Postmarks of USS NOA applied on correct date of recovery are certainly of more interest.

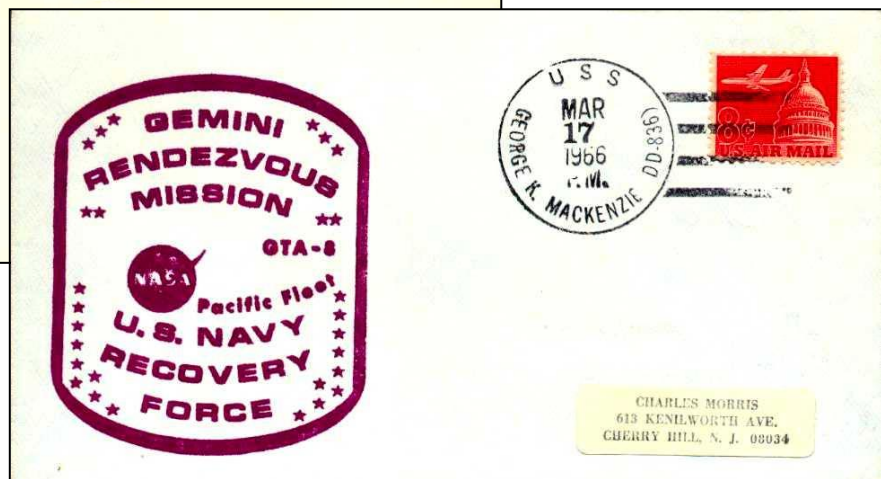
This illustration may represent the necessity of knowledge about the Prime-recovery ship that actually participated in the recovery after splashdown of a spacecraft.

In some cases the **official ship cachets** referring to the mission and applied on covers of Prime and Secondary recovery ships **look all the same** only differ in **Atlantic** or **Pacific** Fleet as e.g. concerning the manned space flight **GEMINI-TITAN 8**.

When **GTA-8** with the astronauts **Neil Armstrong** and **David Scott**, due to technical problems during the flight had to make an **emergency splashdown** in the **Pacific** on **March 17th, 1966**, the **Secondary** recovery ship **USS Leonard F. MASON** took the astronauts and their spacecraft on board instead of the scheduled **Prime** recovery ship **USS BOXER** operating in the **Atlantic**.



USS Leonard F. MASON
Prime recovery ship of
GTA-8

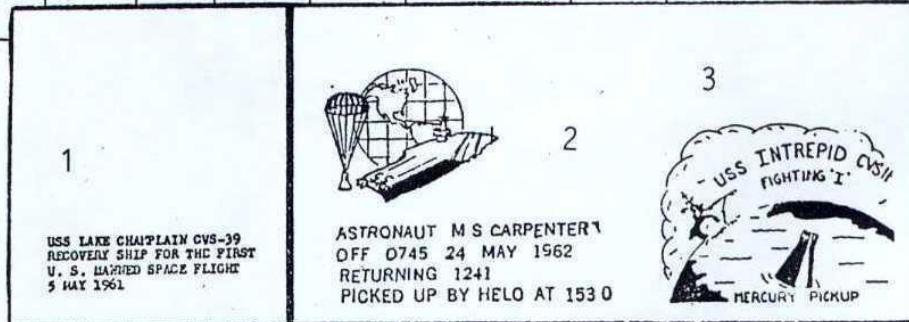


USS Charles P. Cecil
- Atlantic Fleet - and
USS George K. Mackenzie
- Pacific Fleet -
Secondary recovery ships.

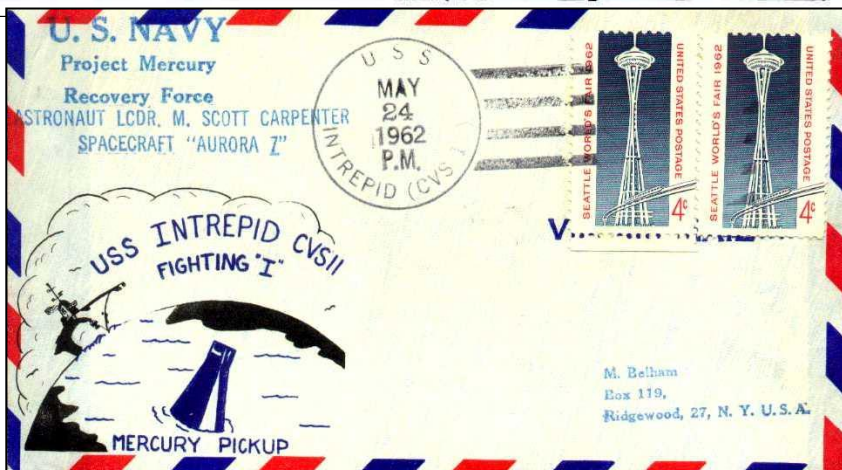
** The following Tables inform about the date of launch and splashdown of the US manned spacecraft , the Prime recovery ships and the related official ship cachets, as far as existing,

MERCURY - PROGRAM covers of launch and main-(prime)-recoveryships						
Mission	date of launch	place	official NASA cachet	Recovery date	Recovery ship	official ship cachet
LITTLE JOE 1	08-21-59	PC				
BIG JOE	09-09-59					
LITTLE JOE 6 (LJ-2)	10-04-59					
LITTLE JOE 1A	11-04-59					
LITTLE JOE 2 (LJ-3) *	12-04-59					
LITTLE JOE 1B (LJ-4) *	01-21-60					
BEACH-ABORT-Test	05-09-60					
MERCURY-ATLAS 1	07-29-60					
LITTLE JOE 5	11-08-60					
MERCURY-REDSTONE 1	11-21-60					
MERCURY-REDSTONE 1A	12-19-60	PC	unmanned			
MERCURY-REDSTONE 2 *	01-31-61	PC				
MERCURY-ATLAS 2	02-21-61	PC				
LITTLE JOE 5A (LJ-6)	03-18-61	WI				
MERCURY-REDSTONE BD	03-24-61	PC				
MERCURY-ATLAS 3	04-25-61	PC				
LITTLE JOE 5B (LJ-7)	04-28-61	WI				
MERCURY-REDSTONE 3	05-05-61	PC		05-05-61	Lake Champlain	1
MERCURY-REDSTONE 4	07-21-61	PC		07-21-61	Randolph	
MERCURY-ATLAS 4	09-13-61	PC		09-13-61	Decatur	
MERCURY-SCOUT 1	11-01-61	PC	"	11-29-61	Stormes	2, 3
MERCURY-ATLAS 5 *	11-29-61	PC			Noa	
MERCURY-ATLAS 6	02-20-62	PC			Intrepid	
MERCURY-ATLAS 7	05-24-62	PC			Pierce	
MERCURY-ATLAS 8	10-03-62	CC		10-03-62	Kearsarge	5
MERCURY-ATLAS 9	05-15-63	CC		05-16-63	Kearsarge	6

official ship - cachets referring to missions reduced to 1/2 of size



to 4 : USS Pierce recovered spacecraft of Mercury-Atlas 7

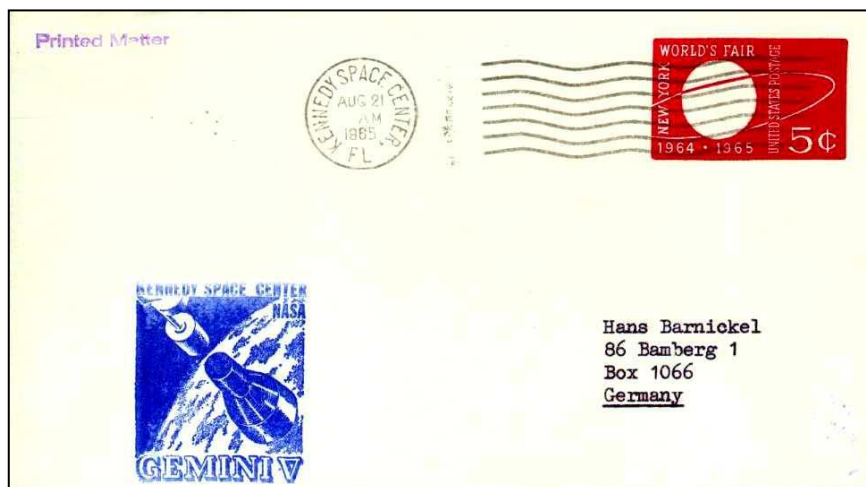


(3)

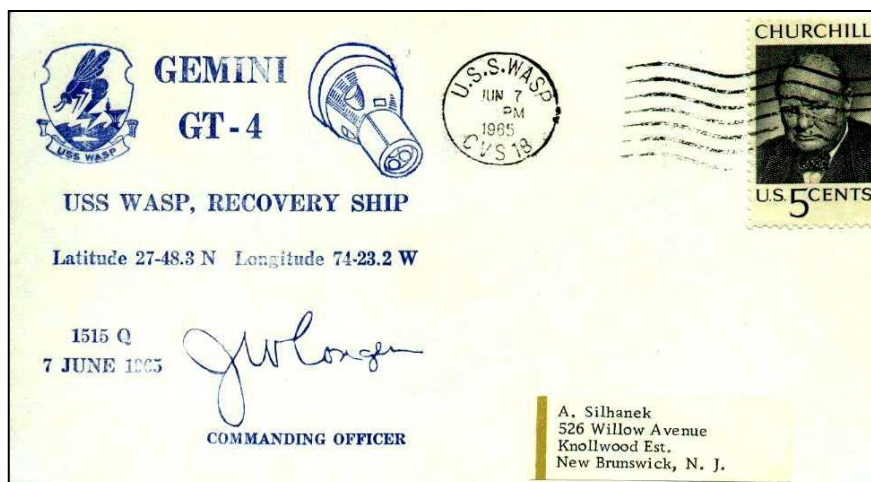
USS INTERPID recovered astronaut Scott Carpenter of Mercury – Atlas 7

In addition to the illustrations and information on official cachets applied at Prime recovery ships also the official NASA cachets, mentioned in the Guidelines 3.3.11 applied at KSC post office from GT-5 to ASTP manned space programmes, are included in the following tables.

GEMINI - PROGRAM covers of launch and main-(prime)-recoveryships						
Mission	date of launch	place	official NASA cachet	Recovery date	Recovery ship	official ship cachet
GEMINI-TITAN 1	08-04-64	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 2	01-19-65	CC		01-19-65	Lake Champlain	7
GEMINI-TITAN 3	03-23-65	CC		03-23-65	Intrepid	8
GEMINI-TITAN 4	06-03-65	CC		06-07-65	Wasp	9, 10
GEMINI-TITAN 5	08-21-65	KSC	11	08-29-65	Lake Champlain	12
GATV-6	10-25-65	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 6	10-25-65	KSC	13			
GEMINI-TITAN 7	12-04-65	KSC	14	12-18-65	Wasp	15
GEMINI-TITAN 6A	12-15-65	KSC	16, 17, 18	12-16-65	Wasp	19, 20
GATV-8	03-16-66	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 8	03-16-66	KSC	21	03-17-66	L.F. Mason	22
GATV-9	05-17-66	CC				
ATDA	06-01-66	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 9A	06-03-66	KSC	23	06-06-66	Wasp	24
GATV-10	07-18-66	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 10	07-18-66	KSC	25	07-21-66	Guadalcanal	26, 27
GATV-11	09-12-66	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 11	09-12-66	KSC	28	09-15-66	Guam	29
GATV-12	11-11-66	CC				
GEMINI-TITAN 12	11-11-66	KSC	30	11-15-66	Wasp	31



(11)

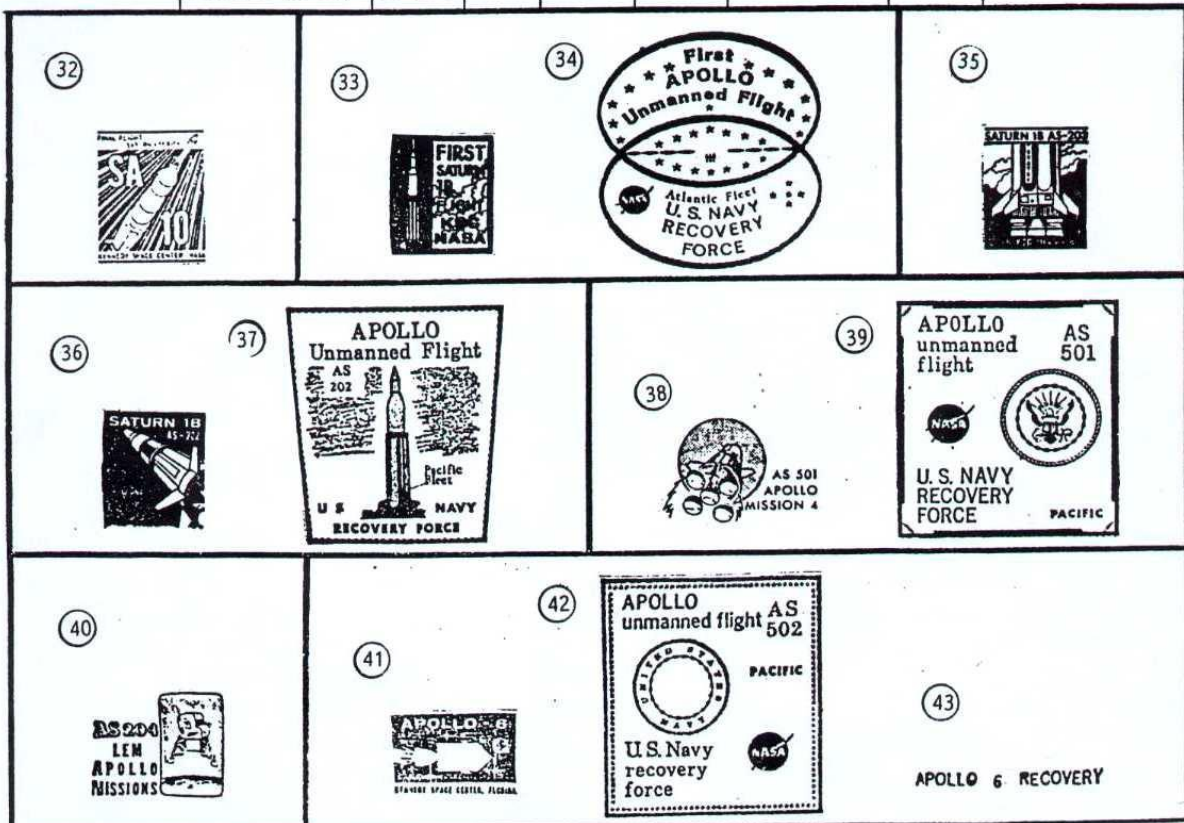


(10)



APOLLO - PROGRAM covers of launch and main-(prime)-recoveryships

Mission	date of launch	place	official NASA cachet	Recovery date	Recovery ship	official ship cachet
SATURN-APOLLO 1	10-27-61	CC				
SATURN-APOLLO 2	04-25-62	CC				
SATURN-APOLLO 3	11-16-62	CC				
SATURN-APOLLO 4	03-28-63	CC				
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 1	08-28-63	WSMR				
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 2	11-07-63	WSMR				
SATURN-APOLLO 5	01-29-64	CC				
FIRE 1	04-14-64	CC				
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 3	05-13-64	WSMR				
SATURN-APOLLO 6	05-28-64	CC				
SATURN-APOLLO 7	09-18-64	CC				
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 4	12-08-64	WSMR				
SATURN-APOLLO 8	02-16-65	CC				
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 5	05-19-65	WSMR				
FIRE 2	05-22-65	CC				
SATURN-APOLLO 9	05-25-65	CC				
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 6	06-29-65	WSMR				
SATURN-APOLLO 10	07-30-65	KSC	32			
LITTLE-JOE-APOLLO 7	01-20-66	WSMR				
AS-201 (APOLLO 1)	02-26-66	KSC	33	02-26-66	Boxer	34
AS-203 (APOLLO 2)	07-05-66	KSC	35			
AS-202 (APOLLO 3)	08-25-66	KSC	36	08-25-66	Hornet	37
APOLLO 4 (AS-501)	11-09-67	KSC	38	11-09-67	Bennington	39
APOLLO 5 (AS-204L)	01-22-68	KSC	40			
APOLLO 6 (AS-502)	04-04-68	KSC	41	04-04-68	Okinawa	42, 43
APOLLO 7 (AS-205)	10-11-68	KSC	44	10-22-68	Essex	45
APOLLO 8 (AS-503)	12-21-68	KSC	46	12-27-68	Yorktown	47
APOLLO 9 (AS-504)	03-03-69	KSC	48	03-13-69	Guadalcanal	49, 50
APOLLO 10 (AS-505)	05-18-69	KSC	51	05-26-69	Princeton	52
APOLLO 11 (AS-506)	07-16-69	KSC	53	07-24-69	Hornet	54
APOLLO 12 (AS-507)	11-14-69	KSC	55	11-24-69	Hornet	56
APOLLO 13 (AS-508)	04-11-70	KSC	57	04-17-70	IWO Jima	58
APOLLO 14 (AS-509)	01-31-71	KSC	59	02-09-71	New Orleans	60
APOLLO 15 (AS-510)	07-26-71	KSC	61	08-07-71	Okinawa	62
APOLLO 16 (AS-511)	04-16-72	KSC	63	04-27-72	Ticonderoga	64
APOLLO 17 (AS-512)	12-07-72	KSC	65	12-19-72	Ticonderoga	66





Original size of
NASA - cachet No. 48



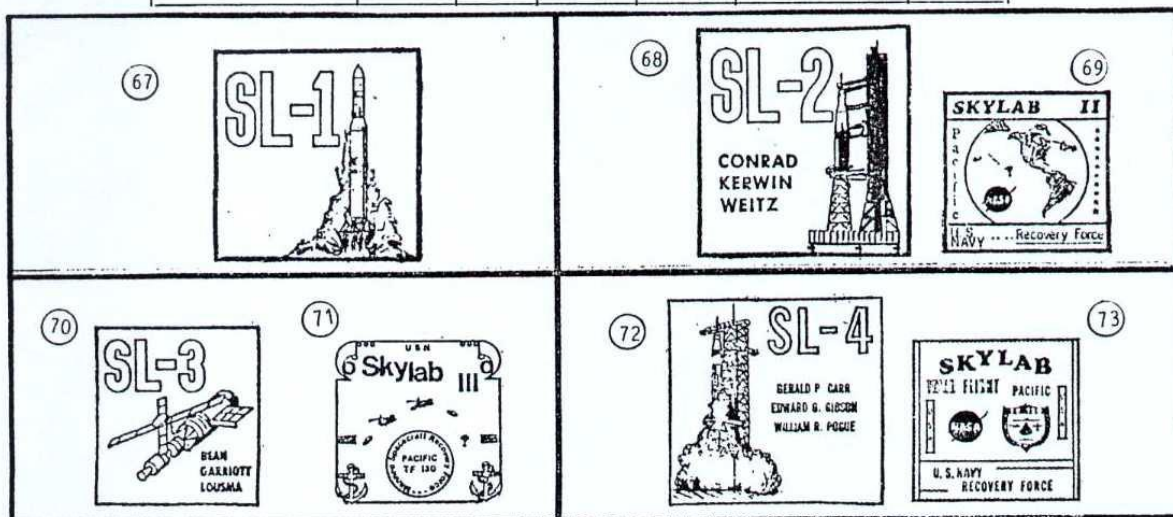
Original size of
ship - cachet No. 64



Official ship - cachets and
official NASA cachets of KSC
are reduced to approx. 1/2 size

The cachets are of red or blue
colour.
For Apollo VII a special blue
sticker cachet was issued for
mission, No. 44

SKYLAB - PROGRAM covers of launch and main-(prime)-recoveryships						
Mission	date of launch	place	official NASA cachet	Recovery date	Recovery ship	official ship cachet
SKYLAB 1 (AS-513)	05-14-73	KSC	67			
SKYLAB 2 (AS-206)	05-25-73	KSC	68	06-22-73	Ticonderoga	69
SKYLAB 3 (AS-207)	07-28-73	KSC	70	09-25-73	New Orleans	71
SKYLAB 4 (AS-208)	11-16-73	KSC	72	02-08-74	New Orleans	73



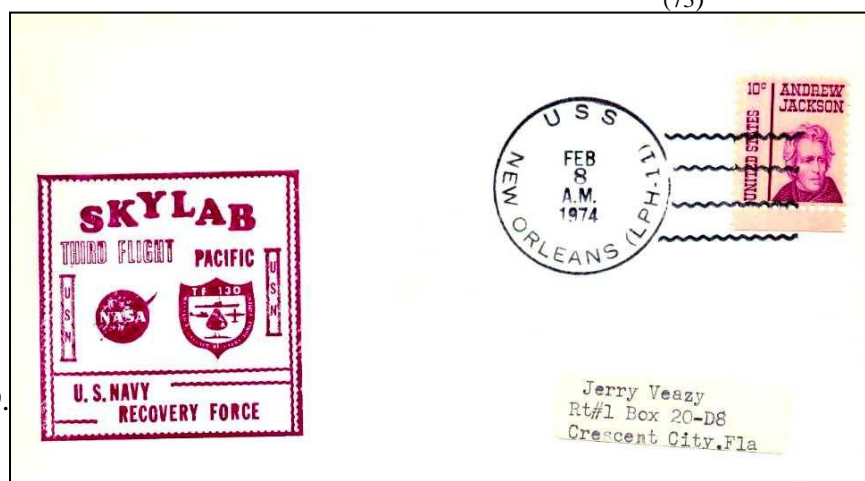
(68)

With the Skylab project, the first US experimental Space station was realised, the so-called "Apollo Application Programmes".

(73)

The programme enclosed the launch of one space station and three crews. It was a success.

The space station went out of control and left the scheduled orbit and decayed during re-entry in the earth atmosphere on July 11th, 1979.



APOLLO - SOYUS - PROGRAM covers of launch and main-(prime)-recovery ships						
Mission	date of launch	place	official NASA cachet	Recovery date	Recovery ship	official ship cachet
ASTP/APOLLO (AS-210)	07-15-75	KSC	74	07-24-75	New Orleans	

On July 15th, 1975 started the historical Joint Space flight APOLLO-SOYUS-ASTP-mission of the USA and USSR with the launch of SOYUS 19 at Cosmodrome Baikonur and 7 ½ hours later of APOLLO spacecraft from Kennedy Space Centre



Cover with postmark of July 15th, 1975 from KSC post office with official NASA cachet last time applied for ASTP space event.

The **docking** of the two spaceships took place on **July 17th, 1975**

This event is recorded by the postmark of the US Mission Control Centre in **Houston**



Carl S. Uhrig
240 Second Street
Pittsfield, Ma. 01201



When Apollo spacecraft and the crew returned to earth, they were recovered by the Prime recovery ship USS New Orleans.

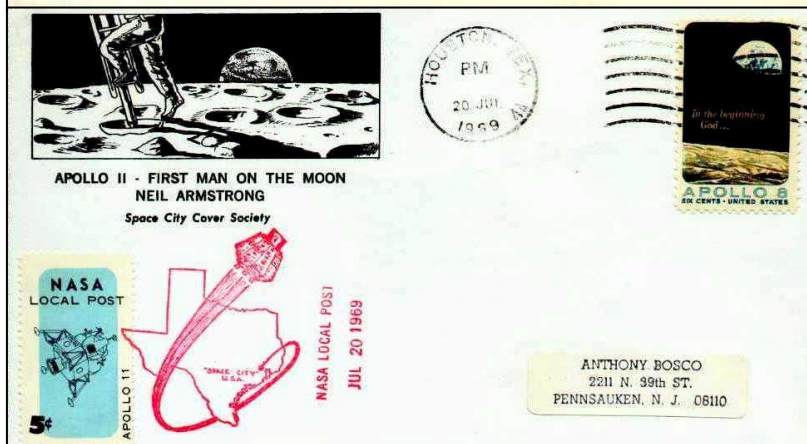
(There exist no special ship cachet referring to the Apollo-Soyus mission).

With Apollo-Soyus it was the last time that splashdown of manned spacecraft took place and NASA cachets were available referring to the missions.

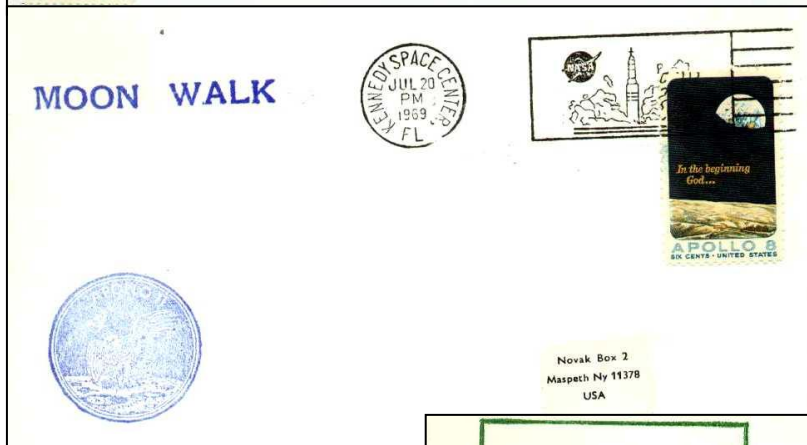
The first Moon landing of Apollo 11 may serve as example of the appropriate astrophilatelic material for recording the launch, mission and splashdown of a spacecraft (of an event)



The launch of Apollo 11 on July 16th, 1969 may be recorded by postmark of Kennedy Space Centre, preferably with additional official NASA cachet referring to the mission.

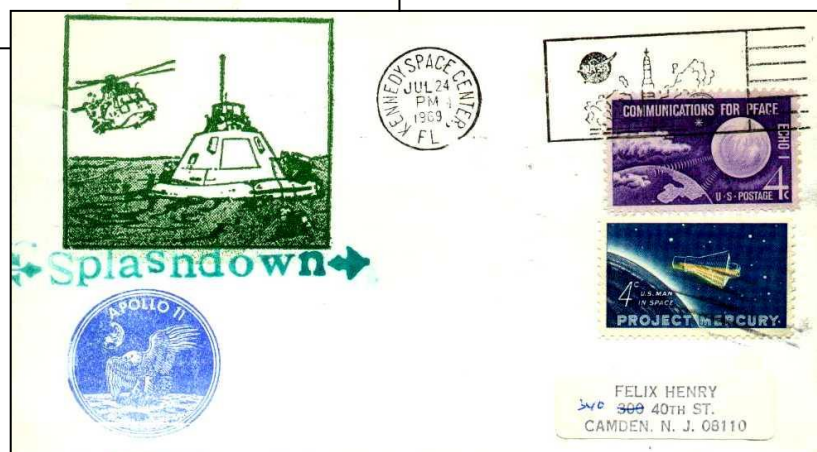


For Moon landing of Apollo 11 on July 20th, 1969, the postmark of the Mission Control Centre for manned space flights, in Houston - which is responsible for supervision of the mission after take-off should be shown.



Postmark of Kennedy Space Centre with date of Moon landing July 20th, 1969 is not appropriate.

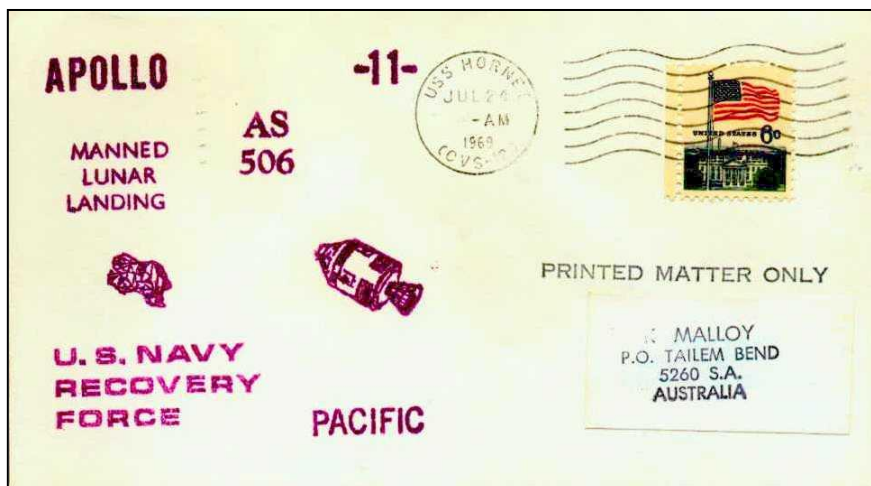
For splashdown of Apollo 11 on July 24th, 1969 the postmark of the Prime recovery ship USS HORNET should be shown.



Covers postmarked on July 24th, 1969 at Kennedy Space Centre are not appropriate.

There were three different postmarks available from the post office on board of the Prime recovery ship USS Hornet on date of recovery of Apollo 11 space capsule and the astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin on July 24th, 1969.

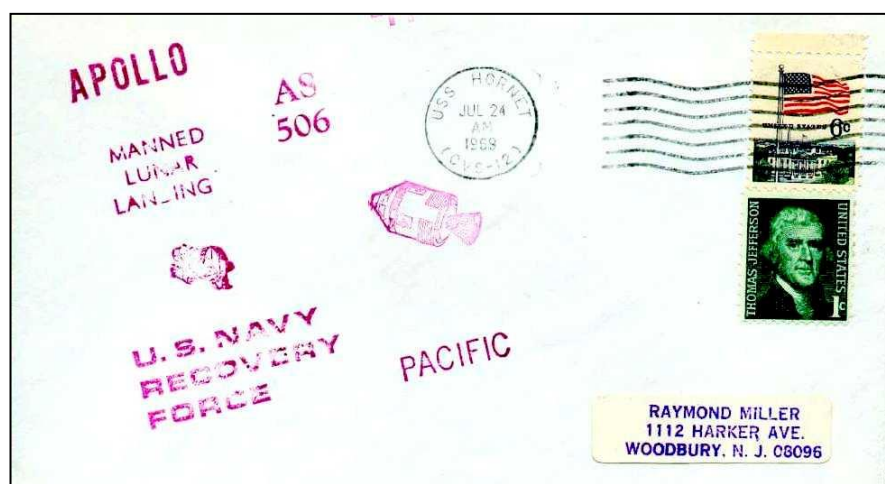
The USS Hornet hand cancel is rarer than the machine cancels shown below.



Cover with
USS Hornet
MC Ø 23 mm

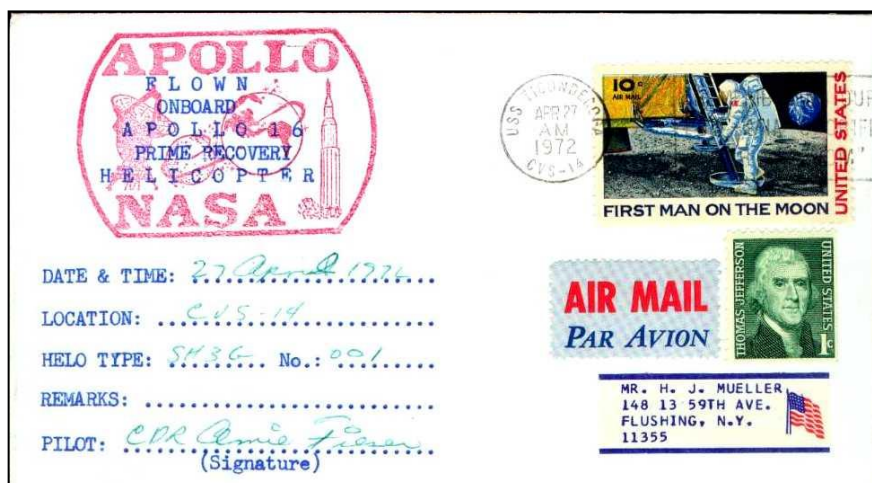
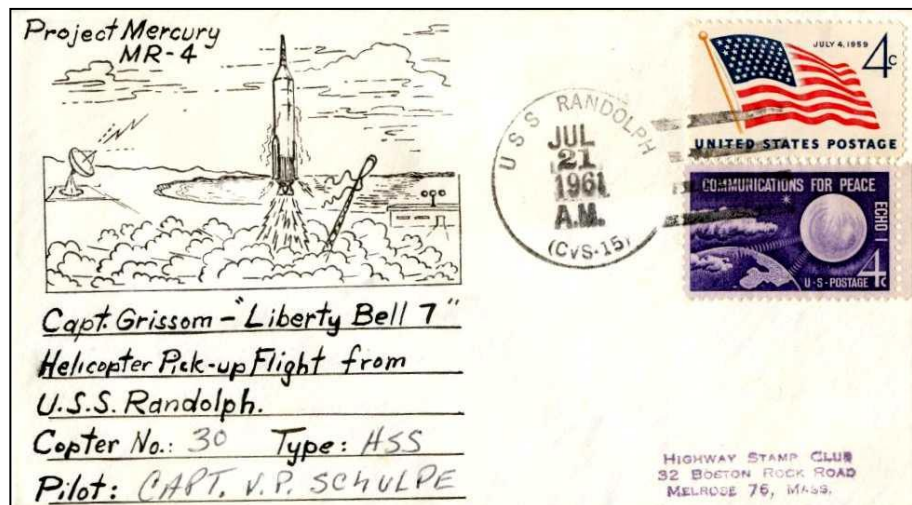
The official
red ship cachet
refers to the
mission.

Cover with
USS Hornet
MC Ø 21 mm



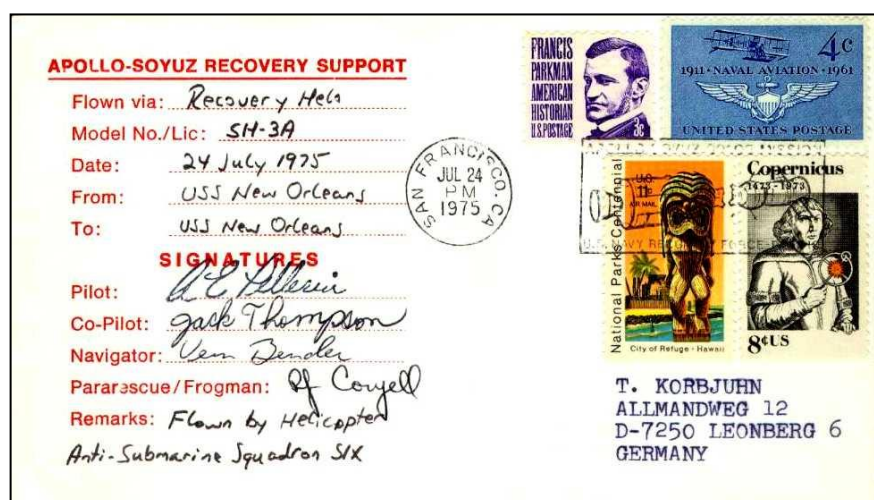
“Mail from ships, helicopters and/or air planes participating in the recovery and tracking stations shall be postmarked with date during the mission” ref. Guidelines 3.3.12 and 3.3.13

When Gus Grissom returned from the second ballistic space flight, just after splashdown, the hatch of his Mercury spacecraft opened and he had to escape before the capsule sunk.
 *The cover was flown on the rescue helicopter which brought Grissom to the Prime recovery ship USS Randolph and postmarked aboard on the date of event July 21, 1969.

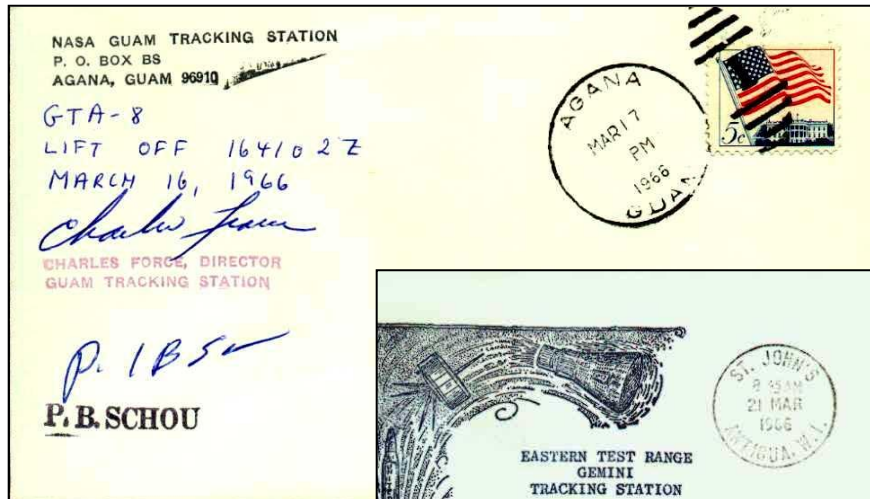


Apollo 16 spacecraft and the crew was brought after recovery on April 27th, 1972 by helicopter 001 to the Prime recovery ship USS Ticonderoga. After arrival the cover flown on the helicopter was postmarked at USS Ticonderoga.

When the Apollo spacecraft returned from the ASTP joint flight on July 24th, 1975 it was the last transport by helicopter after splashdown of the crew and spacecraft to the Prime recovery ship USS New Orleans, recorded by postmark of the Fleet Post Office at San Francisco, CA.



Gemini-Titan 8 was launched on March 16th, 1966 and recovered on March 17th, 1966.



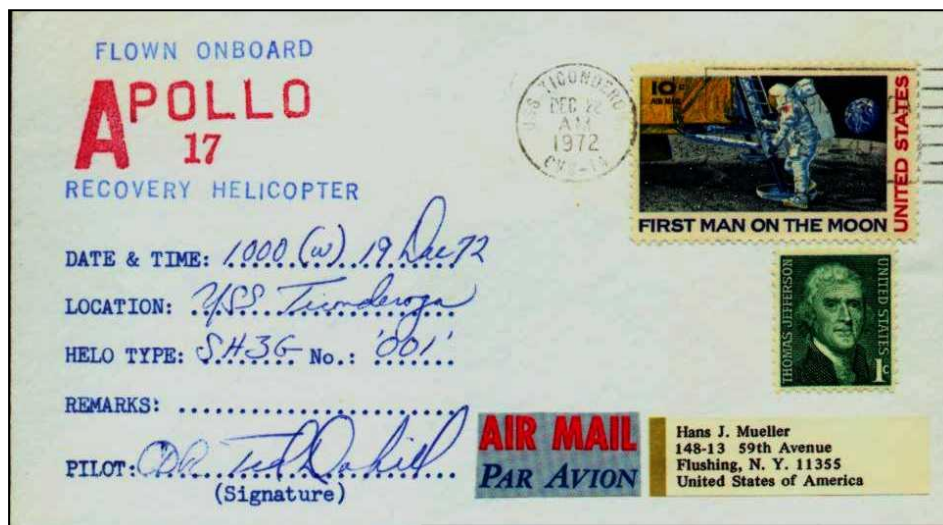
Postmark from Tracking Station Agana, Guam of March 17th, 1966.

Postmark from Tracking Station St. John's, Antigua of March 21st, 1966 is not appropriate. Recovery was March 17th.



Apollo 17 was launched on December 7th, 1972 and recovered on December 19th, 1972.

Cover flown by Recovery Helicopter with postmark from the Prime Recovery Ship USS Ticonderoga from December 22nd, 1972 is not appropriate.



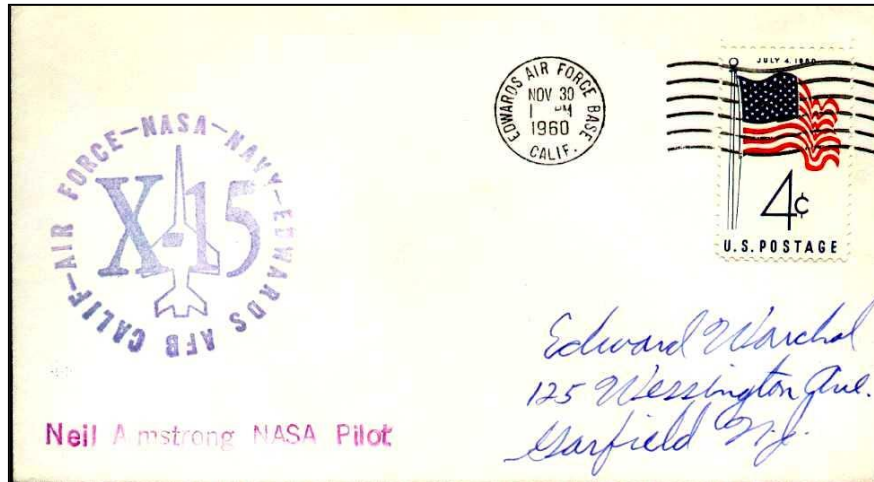
The postmark from Patrick Air Force Base July 15th, 1975, the Aircraft Operations Control Centre of ARIA Rescue Airplanes in charge during the ASTP mission from July 15th to 24th, 1975



Information on Space Shuttle landings, - Guidelines 3.3.12

Before the **first Space Shuttle Columbia** was ready for maiden flight in 1981 it needed two decades experimental preparation.

One of the most important programmes were related to **X 15** rocket plane test flights for landing on the mainland when returned from space. This training was also made on Nov. 30th 1960 by **Neil Armstrong**, the first man on the Moon.



After four successful space flights of Columbia Space Shuttle with two man's crew, the first full operational flight with four man's crew and cargo of two communication satellites **SBS-C** and **Anik C** took place from KSC on Nov. 11th 1982 with the launch of **Space Shuttle STS-5**.

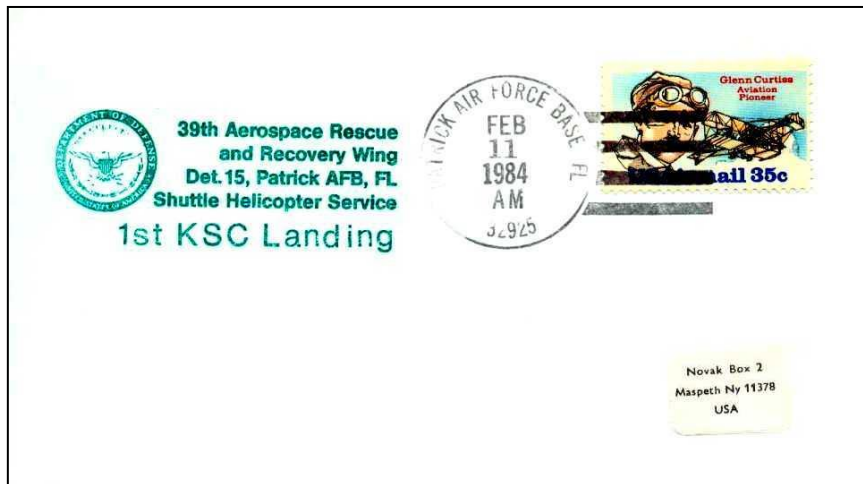


Postmark from KSC post office with date of STS 5 launch.

After deploy of the two Satellites STS-5 landed on Nov. 16th 1982 at Edwards Air Force Base.



The first landing of a Space Shuttle at Kennedy Space Centre took place with Challenger STS-41 B on Feb. 11th 1984.



Postmark on date of landing of STS-41 B from PAFB the Headquarter of ARRS helicopter for Space Shuttle support.

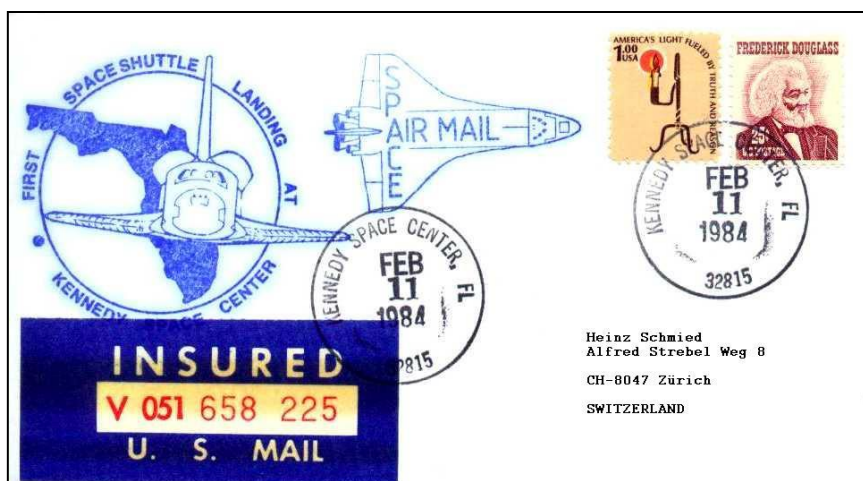
Cover with machine and hand cancel from KSC post office applied on STS-41 B landing date.



There are three different postmarks from Kennedy Space Centre:

- 1) Meter slogan machine cancel
- 2) Circular hand cancel with killer bars

Both used at KSC post office only on the occasion of space event.



- 3) Circular hand cancel without killer bars

used at the main post office in Orlando, where the major part of covers is dispatched.

Same as for previous manned space programmes, for missions during the space flight of a Space Shuttle the Mission Control Centre of Houston is valid, ref. Guidelines 3.3.13.



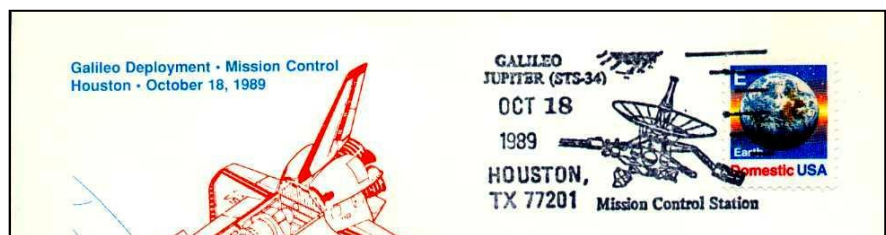
The first space walk (EVA) during STS 6 Challenger mission on April 7th, 1983 is recorded by the hand cancel from the Mission Control Centre in Houston.

The machine cancel of Houston, April 29th, 1985 records the work of the astronauts in the Spacelab 3 during STS 51 B mission.

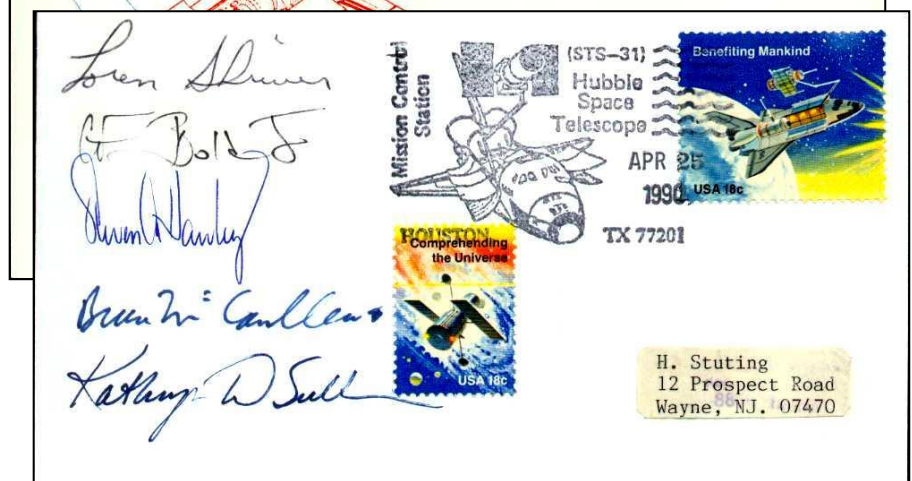


There exist also special cancellations from the Mission Control Centre in Houston referring to the mission.

Cover with postmark from Houston recording the deploy of Galileo space probe at STS-34 mission on October 18th, 1989 and

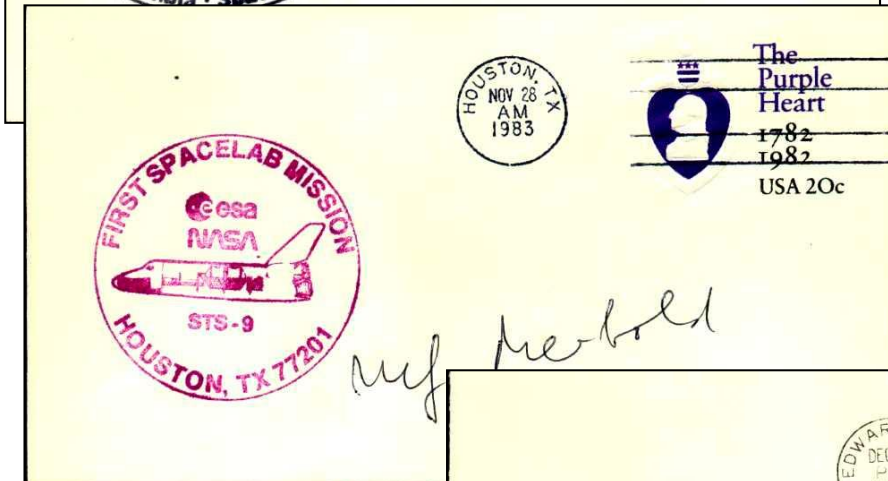


of the Hubble Space Telescope during the space flight of Discoverer STS-31 on April 25th, 1990 with autographs of the crew Loren Shriver, Charles Bolden, Steven Hawley, Bruce McCandless and Kathryn Sullivan.



First Joint space flight of USA and Germany in the Space Shuttle Programme.

With **STS-9** launched on Nov. 28th 1983 the first space flight in co-operation between USA and Europe took place when the European **Spacelab 1** of the ESA was carried on Columbia Space Shuttle into earth orbit. It was for the first time that an astronaut of another nation, the German Ulf Merbold joined the US crew, also new increased to six astronauts.



Immediately after lift-off the Mission Control Centre in Houston supervised the eleven days flight where a lot of experiments were carried out on Spacelab 1.

After successful accomplishment of the first test flight with Spacelab 1, Columbia STS-9 landed on December 8th, 1983 at Edwards Air Force Base.



The 40th ARRS Recovery Force was in charge to give helicopter support when STS-9 approached Edwards AFB for landing.



Covers carried around and on the Moon and the first official Space mail of the USA Ref. Guidelines 3.2.2

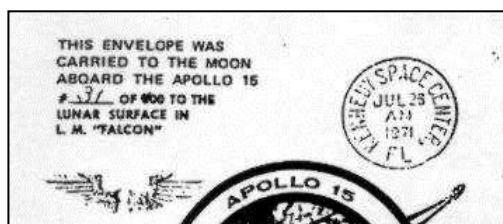
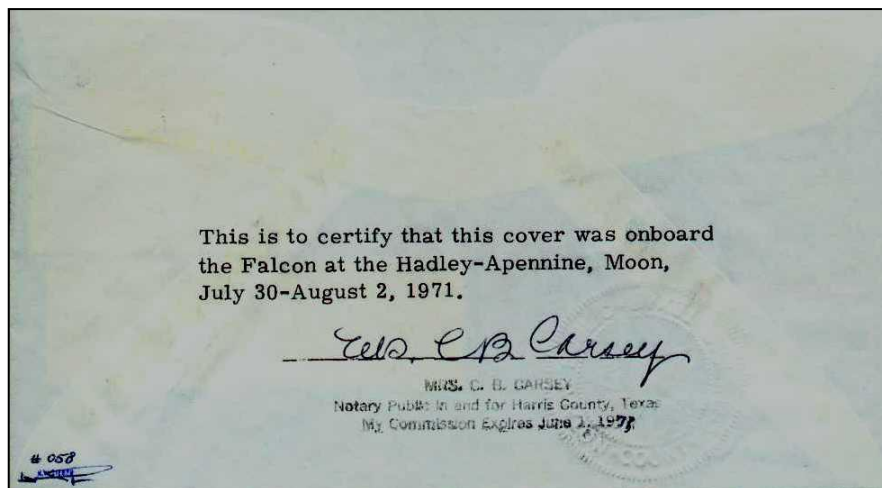
When **Apollo 15** was launched on July 21st, 1971 from KSC, the three astronauts, Dave Scott, Al Worden and Jim Irwin, carried a few hundred covers aboard.

There are three different types of these so-called “Moon Covers of Apollo 15”.

One hundred are the so-called “Sieger Moon Covers” flown by Astronauts Scott and Irwin with LEM “Falcon” on July 30th, 1971 on the moon and, after three days stay, back to the Apollo Command Module on August 2nd, 1971.



The special printed covers bear the July 26th, 1971 launch date postmark of KSC and the August 7th, 1971 recovery date postmark of the USS Okinawa prime recovery ship. Additionally, the covers bear the signatures of the Apollo crew and, in the left corner, the **hand-written confirmation**: “Landed at Hadley Moon July 30th, 1971” signed by Scott and Irwin. Also, there is a notary endorsement on the back with additional embossing seal.

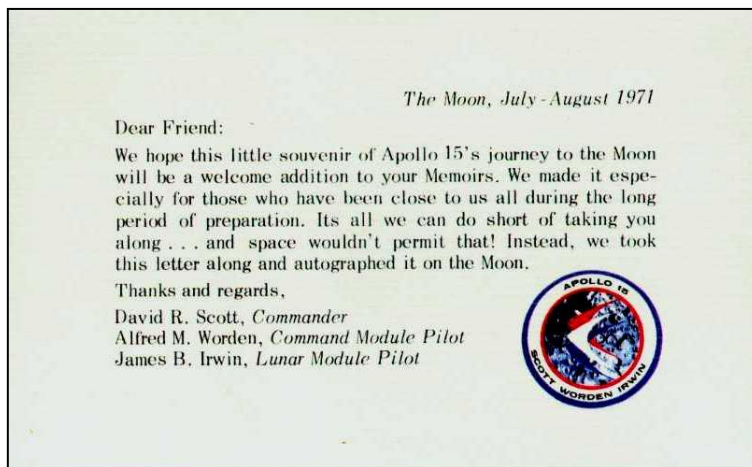


Each astronaut took also one hundred covers on the Apollo 15 flight for personal use which look completely the same like the “Sieger Moon covers” but differ by **rubber cachets** applied on the left upper corner with hand-written number, and notary endorsement on the reverse side is missing.

A separate notary letter confirms that the cover was carried to the Moon.



The crew of Apollo 15 also took one hundred so-called “Herrick Moon Phases” covers aboard the spacecraft intended for orbiting the moon.. These covers were flown **around the moon** by Al Worden on the Apollo Command Module,. They are distinguished by a blue and white sticker referring to the Apollo 15 mission and showing the 15 moon phases. They bear two private cancels related to the July 26th launch and the recovery on August 7th, 1971. They are also postmarked at USS Okinawa August 7th, 1971 and signed by the crew of Apollo 15.



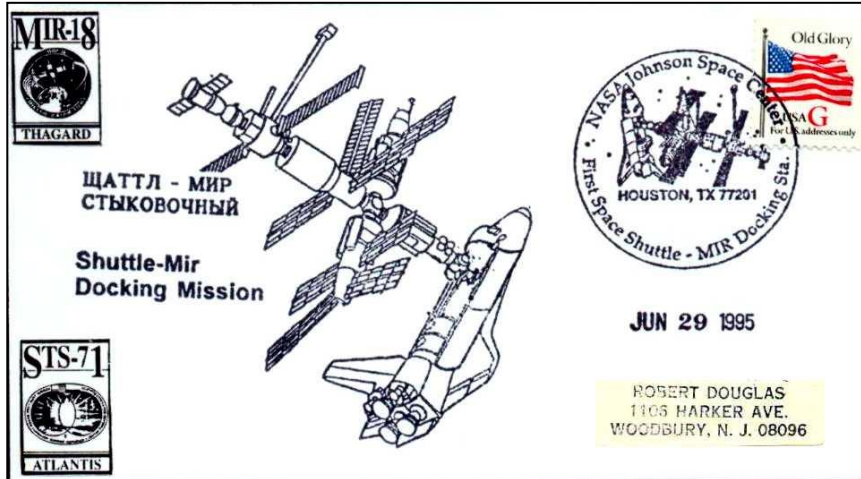
A separate card, with a printed message of the crew of Apollo 15 referring to the mission, was used for stuffer.

The **first official Space Mail** of the USA, a cooperative project of the NASA and the U.S. Postal Administration, was flown on Space Shuttle **STS-8** on Aug. 30th – Sept. 5th 1983. Special covers were issued to this event, with KSC first day cancellation of the \$ 9.35 stamp, dated August 14th, 1983 “Space Mail/Orbited Via STS-8” and a special design cancel referring to the 25th anniversary of NASA, as well as cancellations related to the launch on August 30th, 1983 and the return to earth at Edwards AFB on September 5th, 1983.



Dockings between Space Shuttle and MIR space station Ref. Guidelines 3.3.13.

The friendly co-operation between the USA and the USSR during the ASTP mission in 1975, was continued 20 years later, when the American Space Shuttle Atlantis **STS-71**, launched on June 27, 1995, docked to the Russian MIR space station on June 29th, 1995.



The post office at the Mission Control Centre in Houston applied two different special cancellations for recording this historical event.



After 8 successful dockings between a Space Shuttle and MIR, and joint work on different experiments, the last docking took place by **STS-91** on June 04th, 1998 and ended when Discovery undocked on June 08th, 1998.



This time, there was no special cancellation available referring to these events.

On March 25th, 2001, the “old lady” MIR decayed in the earth atmosphere after almost a quarter of a century of successful earth orbits and some exciting moments. The “lifetime” of MIR was longer than the originally planned 10 years.

But the co-operation between the USA and Russia had already been re-launched with the assembly of the International Space Station ISS.

Ref. Guidelines 3.3.4 & 3.3.6

The first permanent crew, Expedition 1, Y. Shepard (USA), C. Krikalov and Y. Gizenko (RU), was launched on October 31st, 2000 by Soyuz TM-31 from Cosmodrome Baikonur.



Special cancellation of Cosmodrome Baikonur, recording the launch of Soyuz TM-31.

Docking with ISS was on November 2nd, 2000 and was documented with a postmark of the Mission Control Centre Korolev.



**Information on appropriate astrophilatelic items related to the
Space programmes of the USSR and Russia
according to the Guidelines 3.3.1 – 3.3.7**

**Additional information to the early period of space programmes in the USSR
Guidelines 3.3.1 and 3.3.2.**

The International Geophysical Year, **-IGY-** was inaugurated on July 1st, 1957 and ended on Dec. 31st, 1958, followed by the International Geophysical Co-operative Year, **-IGCY-**1959. Main programmes referring to Astrophilately were the research of the strato and ionosphere by balloons and sounding rockets and the launch of the first satellites and space probes.



Official cover of the USSR Committee for the International Geophysical Year in Moscow.

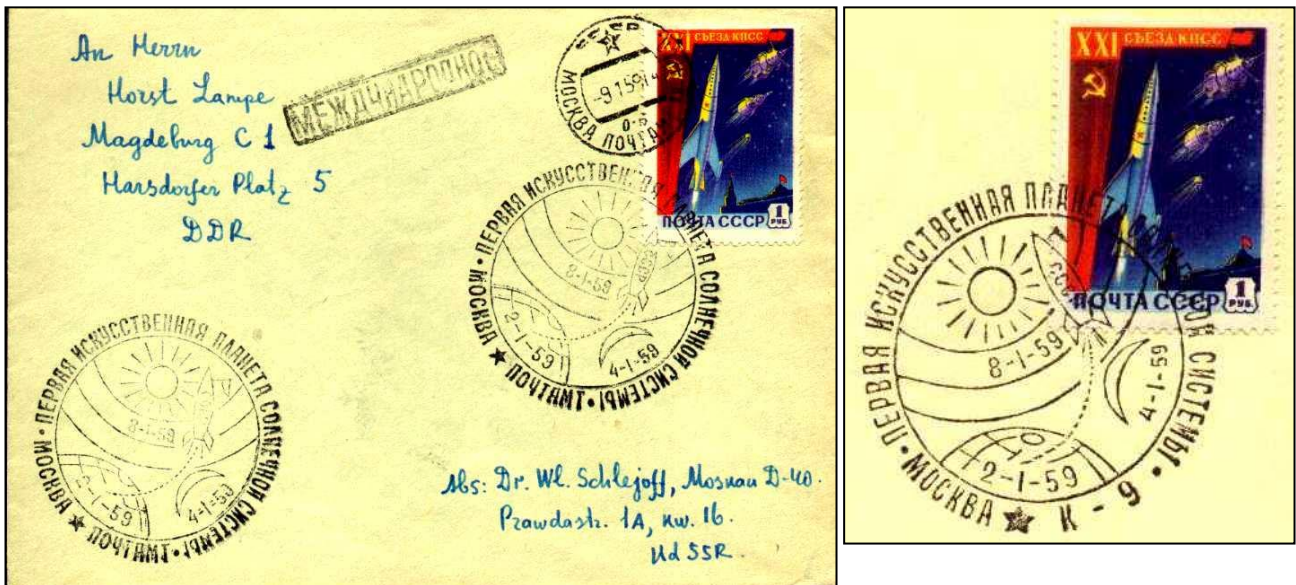
The space era began on **October 4th, 1957** when the world was thrilled by the news that the USSR succeeded in launching the first artificial satellite **Sputnik I**.

This event and the first animal in space “**Laika**” launched on **Sputnik 2** on **November 3rd, 1957** may be recorded by stamps since no special cancellations exist issued to the launches.



The stamps on the cover were issued to Sputnik I on November 5th, 1957, Russian rocket pioneer Ziolkowsky with overprint related to Sputnik I, November 28th, 1957, Sputnik II set, December 30th, 1957.

As mentioned in the Guidelines early space events of the USSR can be recorded by stamps, postal stationery and special cancellations referring to the mission and duration of flight time ref. 3.3.2



The first space probe of the USSR intended to reach the moon –**Lunik I**- was launched on January 1st, 1959 and became the first artificial planetoid of the sun on January 8th, 1959. All these dates are represented in a special cancellation issued to record the event.

The ambitious Moon programme was continued with the launch of space probe **Lunik 2** which succeeded in impacting the moon on September 12th, 1959.



An official postal stationery and special cancellations were issued for recording this event.

On October 4th, 1959 the USSR launched **Lunik 3**, the first space probe that succeeded in orbiting the Moon and transmitted by television the first pictures from the dark side of the moon. The launch date of Lunik 3 meets with the second anniversary of launch of Sputnik 1.



The Lunik 3 event is recorded by the launch date in the postmark and an official red cachet referring to the mission. A special cancellation refers to the 2. Anniversary of the launch of Sputnik 1, the first that was issued for this very first earth satellite.

Precursors to manned space flights of the USSR were 5 experimental test flights with dogs on Sputnik spacecraft also called – **Korable** -.

On **August 19th, 1960** the dogs **Bjelka and Strelka** where launched with **Korable 2**, Sputnik 5, and safely returned to earth on August 20th, 1960



The postal stationery and stamps were issued to this event.

When Cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** became the first man to orbit the Earth with his spacecraft **Wostok 1**, it was the post office at Kiev that made special covers with special cancellation available –on the date of event, **April 12th, 1961**.



A black postmark was applied at opening time

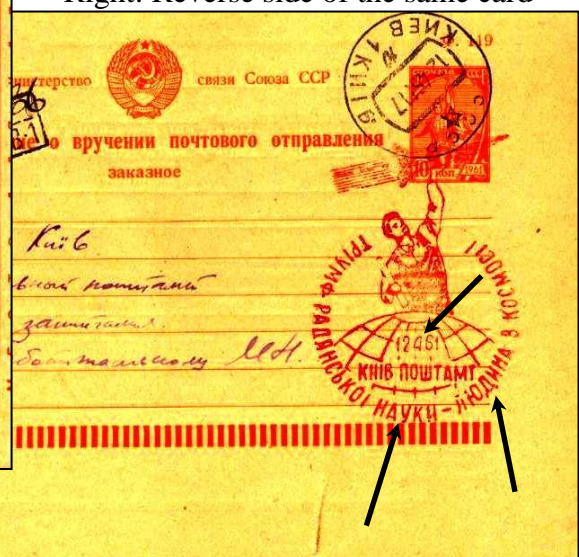
The red postmark was applied for only 1-3/4 hours the symbolic time of Gagarin's flight.



There exist **fakes** with the special cancellation and postmark of date of event 12 461.



Left: Front of faked card
Right: Reverse side of the same card



In the Guidelines point 3.2.3 it is stipulated “ *Special cancellations for anniversary of space events should be avoided except when no original event cancellation is available.*”

Postal stationery with red special cancellation of post office in Kiev applied on the date of landing of **Wostok 2** with Cosmonaut Titov on August 7th, 1961



and special cancellation referring to the first anniversary of Titov's flight August 6th – 7th, 1962 from post office Moscow, which should be avoided.

The first twin flight of **Wostok 3 & 4** took place on August 13th and return on August 15th, 1962. Both dates are recorded by special cancellation and postmark of Kiev.



Anniversary postmark August 11th – 15th, 1963 should be avoided.



Special cancellations **with date of event** related to Wostok 2, 3 and 4 exist also from **Moscow**

The first woman who orbited the Earth, – **Valentina Tereskowa**, - was launched into space with **Wostok 6** on June 18th, 1963 and performed with the previously launched spacecraft **Wostok 5**, piloted by **Cosmonaut Bykovsky**, the first formation flight of two spacecraft and landed on June 19th, 1963.

The post office in Moscow issued a special cancellation referring to the formation flight of Wostok 6 and Wostok 7 with date of launch and landing of both spacecraft June 14th – 19th, 1963.



On October 12th, 1964 the USSR succeeded in launching Woschod 1 with three cosmonauts into Earth orbit. Special cancellation applied at the post office in Kiev on launch date of Wostok 1, October 12th, 1964



The successful flight of Woschod 1 was followed by Woschod 2 on March 18th, 1965.

Special cancellation from the post office in Moscow recording the space walk of Leonov on 23. 3. 65.

During the 17th orbits of Woschod 2 cosmonaut Leonov left the spacecraft for a first "Space Walk" of 10 minutes on March 23rd 1965.

All these events can be recorded by special cancellations from the post office in Kiev and Moscow.

On January 14th, 1969 **Soyuz 4** with cosmonaut Shatalow was launched from Cosmodrome Baikonur followed by **Soyuz 5** with a three man crew. launched on January 15th. The **first docking** of two spacecraft occurred on January 16th when Soyuz 5 joined Soyuz 4. The crew of Soyuz 5 acted as postmen for the delivery of the **first Space mail** to Cosmonaut Shatalow in Soyuz 4.

On this occasion a provisional post office was installed at Cosmodrome Baikonur and for the first time, covers were postmarked at the launching place on the date of the event.

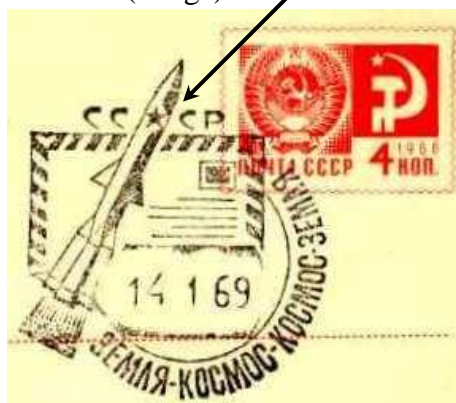
The postal stationery and special cancellation dated 14 1 69 shows the inscription “Earth-Cosmos-Cosmos-Earth” to keep the launch place secret and a spacecraft and mail, referring to this historical event of the first mail delivered into space.

Special cancellations were applied at the Cosmodrome during the time of space flight and exists with dates of January 14th –18th, 1969.

At Cosmodrome Baikonur, only on some hundred covers this special cancellation was applied. There is to differentiate between postmarks actually applied at the Cosmodrome Baikonur preferable to those of the official trading company (Kniga). Ref. Guidelines 3.3.9

After January 18th, 1969, the special cancellation was also used by Kniga in Moscow.

Moscow (Kniga)



Such applied at Moscow distinguish by a small white stripe at the top of the spacecraft. Both kind of special cancellations are valid, but those applied at the Cosmodrome are of special interest.

There also exist postal stationery referring to the first docking of two manned spacecraft.

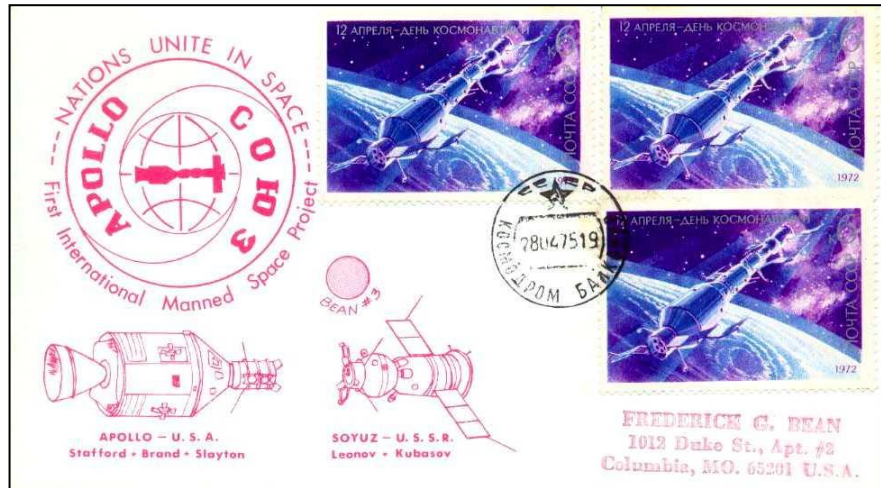
Cosmodrome Baikonur



Special information on first postmarks from post office at Cosmodrome Baikonur, Ref. Guidelines 3.3.3

For the occasion of Apollo-Soyus space flight 1975, a post office was inaugurated at the Cosmodrome Baikonur on April 15th, 1975 .

On April 28th, 1975, the US astronauts of the prime and back crews, determined of the ASTP flight, visited the Cosmodrome Baikonur. Astronaut Alan Bean took some special designed covers from his Cousin Frederick along to supply him with one of the earliest postmarks applied at the Cosmodrome Baikonur of this event.



The historical event of Apollo-Soyus joint space flight can be recorded by special cancellations issued to this event and for the first time available from the post office at Cosmodrome Baikonur on date of launch of Soyus 19 spacecraft on July 15th, 1975

All other dates referring to docking etc. in the postmark of Cosmodrome are unofficial and not valid.

There also exist same postmarks applied to this event at Kniga which are to be distinguished.

Soyus 19 landed on July 21st, 1975 recorded by the postmark of the nearest post office to the landing place, Arkalyk.



From this time onwards , official postmarks from the post office at the Cosmodrome Baikonur were available for recording the launch of space stations, supply and spacecraft related to manned space flights in the USSR with date and place of the event.

On September 29th, 1977 the space station Salyut 6 was launched at Baikonur.

Salyut 6 the first orbital station enabling the docking of manned and unmanned supply spacecraft. The postmark of the Cosmodrome on a postal stationery related to early rocket development, applied on launch date of Salyut 6, records this event.



Soyuz 25, launched on October 9th, 1977 at Cosmodrome Baikonur, with the Cosmonauts Korolenok and Ryumin on board, was the first spacecraft that should have docked to Salyut 6 but failed. The postal stationery of Cosmodrome Baikonur was signed by the two cosmonauts.



It is important to differentiate between postmarks actually applied at the Cosmodrome , which are to be preferred, and those distributed by the official trading company (Kniga).
Ref. Guidelines 3.3.3

Typ A

KNIGA



Cosmodrome Baikonour

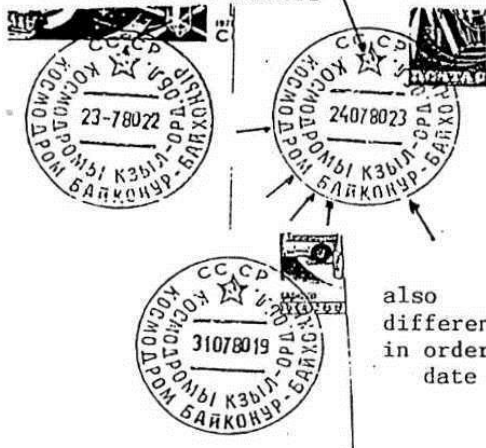
Typ A



1. day of application 27.4.1975

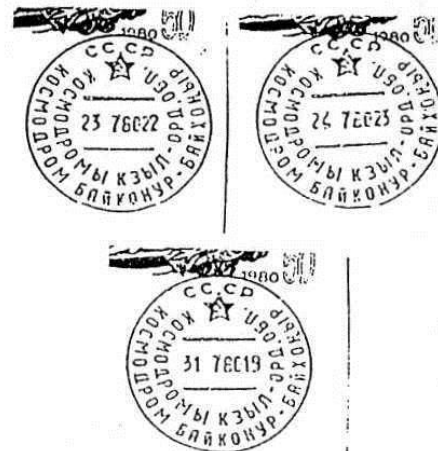
Typ B

main difference in letters



also
difference
in order of
date

Typ B



1. day of application 12.4.1980

Typ C



letters smaler

open-

Typ C/1

Typ C/2



May 1982



April 1984

Typ D

main difference = **У**



Typ D



1. day of application 12.4.1988

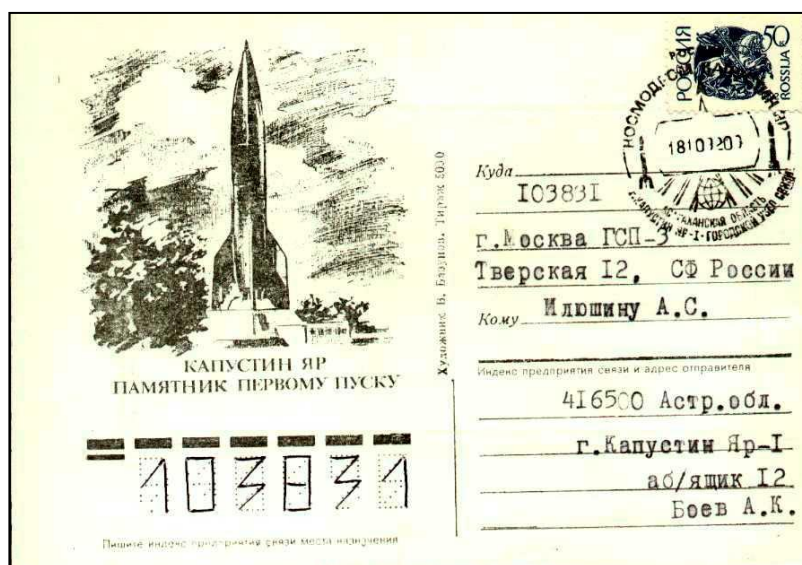
Information on launch sites with post offices in the USSR and Russia ref. Guidelines 3.3.4

Besides the Cosmodrome Baikonur there are two launch sites for unmanned space projects:
Cosmodrome **Kapustin Yar** (operated since 1947) and
Cosmodrome **Plesetsk** (opened in 1957).

No postmarks applied to launches of spacecraft are known from the early period.

Since the last two decades from both Russian launch sites postmarks are available with the date of a space event and it is possible to record the launches of unmanned spacecraft of different missions by the appropriate astrophilatelic material.

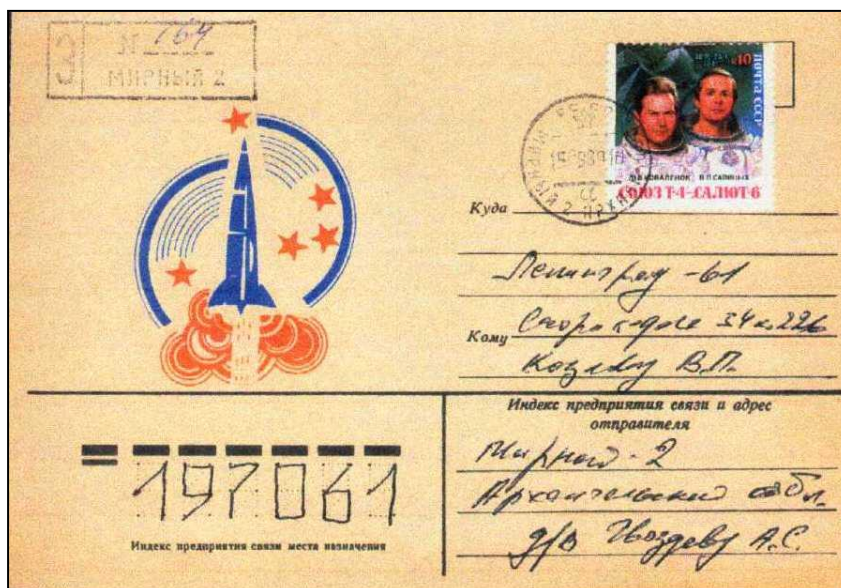
A special postcard depicting a V2 spacecraft launched from Cosmodrome Kapustin Yar with special cancellation referring to the launch of a secret satellite on October 18th, 1992.



On April 28th, 1999 three satellites "Kosmos-3M", "Abraxas" and MegSat from Italy were launched from Kapustin Yar. recorded by a special cancellation from the Cosmodrome and the postmark of Snamensk, the nearby residence of the technique team of the Cosmodrome.



On September 15th, 1989 a satellite “Kosmos 2044” was launched from Cosmodrome Plesetsk. The postmark of Mirnyj, the nearby residence of the technique team of the Cosmodrome, is valid before a special cancellation was available from the Cosmodrome Plesetsk.



Since July 15th, 1992 there is also a special postmark from the Cosmodrome available issued together with a special stationery of the Cosmodrome Plesetsk.



On August 29th, 1996 three satellites “Interball”, “Melsat” and “Magnum” were launched from Plesetsk and recorded by the special postmark of the Cosmodrome and of Mirnyi.

Information on Mission Control Centre in the USSR/Russia. ref. Guidelines 3.3.6

The Mission Control Centre of the USSR later Russia, responsible for supervision of manned and unmanned spacecraft during the space flight, was established in **Kaliningrad**.

The first co-operation between Russia and the European Space Agency ESA took place with the EUROMIR mission when Soyuz TM-20 with the German scientist astronaut Ulf Merbold joined the Russian crew after docking to the Mir station on October 6th, 1994.



The Shuttle – MIR programme was the first US – Russia co-operation after ASTP in 1975. STS-70, Space Shuttle Atlantis docked with MIR on June 28th, 1995 and undocked after 6 days on July 4th, 1995.



At this time, all missions were supervised by the Mission Control Centre Kaliningrad.

In July 1996, the Mission Control Centre was renamed into **Koroljev** in memory of the Chief rocket engineer Sergej Koroljev.

Soyuz TM-24 brought the first French woman in space, Claudie André-Deshays, to the MIR. The docking took place on August 19th, 1996.



The last Shuttle docking to MIR took place on June 04th, 1998 by **STS-91**. Only six months later, the co-operation between the USA and Russia continued, with the assembly of the International Space Station ISS.

On December 7th, 1998, a Space Shuttle docked for the first time to the ISS. The crew of STS-88, Endeavour added the US-module Unity to the ISS and spent 7 days equipping the Russian modules FGB and Sarja.

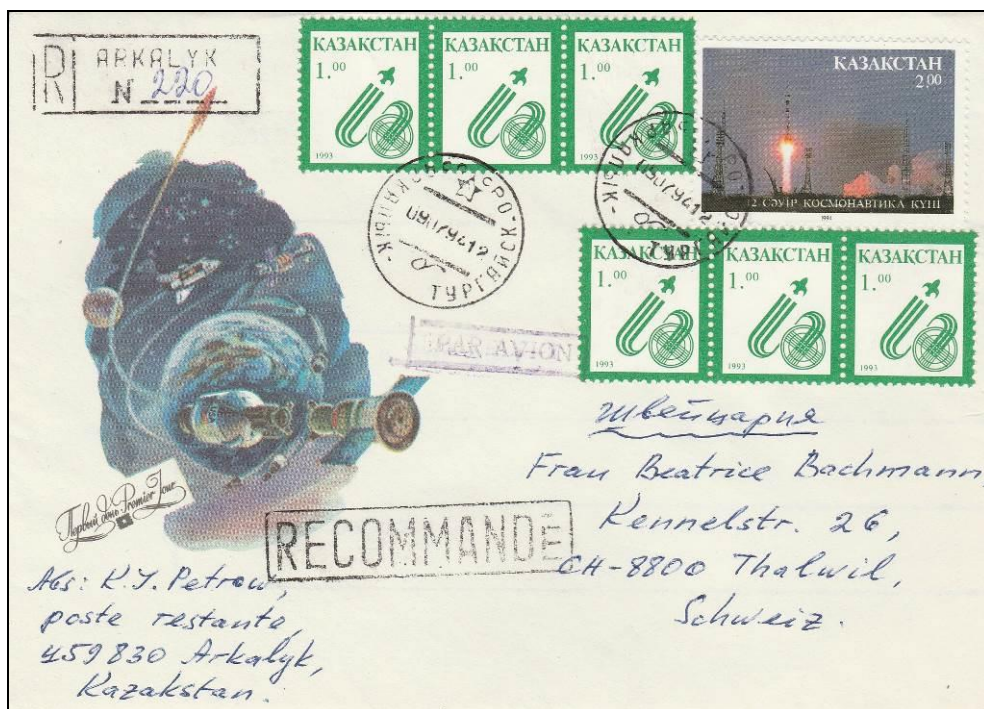


Information on Landing Sites in the USSR/Russia.
ref. Guidelines 3.3.7

The Soyus capsules always land in the Kazakhian steppe. Mostly near the city of Arkalyk.



The first co-operation between USSR and France took place in July 1982.
 Soyuz T-6 landed with Jean-Loup Chrétien on July 2nd, 1982.



Soyuz TM-19, co-operation between USSR and ESA/Germany was the third and last flight of Ulf Merbold. It landed on July 9th, 1994.

There are also known landings near the city of Jezkazgan.

Information on **Spacemail**, refer **Guidelines 3.3.5**- about flown and non flown covers of the USSR to space stations.

With the beginning of Intercosmos programmes of the USSR and the launch of Soyus 28, on March 2nd, 1978 from Cosmodrome Baikonur, the two cosmonauts Gubarow (USSR) and Remek (CSSR) docked to the orbital station Salyut 6 on March 3rd, 1978. They brought along to the space station a decree from the USSR postal administration to open the first post office in space onboard Salyut 6.

Cosmonaut Gretschko was officially appointed to act as first postmaster in space. This first in space post office was officially opened on March 8th, 1978.

A special date combination –8-3-78, was used on board of the space station in a special cancellation of the USSR.

The same cancellation was used on earth with date combination 080378.

The space mail was brought back to earth by Soyus 27 on March 16th, 1978.



Flown cover with USSR postmark with date of the inauguration of the post office onboard Salyut 6 with signatures of cosmonauts Remek (CSSR), Gretschko, Romanenko and Gubarov (USSR)

The two postmarks of Cosmodrome Baikonur mark the launch of Romanenko and Gretschko on December 10th, 1977 and landing of Soyus 27 on March 16th, 1978

This cover looks like a flown one, according to the date of the 10-378 in the official USSR postmark. It was not flown, but bears the original signatures of the four cosmonauts.



On April 3rd, 1984 Soyus T-11 was launched for USSR India Intercosmos flight with the cosmonauts Malychew and Strekalow USSR and Rakesh Sharma (India) to Salyut 7 space station. The day after docking, on April 5th, 1984 the covers were cancelled onboard with the official board cancels of USSR and India and the official pentagonal cancel of Salyut 7 and signed by all cosmonauts in the space station.

On April 11th, 1984 Sharma, Malychew and Strekalow returned to earth by Soyus T-10.



The commemorative cover - not flown – referring to the USSR-India Intercosmos flight bears the official board cancels of the participating countries with date of docking of Soyus T-11 to space station Salyut 7 on April 5th, 1984. The special pentagonal mark of the orbital station Salyut 7, which differs the flown from the non flown cover, is missing.



Illustrated FIP Seminar paper, related to “Advice on Judging Astrophilatelic Exhibits”. Valid as from May 1991. Revised 1995 and 1999/2000.

Adjusted to the changed sequence of Guidelines 2008 / 2011