

# Space Mail

This exhibit tells the story of space travel with a focus on space mail. The German war rockets A-4 / V-2 were the first to reach space. Sputnik became the first satellite, Yuri Gagarin the first human in space. From 1969 to 1972 NASA landed 12 men on the Moon. For the following decades, manned spaceships remained in Earth orbit. Space stations were built and inhabited.

Whenever covers were flown by the spacecraft, the different missions are documented by flown covers. Letters containing a message are preferred. Otherwise, the events are documented with event covers from the launch or landing sites, respectively. In the Soviet Union, both the Baikonur Cosmodrome and the individual missions were initially top secret. Therefore, covers from other places such as Moscow or Kiev are shown. Tracking stations, secondary recovery ships, as well as non-key launches are not shown.

Structure of the exhibit:

<b>Pioneer Rocket Mail</b>		1931 - 1935
<b>First Space Rockets</b>	A-4 / V-2	1942 - 1948
<b>The Race into Space</b>	Sputnik to Soyuz 5	1957 - 1969
<b>X-15 Rocket Planes</b>		1960 - 1967
<b>Reaching the Moon</b>		1968 - 1972
<b>The way to Space Stations</b>	Salyut-1 to 5	1971 - 1977
<b>Salyut-6 and Salyut-7</b>		1977 - 1981
<b>Orbital Complex MIR</b>		1986 - 1999
<b>International Space Station</b>		1998 - 2022
<b>Chinese Space Mail</b>		1994 - 2020

The missions are shown chronically within each chapter. Spaceflight data are printed in normal font, *whilst philatelic aspects are printed in italic font.*

All covers are scarce. The best ones are marked with a red frame.

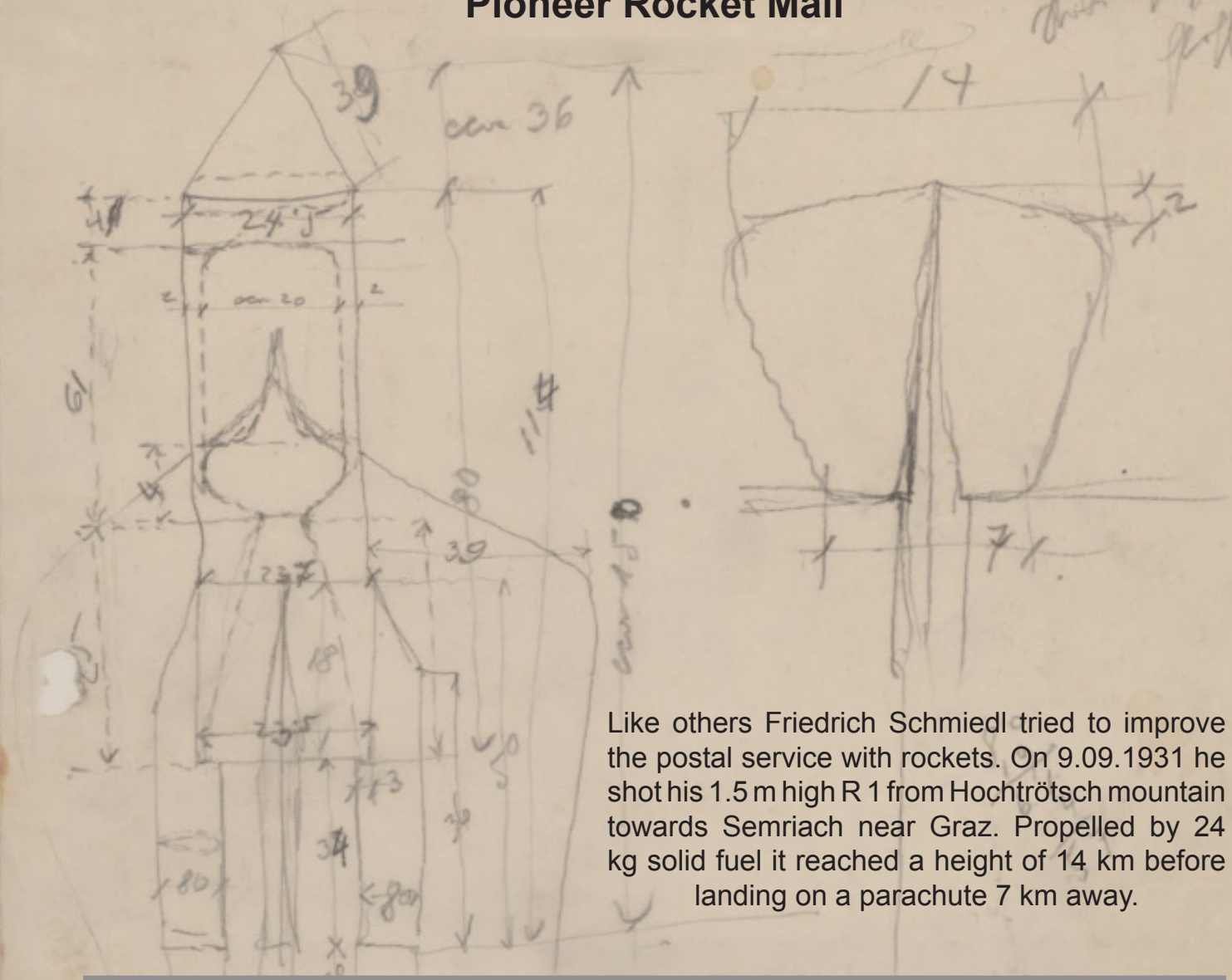
Most important literature and research:

- Walter Hopferwieser: Pioneer Rocket Mail & Space Mail
- Ling Fugen: The Record and Study of China's Space Flown Philatelic Items, 2016
- Numerous meetings with cosmonauts from Russia and other countries

Moon rock  
Lunar meteorite  
NWA 11474



# Pioneer Rocket Mail



Like others Friedrich Schmiedl tried to improve the postal service with rockets. On 9.09.1931 he shot his 1.5 m high R 1 from Hochtrötsch mountain towards Semriach near Graz. Propelled by 24 kg solid fuel it reached a height of 14 km before landing on a parachute 7 km away.



Schmiedl's construction drawing for R 1. Letter posted from Hammerau, Bavaria to Tux, Tyrol.

Gravity and air resistance decrease at higher altitudes. Thus rockets need most drive initially. Schmiedl built models of cone-funnel rockets which should be suitable for space flights and for crossing the Channel.



The funnel rocket carried 6 postcards with a sketch and explanations by Schmiedl.

On 08.11.1932 Schmiedl also tested the 50 cm high funnel rocket successfully at Grazerfeld. He put the nozzles into a massive nozzle plate. Edge nozzles and rudders achieved remote control. The conical shape and solid fuels of different thrust optimized the payload to take-off weight ratio.



The cone rocket carried 6 postcards with a sketch and explanations by Schmiedl.

On 16.03.1933 Schmiedl shot his V14 from the mountain Garrachwände towards the Styrian village Arzberg. When V 14 reached its peak, an inflatable balloon was ejected to show the air flow. The balloon was not found until the next day. Therefore Schmiedl hold this trial for a failure.



The imprinted postage stamp of the only item carried remained unused. Arrival postmark Graz 1 17.03.1933 on its back.

Schmiedl shot his N 7 from Kanzel towards Gösting bei „bei Graz on 21.12.1935. Three solid rockets served as boosters. The fuel of the main stage were liquid oxygen and ethyl alcohol. After the vertical launch th N 7 was deflected by IR remote control. The short flight disappointed Schmiedl.



The 28 items carried include 10 covers.

Tiling launched his rocket plane (K) FTL 3 on Ochsenmoor at the Dümmer lake near Osnabrück on 15.04.1931. The swing-wing rocket rose vertically to a height of 1.5 to 1.8 km, spread wings and circled within 5 minutes to earth. It landed near the launch site.



The 188 flown photo-postcards were dispatched at post office Dielingen. The next two pages cover the only launch protocol.

Outside the bathing season, the island of Wangerooge had no postal connection because it was not served by Lufthansa. This shows that there was a need for rocket mail for mail service between islands at that time.



The photo card of the Tiling rocket launch in Wangerooge on 19.05.1931 could only be dispatched on 29.06.1931.



Protokoll

aufgenommen am Mittwoch, den 15. April 1931

Betr. 1. Deutscher Flugraketenstart  
mit Postbeförderung.

An Mittwoch, den 15. April 1931, nachmittags 15 Uhr, fanden auf dem Ochsenmoor am Dümmersee, Post Dielingen, Regierungsbezirk Osnabrück, Provinz Hannover, durch den Ingenieur Reinhold Tiling die ersten Startvorführungen der von ihm erfundenen Flugzeugraketen statt.

Die Raketenstarts waren keine Experimente, sondern Vorführungen, die den bisher erreichten Stand der Tiling'schen Arbeit an der Rakete und ihrer Verwendung für Verkehrszwecke kennzeichnen sollten.

Bei dieser Gelegenheit wurde unter Beweis gestellt, dass mit diesen Flugraketen praktisch Post befördert werden kann.

Etwa gegen 15 Uhr 30 startete die erste Postrakete. Senkrecht schießt die Rakete empor, hoch, immer höher scheint sie sich in die blaue Himmelkuppel bohren zu wollen. So steigt sie ca. 1500 bis 1800 m hoch. "Achtung! Die Auslösung!" Und programmässig-fast in der Sekunde der Ankündigung-sieht man, wie sich die Flügel der Rakete selbstständig auslösen. In wunderbar ruhigem Gleitflug, grosse Kreise über der jubelnden Zuschauerschar ziehend, gleitet das Raketenflugzeug langsam zur Erde nieder. Fast 5 Minuten dauert es, bis ganz dicht an der Abschnusstelle das Flugzeug auf einer Wiese unbeschädigt landet. Die Vorführungen fanden vor etwa 200 geladenen Gästen der Behörden, Presse, Wissenschaft und Technik statt.

Es wurden insgesamt 190 Photo-Karten, deren Bild eine soeben startende Tiling-Rakete im Flug zeigt, hergestellt. Die Adressenseite wurde mit folgendem Aufdruck versehen:

1. Deutscher Postraketenstart Raketen-Postkarte  
15. April 1931 am Dümmersee

Sämtliche Karten wurden fortlaufend nummeriert und vom Erfinder, Reinhold Tiling, eigenhändig unterschrieben.

2 Fehldrucke wurden vernichtet. Es gelangten also 188 Karten mit der Rakete zur Beförderung. Diese waren vorher mit nachstehendem roten Stempel versehen worden:



Nach Landung der Rakete wurde die Post entnommen und zu dem etwa 10 Minuten entfernt liegenden Postamt Dielingen, wo sie durch den nachstehenden antlichen Poststempel entwertet wurden, gebracht. Etwa 10 Karten waren durch die Pulverdämpfe angeschwärzt.

Für die anwesenden Behörden- und Presse-Vertreter war ein Teil dieser Karten "postlagernd Dielingen" gesandt worden, während der Rest der beförderten Raketenpost auf gewöhnlichem Wege durch die Reichspost den Adressaten zugestellt wurde.

Die Unterschriften erklären hierdurch, dass sich der Vorgang, wie oben angegeben, abgespielt hat.

*Eduard Petersilie jr.*  
Eduard Petersilie jr.

*Bernard Brickwedde*  
Bernard Brickwedde

*Reinhold Tiling*  
Reinhold Tiling

Reinhold Tiling

Für die Richtigkeit:

Städt. Verkehrs- u. Presseamt

*W. Schumann*  
W. Schumann

Für die Fertigmachung, Zahlung und Übergabe der Post:

Dielingen, am 15. April 1931

*Hans Neubert*  
Hans Neubert

Hans Neubert



*Reinhold Tiling*  
Reinhold Tiling

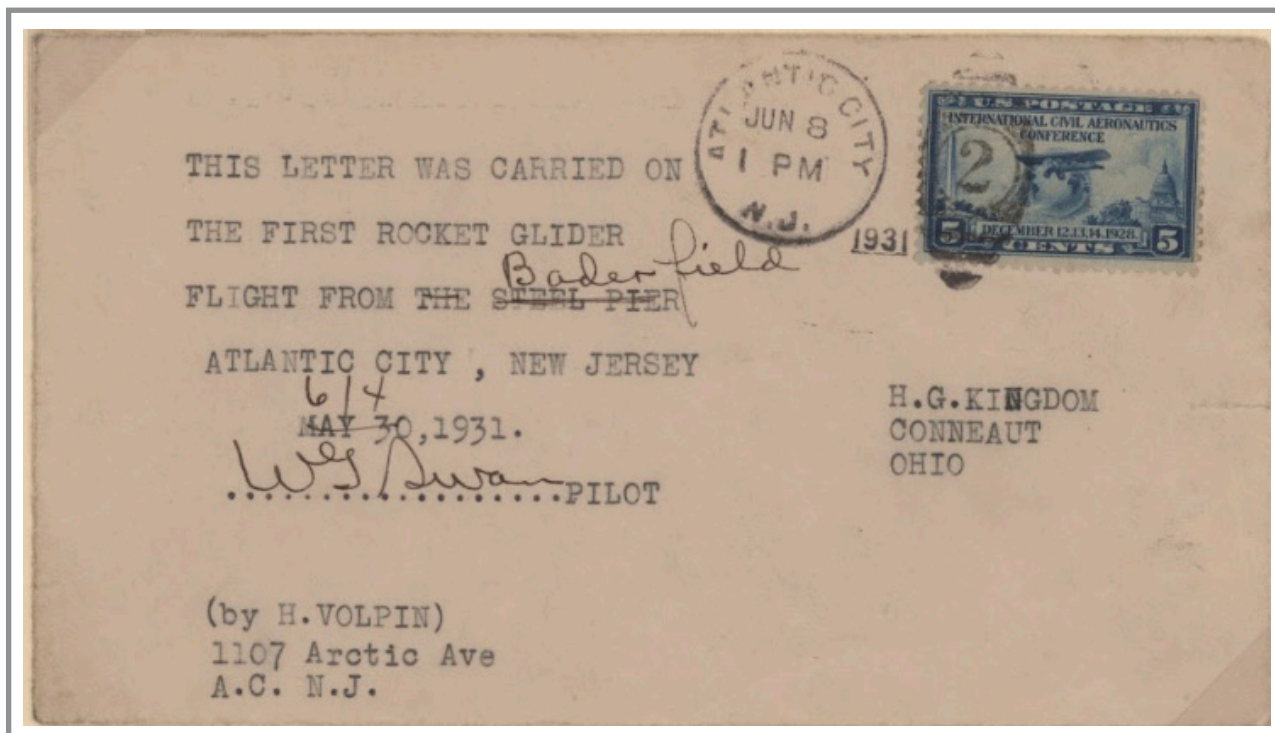
Dielingen, am 15. April 1931

Postamt

*Reinhold Tiling*  
Reinhold Tiling



William Swan wanted to fly his rocket glider on the steel jetty in Atlantic City as a summer attraction. On 04.06.1931 his first trial took place from Bader airfield in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The ground crew catapulted his 90 kg glider into the air. Swan lit the first rocket pair. He was nearly catapulted from his seat. The pilot did not take any further risk and landed after 8 minutes 300 meters away from start.



*This was the first manned rocket-powered flight carrying mail. Only two flown covers are known.*

Franz Josef Kareis shot his trial rocket K 7 from Königsbrunn towards Stammersdorf in the 21st district of Wien on 06.05.1932 at 11:40 AM. For the first time covers might be flown by a liquid-fuel rocket.

**F. J. KAREIS, Masch. Techn.**  
Raketenkonstrukteur  
Wien — Saalfelden

*Stamp and rocket vignette were postmarked at a post office near Kareis' home at Michaelerstraße. Only two covers dispatched by a Kareis rocket are known to have survived.*



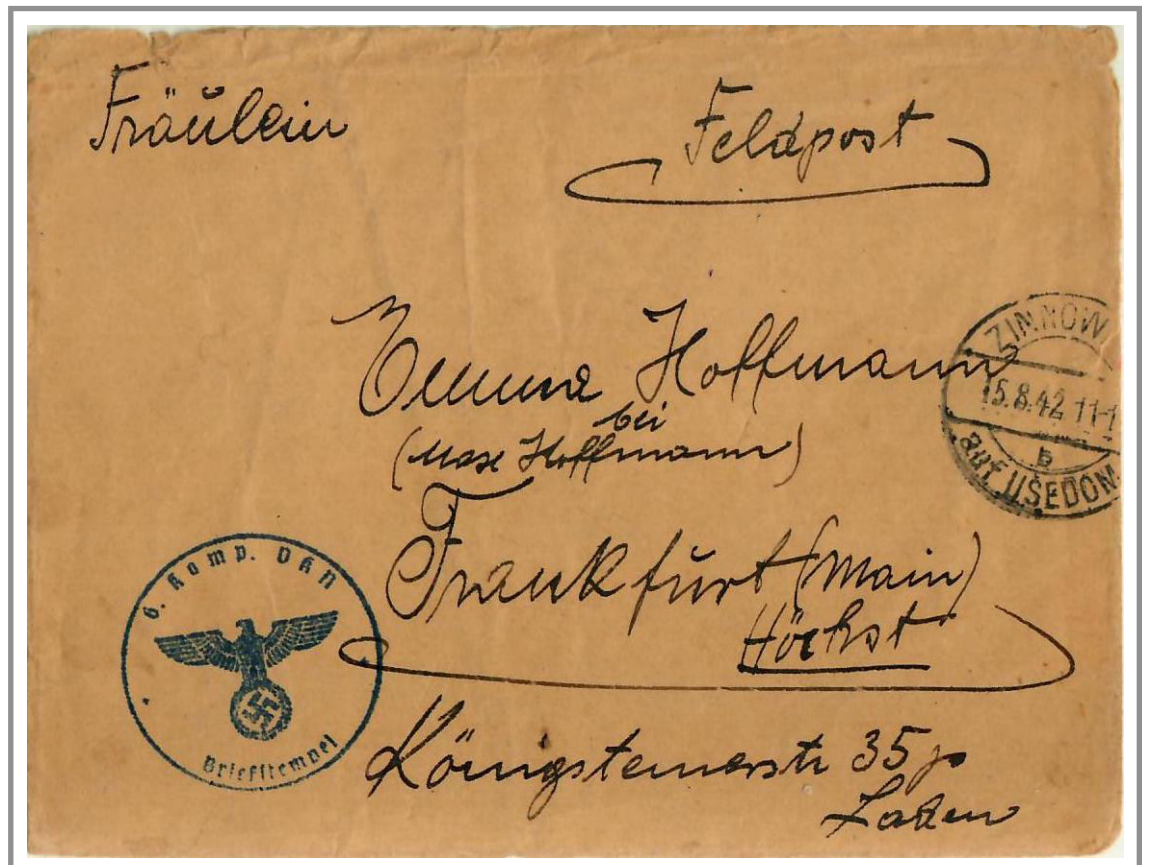
# First Space Rockets

In 1936, the rocketeers under Walter Dornberger were required to shoot 1 t of explosives 250 km away.  
The first A-4 V-1 exploded during ignition in Peenemünde on 16.3.1942.



Because of the top secrecy, barely any letters from the exact launch date exist. W. Schroeder of Versuchskommando Nord, 2. Kp sent this letter to his wife 4 days after. Silent postmark from Peenemunde 1 post office.

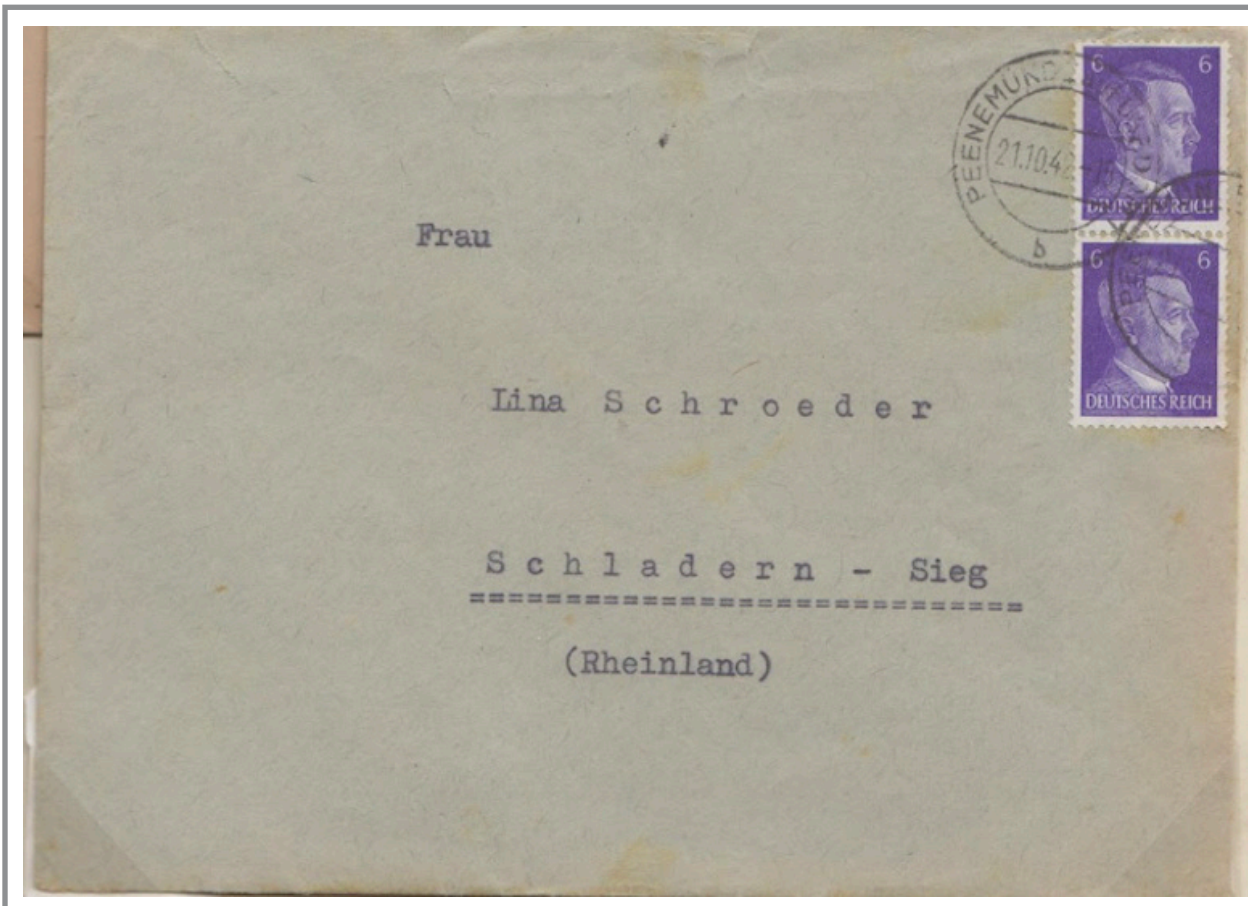
On 16.8.1942 V-3 covered a distance of 8.7 km. It was the first rocket to break the sound barrier. In the process, the tip broke off.



Fieldpost letter from the 6th company of Versuchskommando Nord with a postmark from Zinnowitz on Usedom dated 15.8.1942.



On 21.10.1942 V-5 reached a range of 147 km within 256 s. The steam generator misbehaved.



The sender and recipient are the same as the V-1 letter. Postmark Peenemünde 1, date 21.10.1942. Schroeder had probably used up his contingent of postage-free field mail letters.

Schutz. W. Schroeder V.K.N. 2. Komp. Karlshagen

On 9.11.1942 A-4 rocket V-6 was launched vertically. It reached an altitude of 67 km and covered 14 km.

Fieldpost postcard from the 6th company of Versuchskommando Nord written on 9.11.1942 with the postmark from Zinnowitz on Usedom from the next day.



After British RAF bombed Peenemunde on 18.08.1943, VKN was renamed Heimat-Artilleriepark 11.  
 On 9.11.1943 A-4 V-43 exploded at the test bench P-VII.



Service letter of Heimat-Artillerie-Park 11 with the seal of the unit and silent postmark Peenemünde 1.

On 1.12.1943, the first long-range rocket battery was ready for use. The A-4 was dubbed vengeance weapon V-2.

Letter from fieldpost number 12310, Group Peters at Kommandostelle S. It was deployed in Köslin, Pomerania.

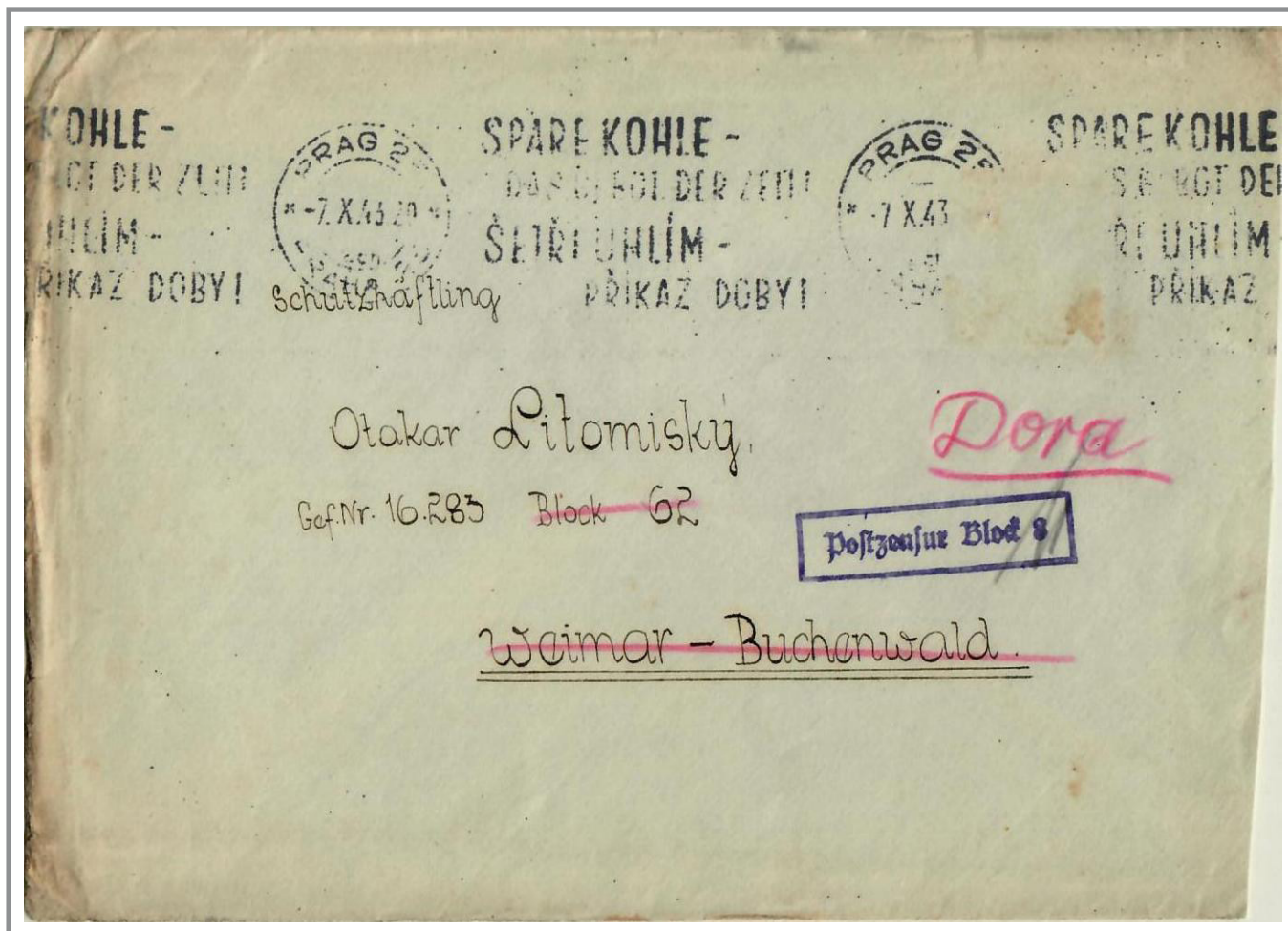


After the RAF air raids, the production of the A-4 / V-2 rockets was relocated to the tunnels of the Niedersachsenwerfen gypsum mines under the Kohnstein.



Ottokar Litomisky's postcard from Dora, to his girlfriend in Prague.

50,000 prisoners of the Mittelbau concentration camp Dora had to work here. A third of them died.



A responding letter from Prague to concentration camp Dora. The stamps were removed so that messages could not be transmitted underneath.

On 20.4.1944 MW 17108 was launched from launch pad X at Peenemünde.



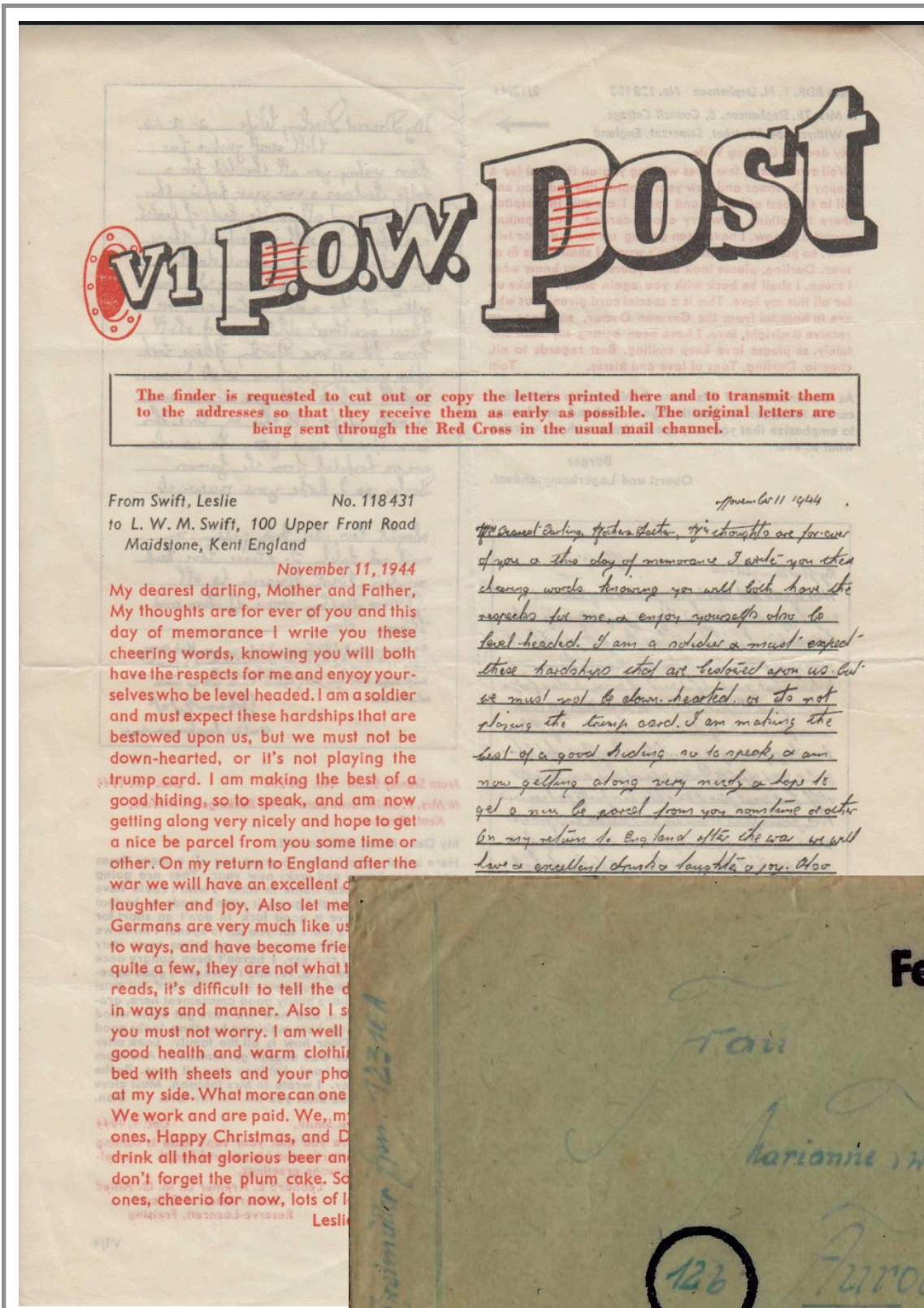
*This service letter of Heimat-Artillerie-Park 11 with the seal of the unit was registered at the post office in Karlshagen, Pommern.*

On 20.6.1944 MW 18014 was launched vertically from the island Oje. With an apogee of 175 km it was the second man-made object reaching space according to IAF regulations.

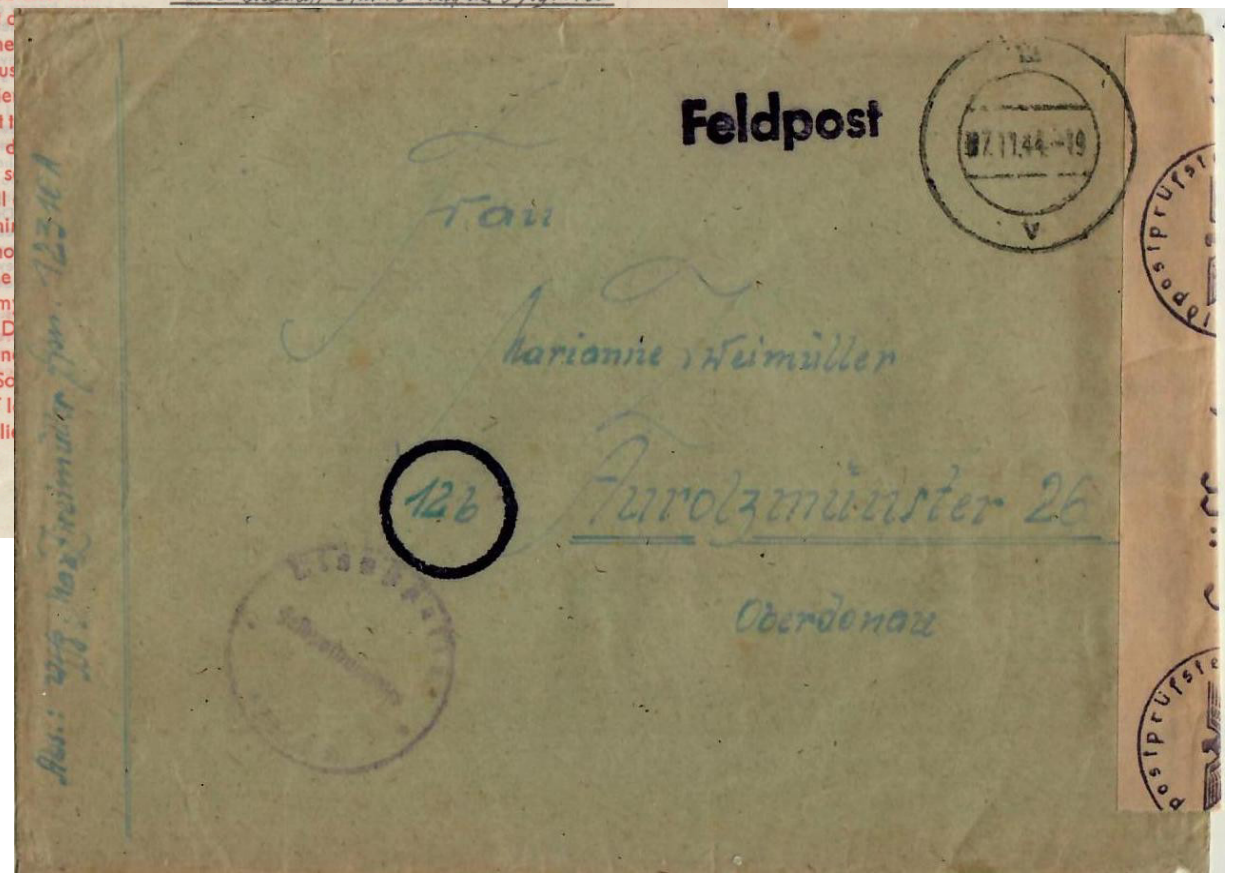
*Seal of Heimat-Artillerie-Park 11-Z. Z stands for the plant railway operated by the Wehrmacht. Railway postmark: Train 356, 20.6.1944, Ducherow-Swinemünde-Wolgast.*



On 24.12.1944 V-1 flying bombs scattered "Prisoner of War" leaflets over Manchester and Cheshire to find out how accurate they hit. German spies should report the places they were posted. If British Intelligence hadn't collected them so quickly, Hitler would have stopped the V-2 rockets which cost a hundredfold.

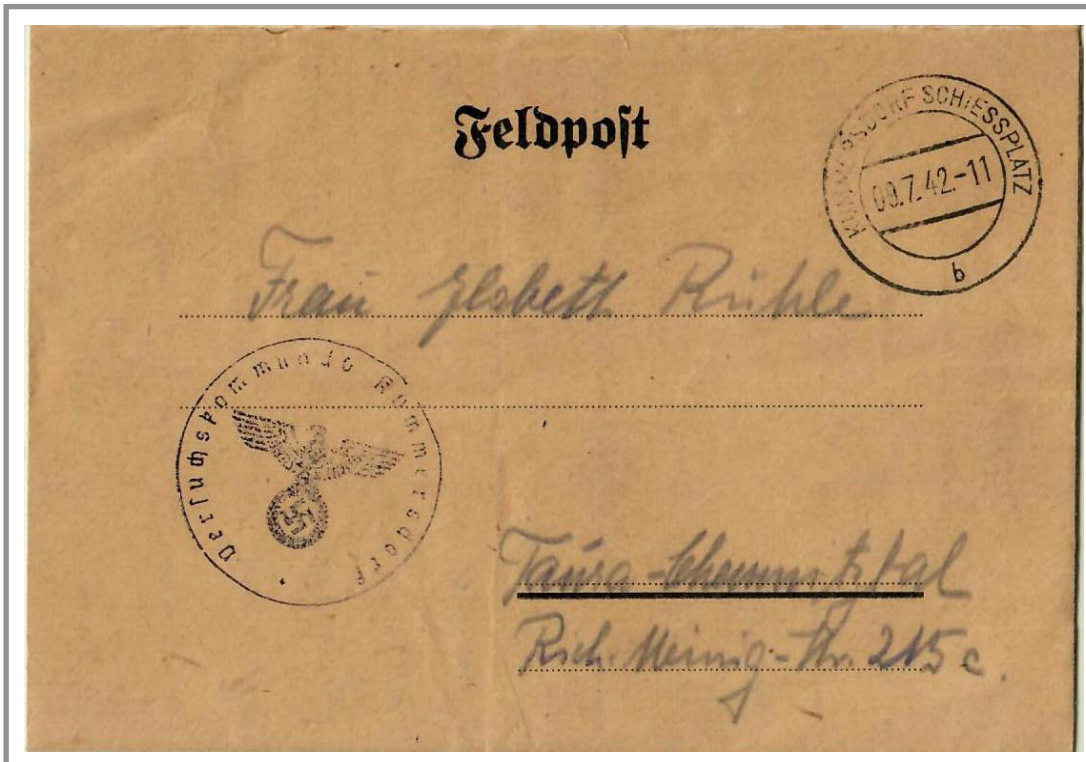


On 7.11.1944 the A-4 rocket MW 19304 was launched from launch pad X at Peenemünde.



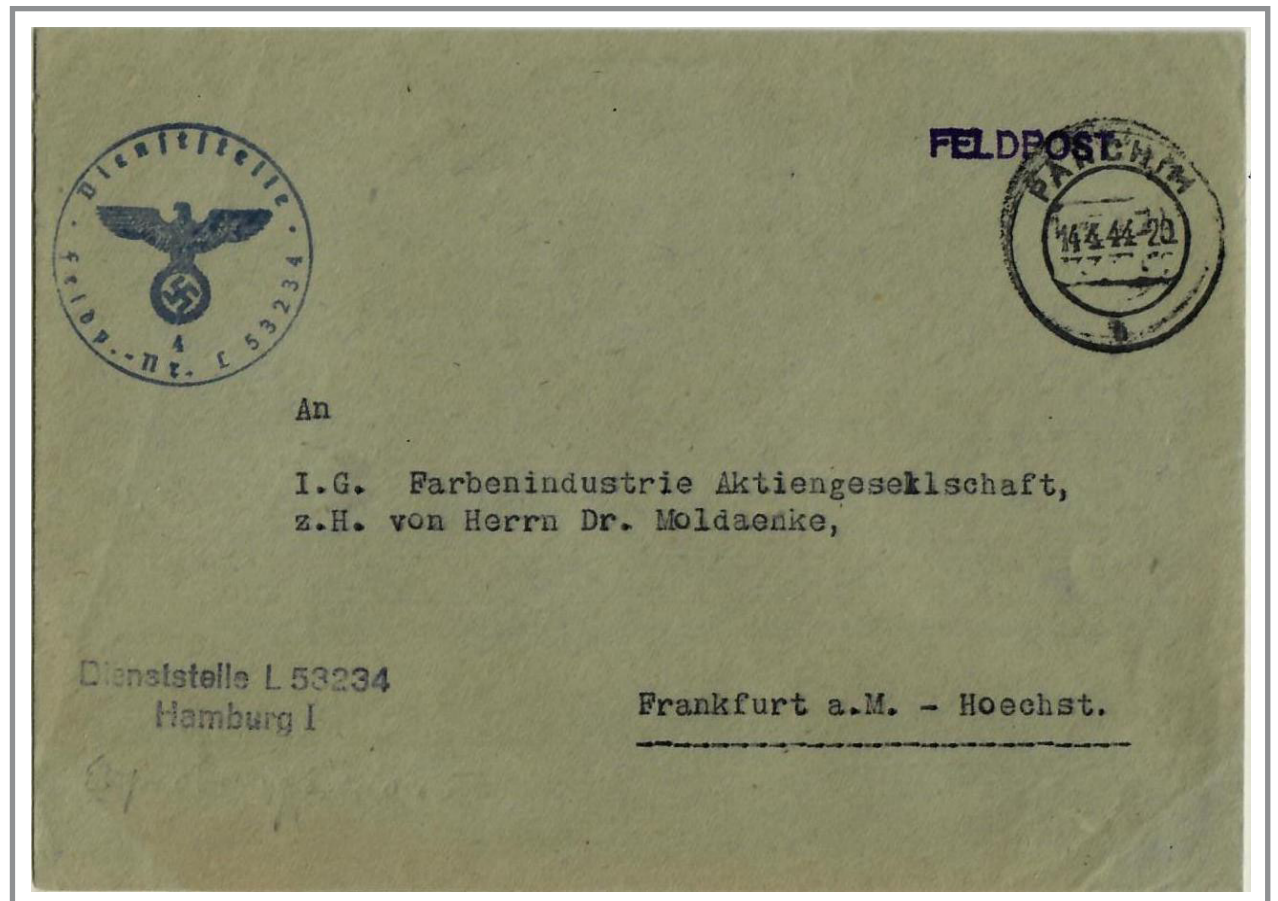
Letter from Kommandostelle S, fieldpost number 12310. They coordinated the long-range rocket program. Silent postmark from Peenemünde 1.

The Versuchskommando Kummersdorf did engine tests for V-2 rocket engines.



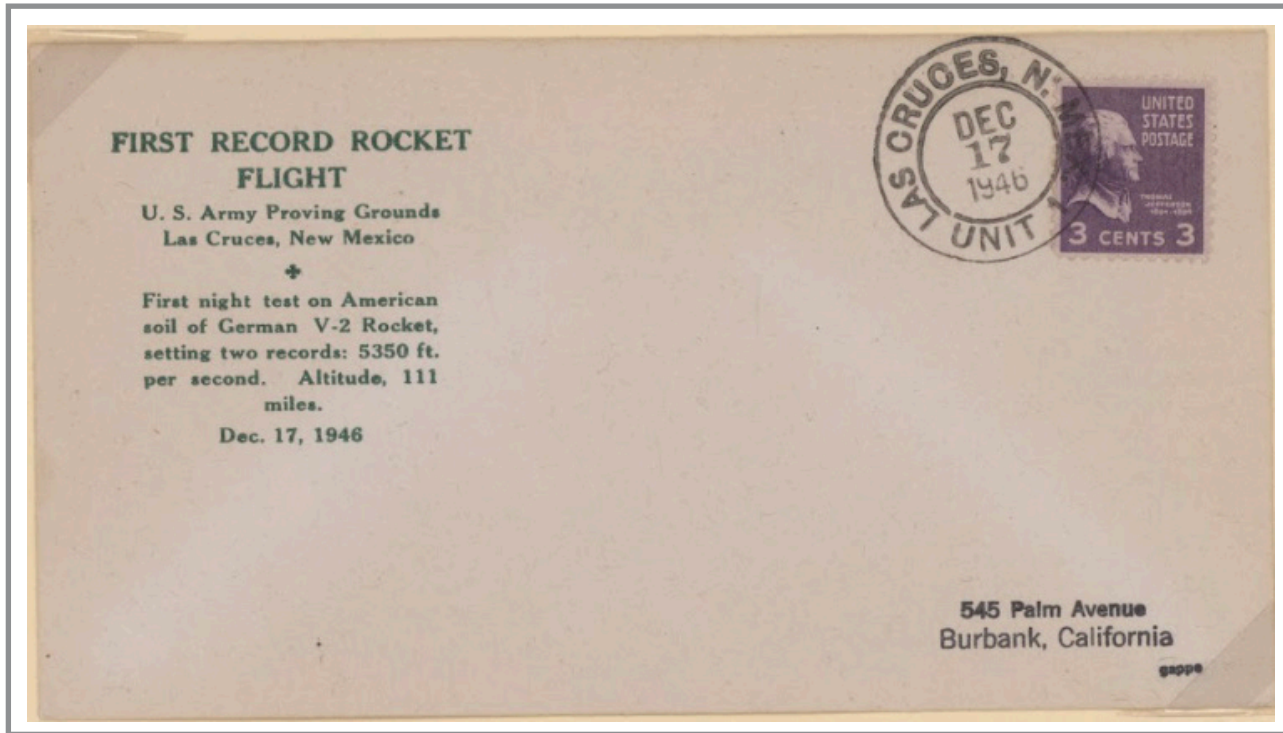
*Fieldpost letter with the seal of Versuchskommando Kummersdorf, postmarked Kummersdorf Schiessplatz on 9.07.1942*

From October 1943 V-2 rockets were tested, assembled and stored in Heimat Lager Slate near Parchim. By train they were taken to the firing position of the SS launcher battery 500 in Hellendoorn, Holland.



*Official fieldpost with Seal of Erprobungskommando 25 being Heimat Lager Slate posted at Parchim, Mecklenburg.*

By operation Paperclip German rocket engineers led by Wernher von Braun and V-2 rockets were brought to the US. On 17.12.1946 a V-2 launched from White Sands launch complex 33 exploded after 440s. It reached 5,780 km/h and 183 km altitude - the highest of all US V-2 shots.



*Launch cover from Las Cruces, New Mexico from 17.12.1946*

On 15.07.1948 the Nike 18R air defence missile developed by the US Army was launched from LC 33 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico reaching a height of 10 km.



*A few covers were flown at this Nike 18R. They wrinkled during the hard landing.*

# The Race into Space

On 04.10.1957 at 22:28 Moscow time Soviet scientists under Sergey Korolev launched the first Earth satellite Sputnik from Cosmodrome Baikonur. The 83.6 kg ball with 58 cm diameter measured the radio wave propagation in the ionosphere. At the launch site it was already 0:28 of 5.10.1957.



Commercial cover from Moscow from 5.10.1957

The first US satellite Explorer 1 was launched on 31.01.1958 on top of a Jupiter-C rocket from Launch Complex 26A at Cape Canaveral in Florida. Although weighing only a sixth of Sputnik, its measuring instruments discovered the inner Van Allen radiation belts surrounding our Earth.



Launch cover postmarked at Patrick Air Force Base at Cape Canaveral on launch day.



On 12.11.1960 the USAF launched the spy satellite Discoverer 17 from Vandenberg AFB. It circled Earth at an altitude of 190 to 984 km. The film uncoiled prematurely. After 30 orbits Captain Gene Jones picked up the return capsule with a C-119 Pelican II aircraft at an altitude of 3 km on 14.11.1960.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

General L. L. Lemnitzer  
Chief of Staff  
United States Army

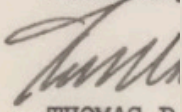
Dear General Lemnitzer

In order to reach you, this letter will have flown a distance of almost one-half million miles both within and without the earth's atmosphere, travelling over 17 times around the world at speeds greater than 18,000 miles per hour. Contained in the DISCOVERER satellite, it will have been launched by the United States Air Force into an orbit about the earth from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and recovered in the mid-Pacific.

This is the first time that letters have been sent by a satellite and is in the tradition of airmen who less than thirty years ago pioneered in the first use of airmail.

This reminds me of the dedication of the men from industry and space who have taken part in the first use of airmail over the

Sincerely,



THOMAS D. JONES  
Chief of Staff

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



VIA  
DISCOVERER XVII  
LAUNCHED FROM VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE

General L. L. Lemnitzer  
Chief of Staff  
United States Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

FIRST AIR MAIL  
— OUTER SPACE —

28 letters addressed to high-ranking militaries and politicians were flown with Discoverer 17. They were posted at Sunnyvale, CA on 15.11.1960. 2 are known in private possession.

On 12.04.1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit Earth. He saw our wonderful blue planet 327 km below. The Vostok mission lasted 108 minutes. Yuri Gagarin landed with a parachute near Engels.



Moscow first day cover signed by Yuri Gagarin. The postmark Type 2 with square Cs was applied at post office K9 between 14. (issue of 6 K stamp) and 17.4.1961.

Only in Kiev a special postmark was used on 12.4.1961.



On 12.04.1961 the postmark Kiev 1 was used on the few registered letters with distinguishing letter „Ю“.

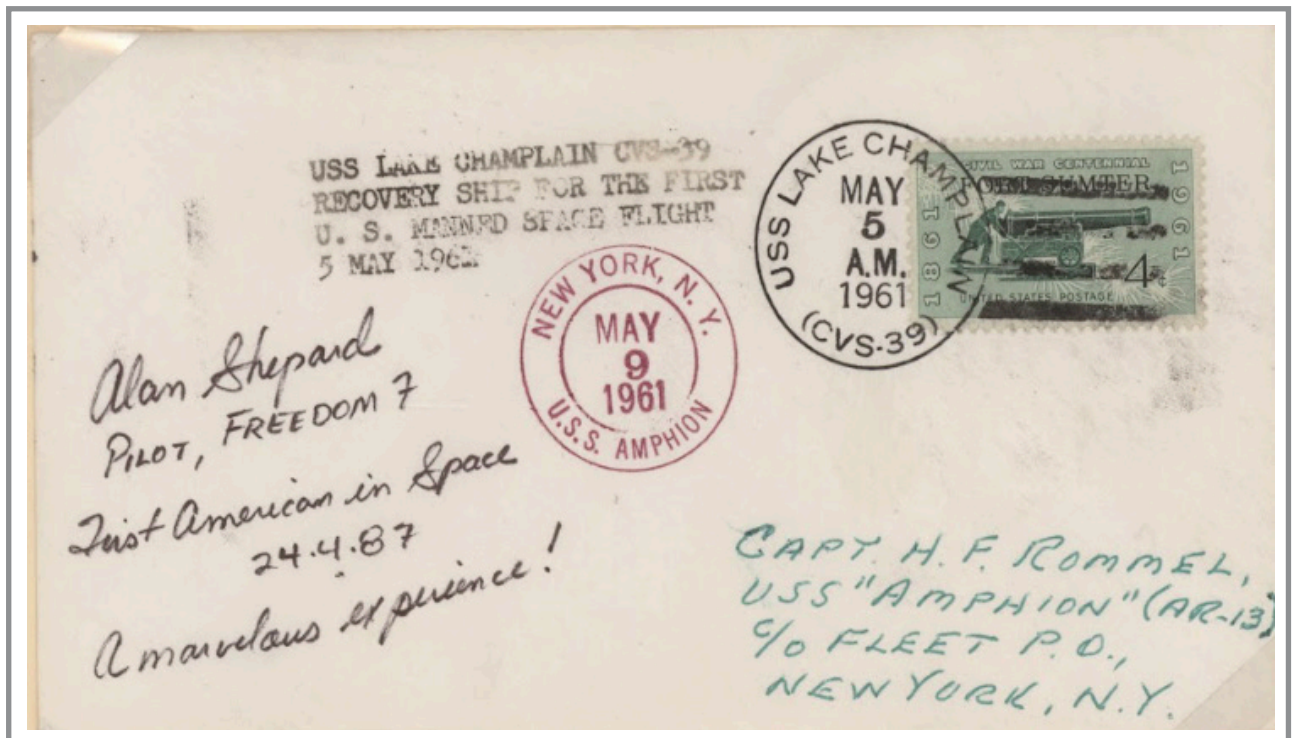
Even before his landing, some Russians congratulated the first cosmonaut.  
 These documents can be regarded as precursors of the Space Mail.



Card to „Yuri Gagarin in the cosmos“. It was posted less than 3 hours after the space flight was announced initially. The arrival stamp is of the post office „москва в-ленин. Узел“ through which mail to celebrities was distributed.

On 5.05.1961 Alan Shepard launched with Mercury-Redstone 3 „Freedom 7“. On a ballistic trajectory he reached an altitude of 186 km. After 15 minutes he splashed down in Atlantic Ocean and was picked up by USS Lake Champlain CVS-39.

The recovery cover shown was posted to USS Amphion. Shepard signed after 26 years.



Gus Grisson flew another suborbital mission with „Liberty Bell 7“. After landing the hatch cover blew off prematurely. The spaceship quickly filled with water. Grissom escaped. He grabbed the harness of the helicopter that took him to the destroyer U.S.S. Randolph. The capsule was not recovered until 1999.

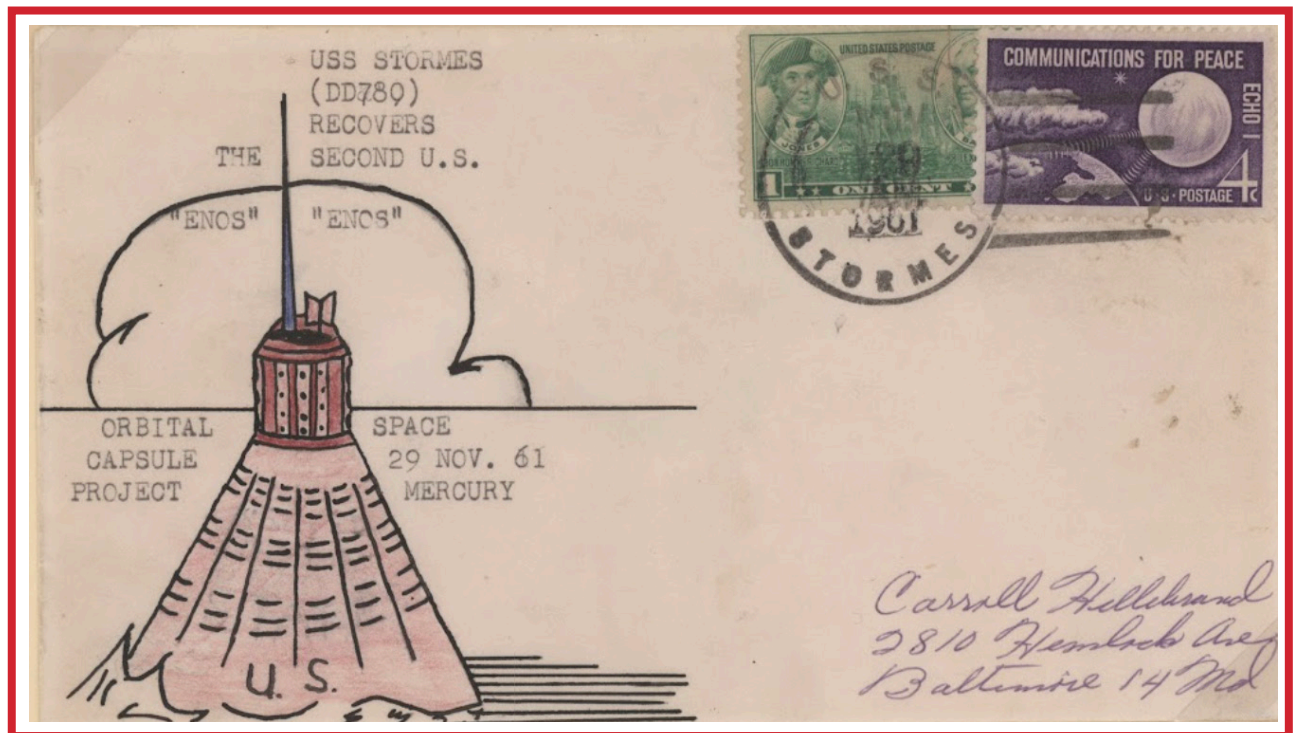


Cover from USS Randolph with additional red circular Field Post Office postmark New York.

On 29.11.1961 chimpanzee Enos orbited Earth twice in MA-5. Problems of attitude control had led to an abort. Enos landed unhurt. The capsule was recovered by destroyer USS Stormes DD-780.



Only one cover from USS Stormes postmarked on the day of this spaceflight is known. On 9.12.1961 the cover was dispatched at the Fleet Post Office New York.



*Cassell Hollibaugh  
2810 Hemlock Ave  
Baltimore 14 Md*

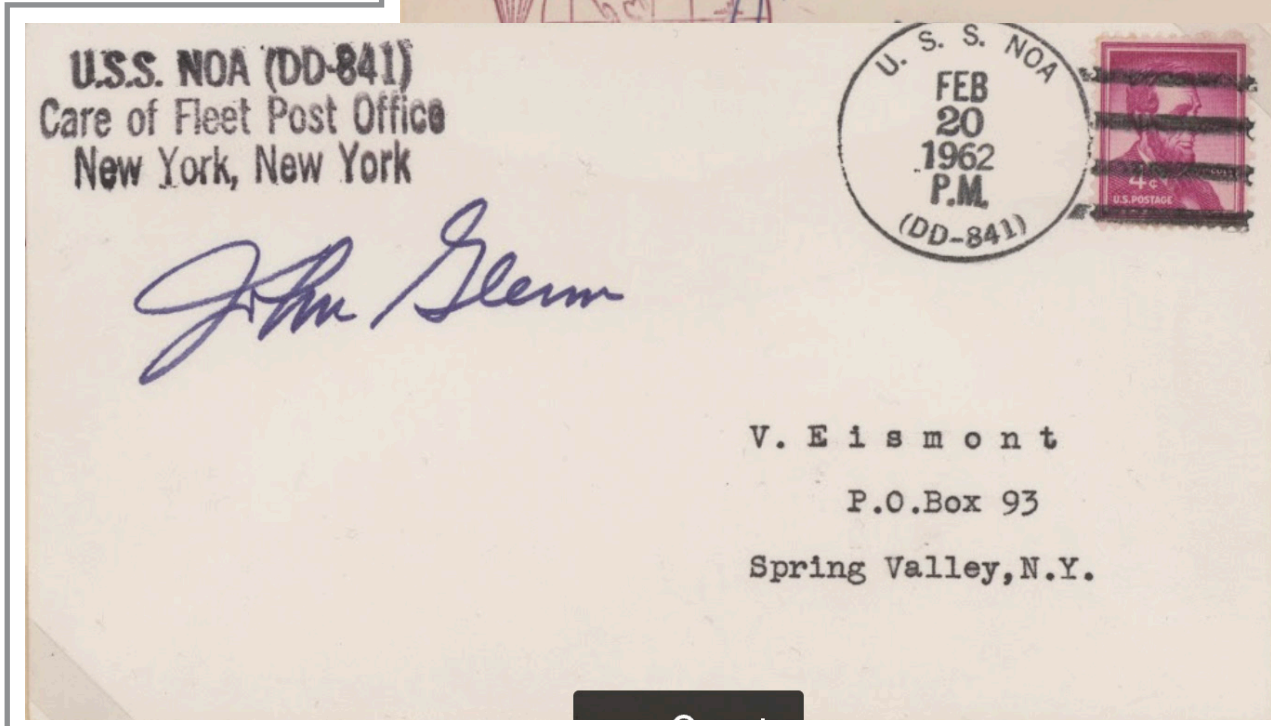
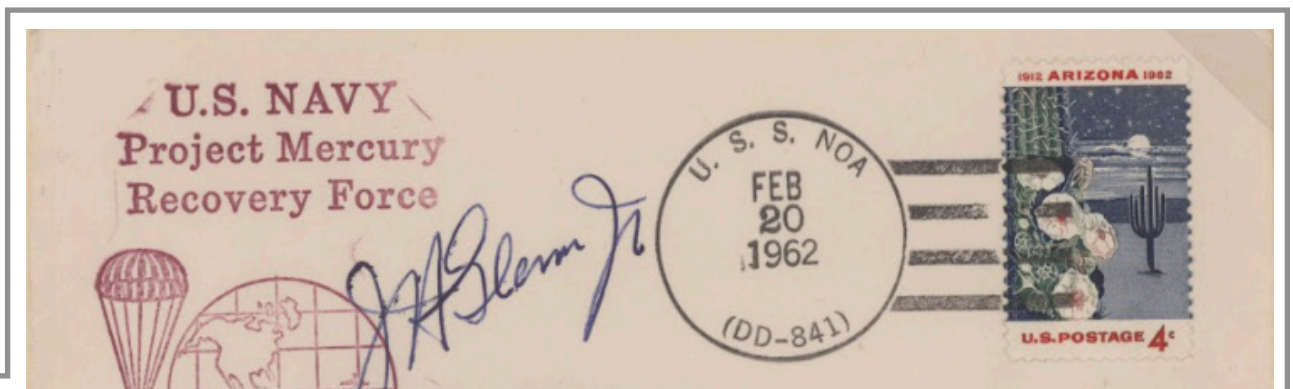
On 20.02.1962 John Glenn orbited the Earth three times with Mercury-Atlas 6 „Friendship 7“.  
 Still inside the capsule, Glenn was hoisted aboard the destroyer U.S.S. Noa.



Launch cover from Patrick Air Force Base which is located at Cape Canaveral signed by John Glenn and Hermann Oberth.

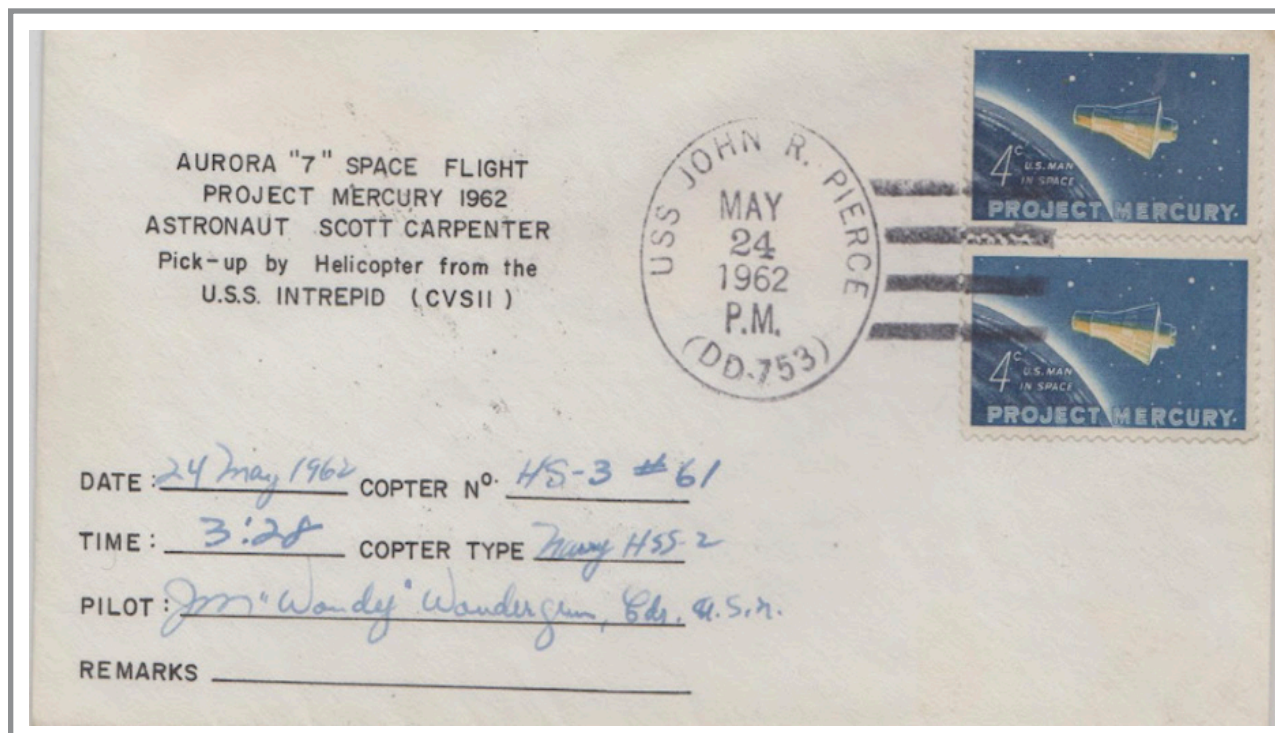
On the landing day the ship's postmark on board USS Noa was used with date "FEB 20 1962 P.M."  
 The destroyer was not designated as a Recovery vessel for this mission.

Cover backdated on 23.02.1962 after the vessel USS Noa embarked.



15 legit covers with P.M. are known, 20 to 30 are estimated to exist.

Scott Carpenter, on Mercury-Atlas 7 "Aurora 7", was the next to orbit our Earth three times. He monitored liquids and photographed the Earth and meteorological phenomena. After the manual reentry they landed 400 km from the planned site. A helicopter brought Carpenter to the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid. The capsule was recovered by the destroyer USS John R. Pierce.



Cover flown in the helicopter from USS John R. Pierce which picked up Carpenter and brought him to the designated Prime Recovery Ship USS Intrepid. Only one cover flown by helicopter is known.

On 16.6.1963 Valentina Tereshkova followed Valeri Bykovsky aboard Vostok 6, as the first woman in space. Both spaceships came as close as 4.5 km. Tereshkova had the callsign Chaika – seagull. Both landed on 19.06.1963.



Special Kiev postmark honouring Tereshkova from 18.06.1963

On the announcement of Gemini, Nikita Khrushchev ordered Sergei Korolev to launch a Soviet capsule with 3 cosmonauts before the anniversary of the October Revolution on 07.11.1964. On 12.10.1964 Vladimir Komarov, the doctor Boris Yegorov and the Chief Engineer of the Department for Landing Equipment Konstantin Feoktistov took off in training suits on board Voskhod which was a hollowed out single-seat Vostok capsule.



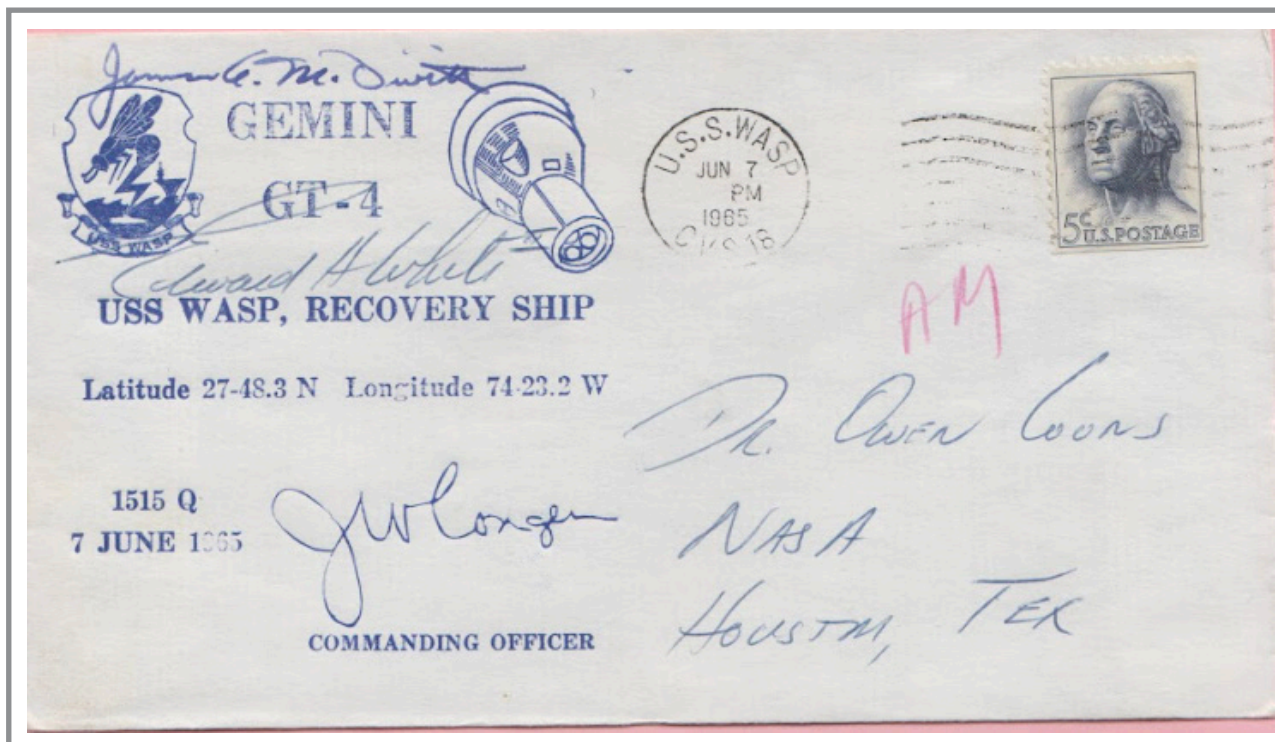
Backdated Moscow first day cover with the first 2 stamps issued for the good 24 hours flight. The 6 K stamp is issued on 17.10.1965.

Alexei Leonov entered outer space on 18.03.1965 – man’s first EVA. Voschod-2 landed at Perm Krai in the Ural Mountains the next day. The parachute got stuck between two pines. V. Kovalyonok could not land his rescue AN-12. After 36 hours in icy weather a helicopter brought Belyayev and Leonov to Perm.

Club Cachet cover from Perm being the town next to the landing site. Like most Club Cachets it probably is backdated. Signed by Leonov. Kovalyonok explained his mission.



On 03.06.1965 James McDivitt tried in vain to maneuver Gemini 4 to the second stage of their Titan rocket. Later Edward White disembarked into open space for 23 minutes. After four days, the capsule watered 650 km southwest of the Bermuda Islands. A helicopter brought McDivitt and White to the aircraft carrier USS Wasp.



*Ed White addressed this Captain cover from USS Wasp to his space doctor Owen Coons.*

On 16.03.1966 Neil Armstrong and Dave Scott docked Gemini 8 to the Agena target satellite GATV-8 that had been launched to orbit earlier. Both spacecraft began to rotate. After undocking, the rotation became even stronger. A nozzle of the attitude control system was impossible to be turned off. Armstrong immediately initiated landing. Nearly 11 hours after its start, Gemini 8 watered in the Pacific Ocean.



*Launch cover with official NASA cachet from Kennedy Space Center signed by Neil Armstrong*



On 14.01.1969 Vladimir Shatalov launched with Soyuz 4. Next day Boris Volynov, Aleksey Yeliseyev and Yevgeny Khrunov followed with Soyuz 5. In an EVA Yeliseyev and Khrunov moved to Soyuz 4. Khrunov surprised Shatalov with 2 letters. Shatalov first opened and read the letter from his wife Muza.

Володенька! Дорогой мам!

Мы так любим тебя Внучки

Борис Союз-4

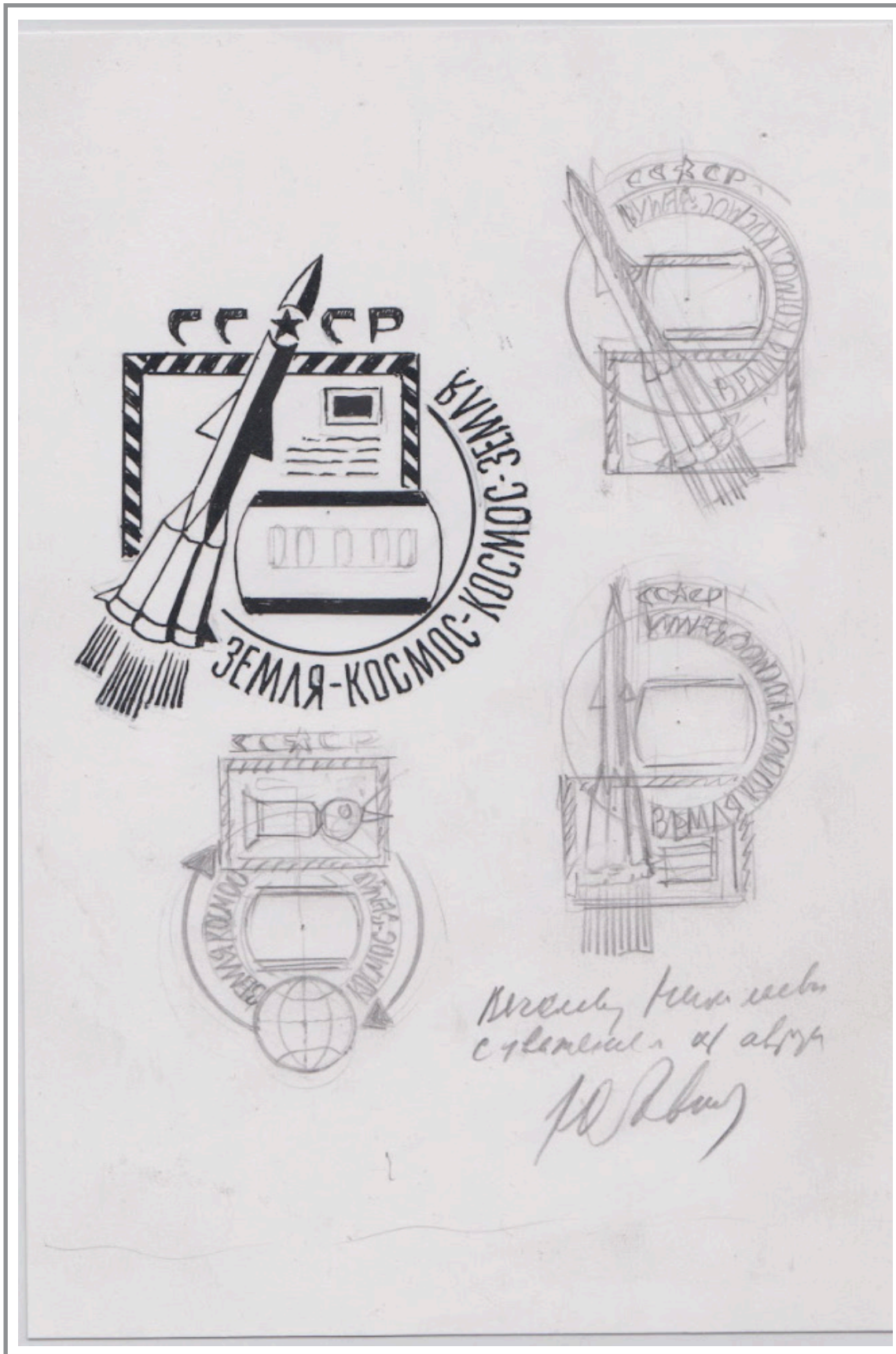
Шаталову В. Шаталов Союз 4  
Полет 16.1.69  
Муза Шаталова

ПОЧТА  
ЛЕТЧИКОВ—КОСМОНАВТОВ  
СССР

14 января 1969г.

Shatalov did not have any cancellation device on board. Thus he confirmed the first real Space Mail by hand.

Полет на Союз 4 16.01.69  
переход с Союз 5  
на Союз 4  
Борис Союз 4  
16.1.69  
Муза Шаталова



For reasons of secrecy the first special postmark "Earth–Space, Space–Earth" from Cosmodrome Baikonur has no indication of place. This is the last design by the artist Yuri Levinovskiy before the final drawing.

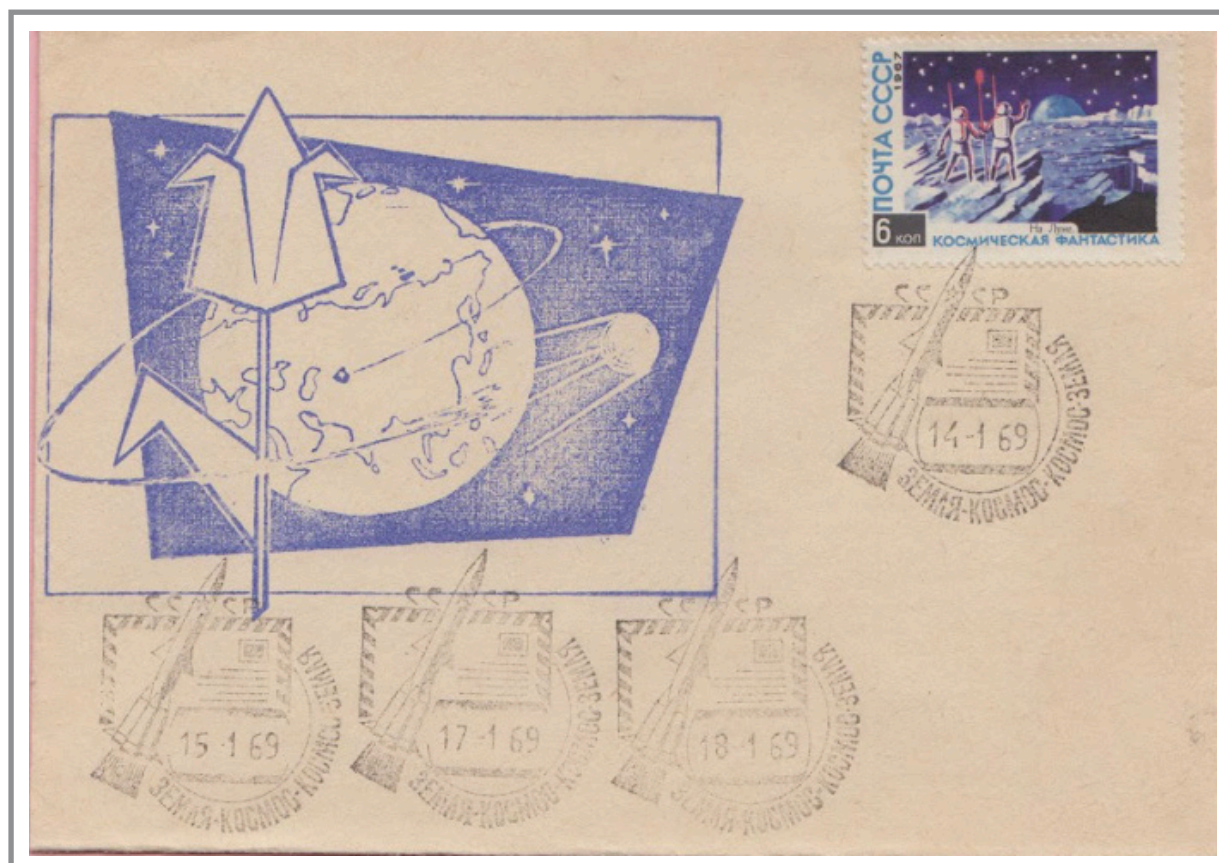
Shatalov, Yeliseyev, and Khrunov landed with Soyuz 4 on 17.01.1969. The next morning, Volynov had to initiate the emergency sequence during which he was exposed to 9 times the acceleration due to gravity.



*„Earth-Space, Space-Earth“ stationary with Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 launch and landing dates done in Baikonur. The crew signed within 4 days after their return to Earth.*

After the Soyuz 5 Descent Module did not separate properly it drilled into the ground southeast of the Urals - 600 km away from the planned landing site. Volynov broke his upper jaw and lost some of his front teeth.

*Commemorative cancellations done in Moscow later can be distinguished by the scratch on the top right of the rocket.*



## X-15 Rocket Planes

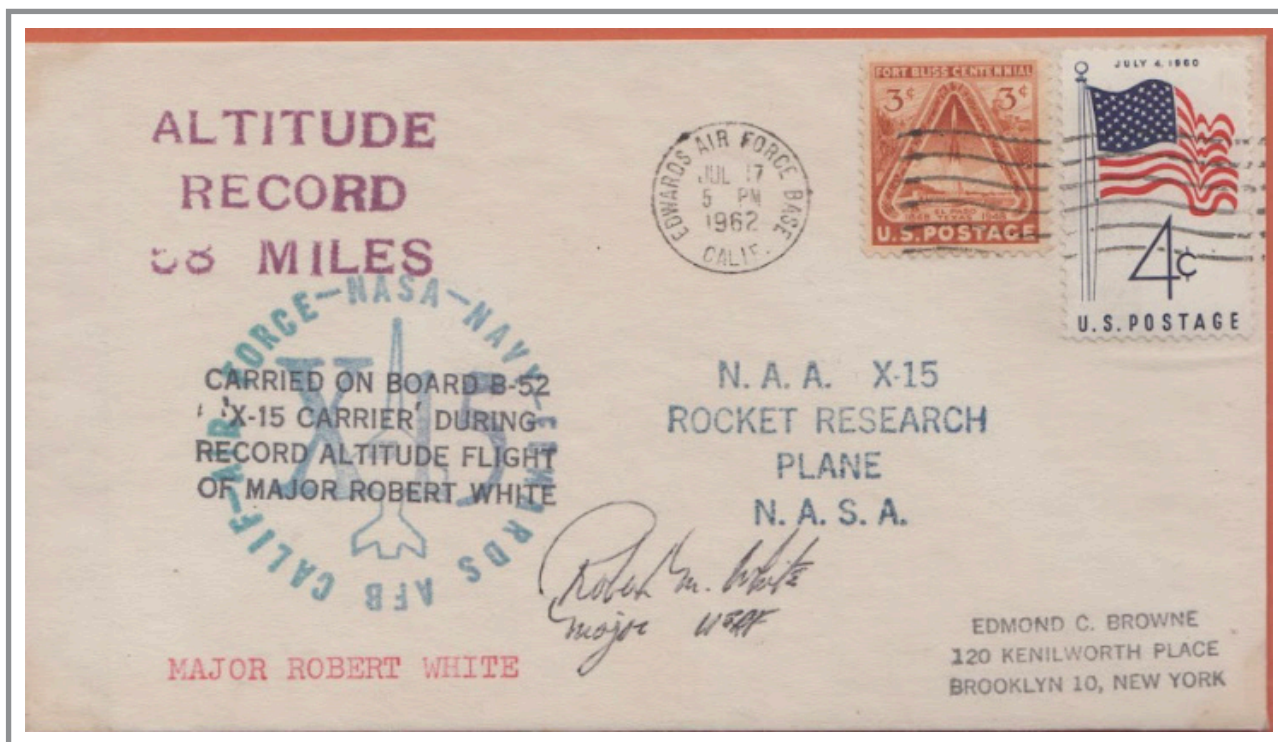
The three X-15 rocket-propelled experimental aircrafts were launched by converted B-52 bombers. On 23.09.1960 Forrest Petersen due to a premature engine shutdown reached a height of 30.1 km and a velocity of only 1,783 km/h, which is 1.4 times the speed of sound.



*Forrest Petersen flew only 3 covers on the 22nd X-15 flight.*

Internationally space begins at an altitude of 100 km. The USAF awards astronaut wings to pilots exceeding a height of 50 miles being 80.47 km. 13 rocket plane X-15 missions exceeded 50 miles, two of them 100 km. On 17.07.1962 Robert White became the first X-15 astronaut reaching 95.94 km.

*Launch cover of the 62nd X-15 flight in which Robert White earned his astronaut wings. It has not been confirmed that this cover was carried on board the B-52 carrier.*



During a typical flight, X-15 covered a distance of 450 km in 10 minutes after having been released from the carrier aircraft. Joe Walker reached on the 77th flight a height of 82.7 km and a velocity of 5,918 km/h.



Launch cover signed by Joe Walker with Boy Scouts cachet from Edwards Air Force Base in California.

All 3 X-15 rocket planes were stationed at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert in California. Joe Walker reached on the 90th flight a height of 105.9 km and a velocity of 5,970 km/h.



Many X-15 covers bear a cachet applied by the Edwards AFB Boy Scout Troop 141 as a public service.

On 22.08.1963 on the 91st flight Joe Walker reached a height of 107.8 km and a velocity of 6,106 km/h. This altitude record for rocket planes existed till the first Space Shuttle landing in April 1981.



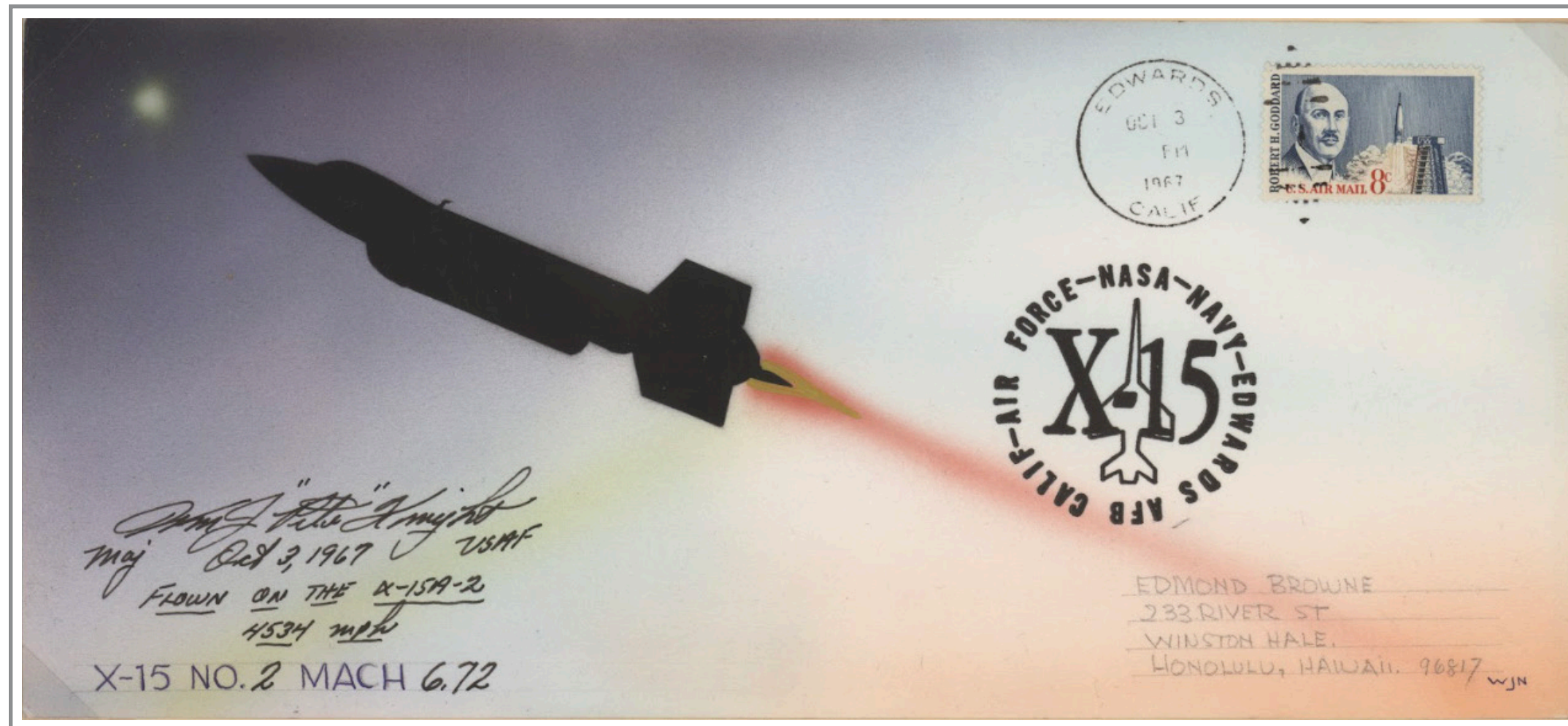
Launch cover with hand postmark Edwards Air Force Base Sta. signed by Joe Walker

During the 177th X-15 flight on 22.03.1967 Mike Adams reached an altitude of 40.6 km and a velocity of 6,151 km/h. Adams died in an accident during his astronaut wing flight less than 8 months later.



On the 177th X-15 flight Mike Adams carried 2 covers. They were postmarked Edwards, Calif., Rocket Test Site Br, 01.05.1967. At this Site the Air Force static tested missile engines.

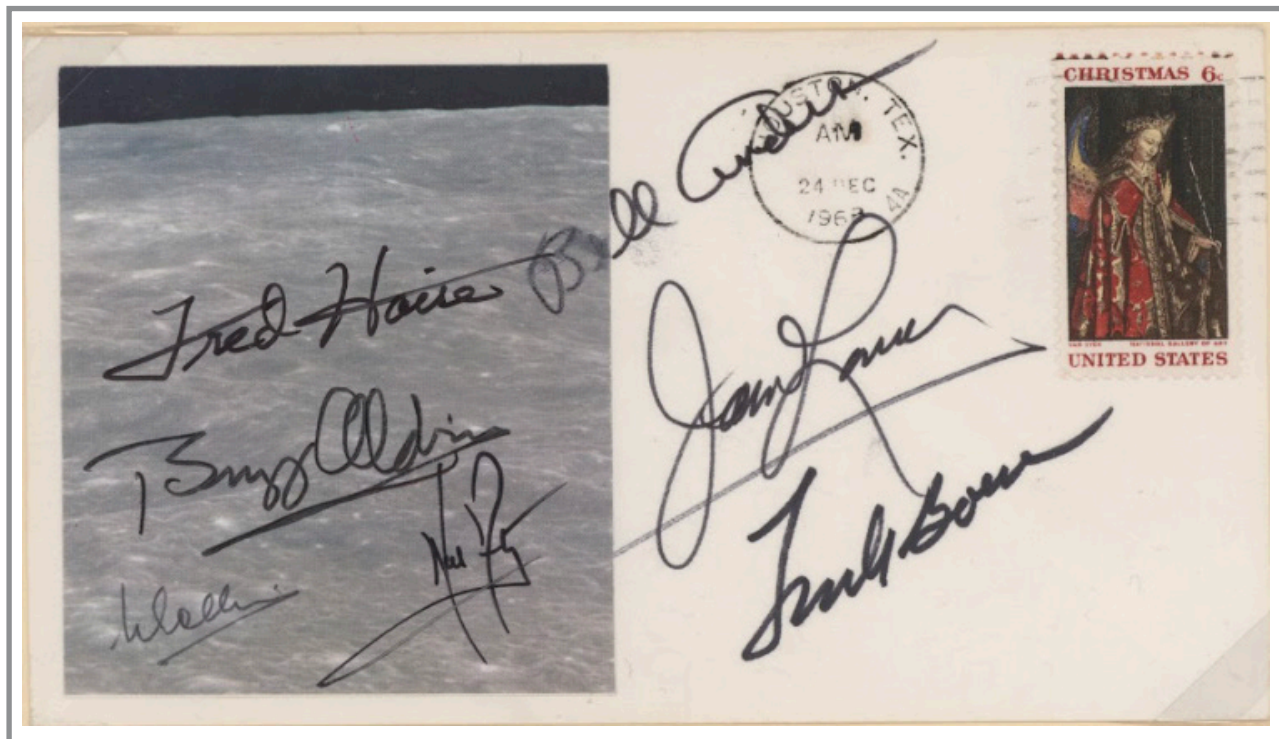
On 03.10.1967 Pete Knight set the speed record for rocket planes to 7,270 km/h being Mach 6.7 on the 188th X-15 flight. Height was 31.12 km. Two weeks later, Pete Knight earned USAF astronaut wings for his 85.5 km flight.



On the 188th X-15 flight Knight carried 10 water colours by William Numeroff. They were dispatched at the Edwards, California post office.

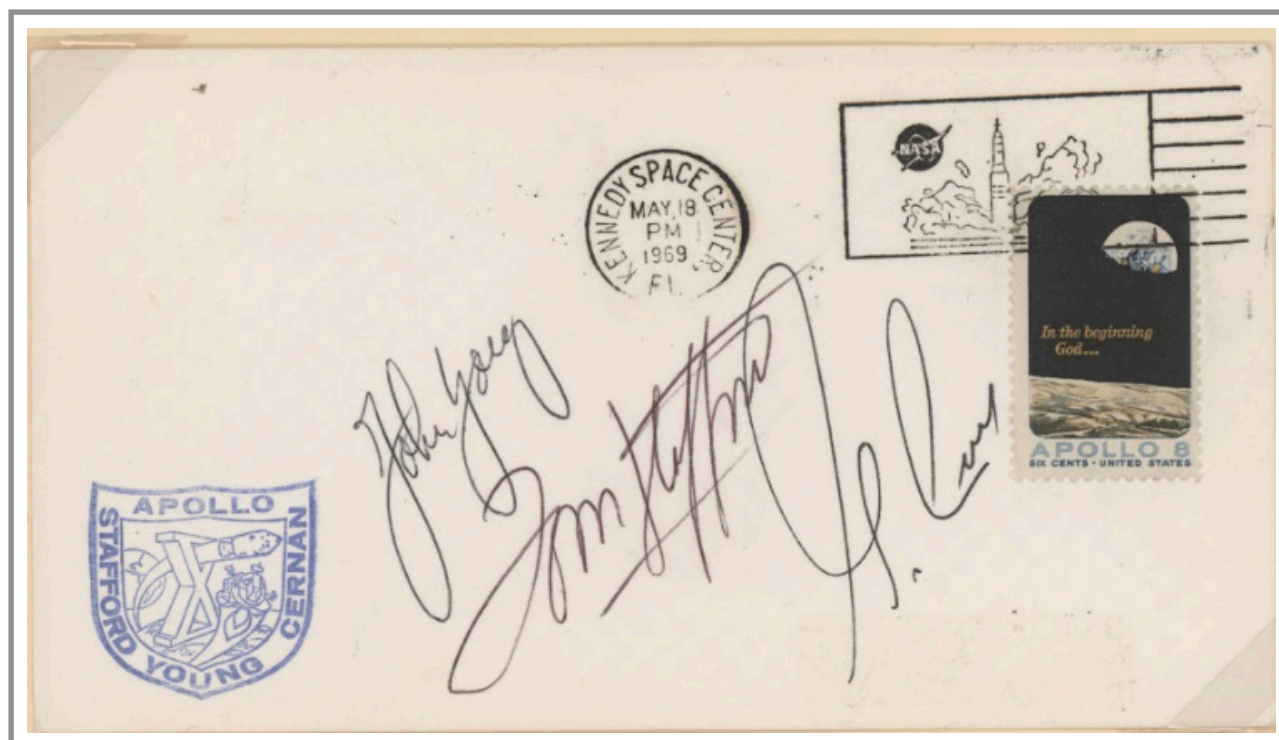
## Reaching the Moon

On 24.12.1968 Frank Borman, James Lovell and Bill Anders became the first humans to circle our Moon in Apollo 8 (21. to 27.12.1968).



*The cover's postmark is Houston, Texas where the Control Center was located. It is signed by Apollo 8 and 11 crews and back-up crews.*

Tom Stafford, John Young and Gene Cernan launched from Kennedy Space Center on 18.05.1969. On 22.05.1969 they tested a Lunar Module at the Moon without Moon landing.

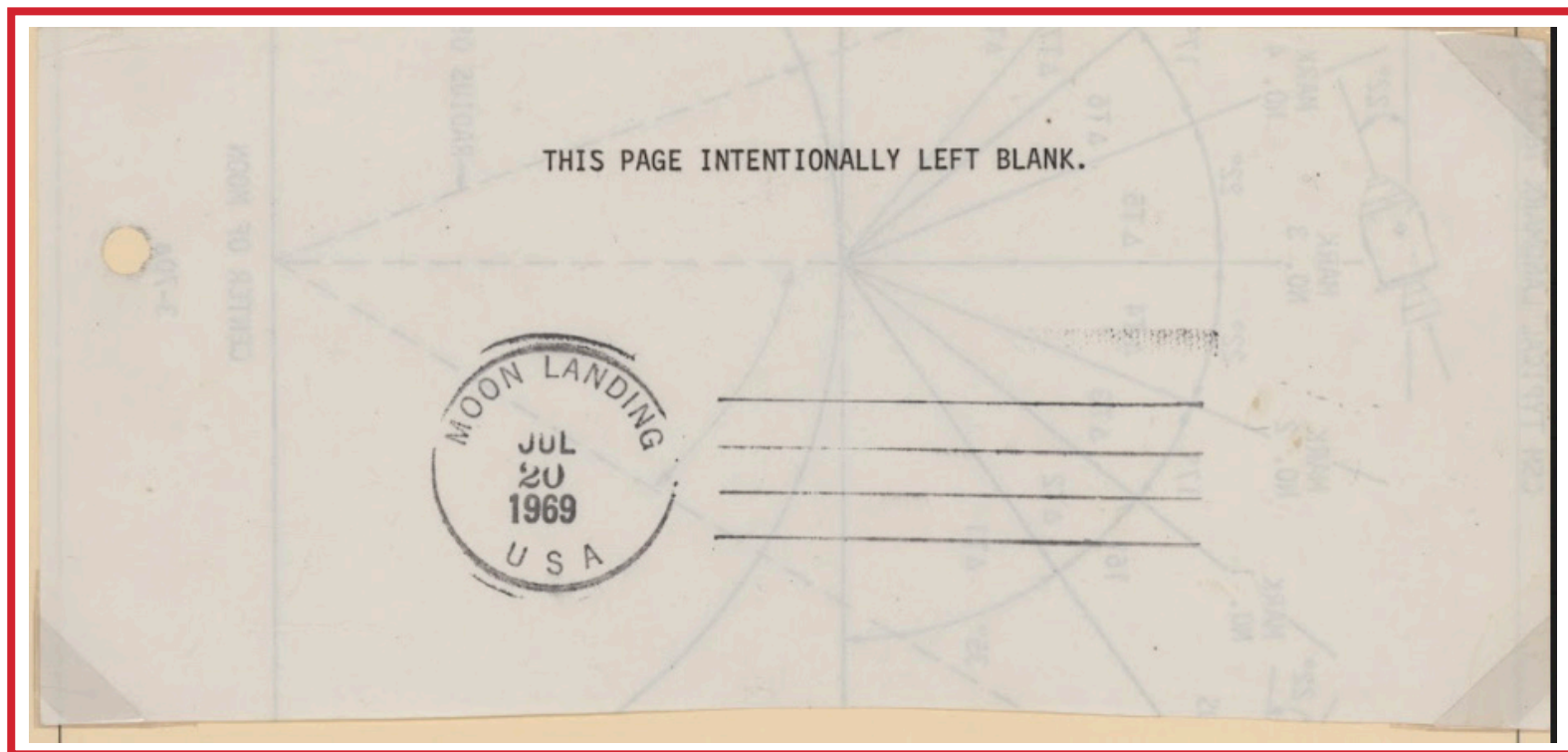


*Launch cover with official NASA cachet from Kennedy Space Center signed by the crew. As on Apollo 8 no covers were flown with Apollo 10.*

On 20.07.1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on board the lunar module Eagle in the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon as the first humans ever. They collected 22 kg of stones and installed a research station.



The three astronauts autographed covers before take-off, as an additional life insurance. They took 214 of them inside Columbia to the Moon. On 11.08.1969 – the day of release from quarantine –, Matthew Radnofsky brought them to the Webster post office near the NASA MSC for cancellation.



On July 22, 1969 between 10:00 and 12:00 a.m. (EDT) Mike Collins postmarked an official cover for Smithsonian Postal Museum. To get a full, non-smudged imprint, he practiced 3 times on a page of the Command Module flight plan book. Each Apollo 11 astronaut received one trial cancellation. They are the only postmarks done at the Moon in private possession.



Apollo 12 was launched on 14.11.1969. Charles Conrad and Alan Bean landed at the Ocean of Storms on the Moon, while Richard Gordon stayed in lunar orbit.

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a fast telegram	
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	
NIGHT LETTER	

\$  
S  
E

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise the message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	
BETTER TELEGRAM	
SHORE-SHIP	

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT	TIME FILED
			JAMES G FULTON MC 2161 RHOB	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

OFFICIAL

18 NOVEMBER 1969

ACTION CB  
INFO CA, AA, AC

✓  
ASTRONAUT CHARLES CONRAD  
ASTRONAUT RICHARD GORDON  
ASTRONAUT ALAN BEAN  
THE MOON  
VIA ROBERT GILRUTH, DIRECTOR  
NASA MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER  
HOUSTON TEXAS

WE ARE CERTAINLY PROUD OF YOUR FINE SUCCESS TO DATE ON APOLLO TWELVE FLIGHT. YOUR COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS ARE MOST INTERESTING AND THE COLOR TV PICTURES ARE FINE QUALITY. YOUR DESCRIPTIONS ADD SO MUCH TO WHAT WE ARE SEEING IN THE PICTURES. AS RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS COMMITTEE, COUNT ON MY CONTINUED FULL SUPPORT FOR APOLLO MOON LANDING PROGRAMS IN WHICH YOU ARE DOING SO MUCH TO ADVANCE MANS KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CLOSE NEIGHBOR THE MOON, AS WELL AS BROADENING THE SCOPE OF RESEARCH INTO MANS ENVIRONMENT ON OUR OWN PLANET EARTH. MY HEARTY GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR COMPLETE SUCCESS AND SAFE RETURN

CONGRESSMAN JIM FULTON  
PENNSYLVANIA

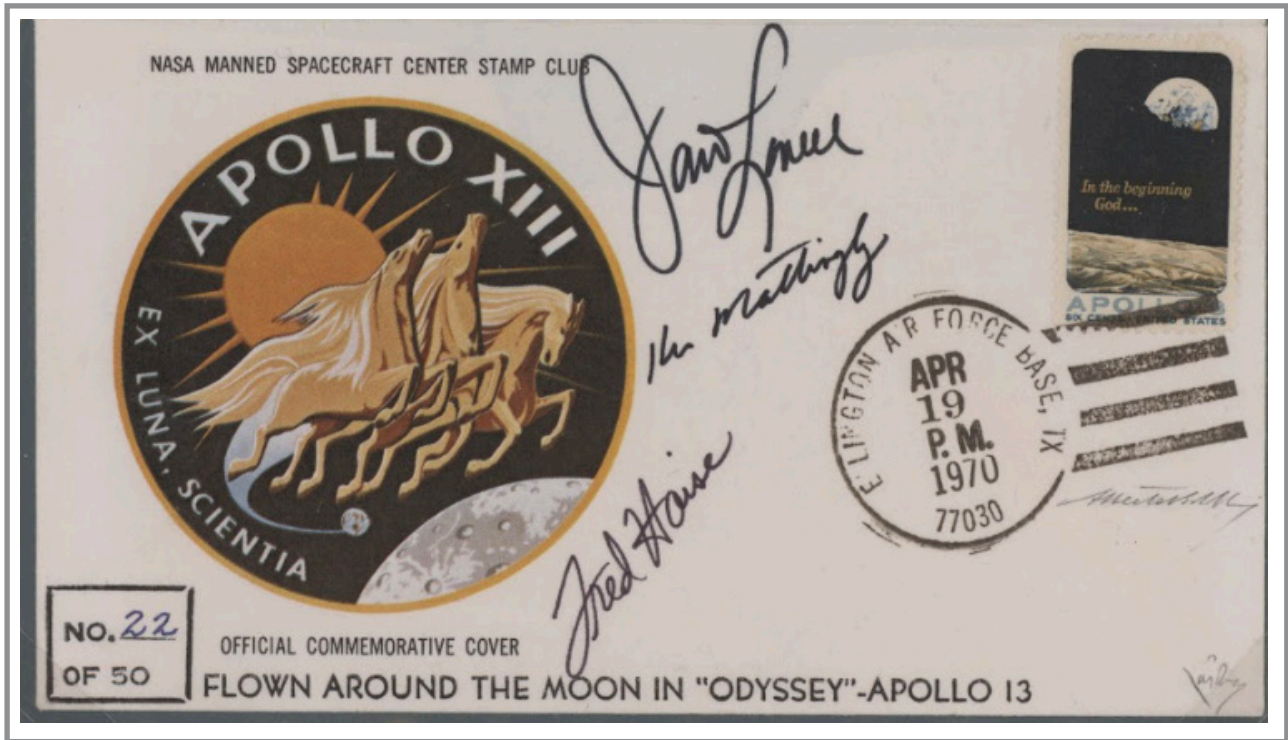
JGF :mmm

SO NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE  
APPRECIATE MY CAMERA WORK  
ON APOLLO 12. TIME GIVES HUMANS  
A MORE ACCURATE UNDERSTAND OF  
THE EVENTS OF 1969. Alan Bean  
APOLLO 12

WU1211(R2-65)

NASA read this telegram from Jim Fulton to the astronauts on their way back to Earth. Alan Bean wrote a thankful note for the appreciation of his camera work and signed it.

Apollo 13 was launched on 11.04.1970. On 13.04.1970 an oxygen tank in the Service Module Odyssey exploded. James Lovell, Fred Haise and John Swigert surrounded the Moon inside Lunar Module Aquarius. They splashed down in South Pacific on 17.04.1970.



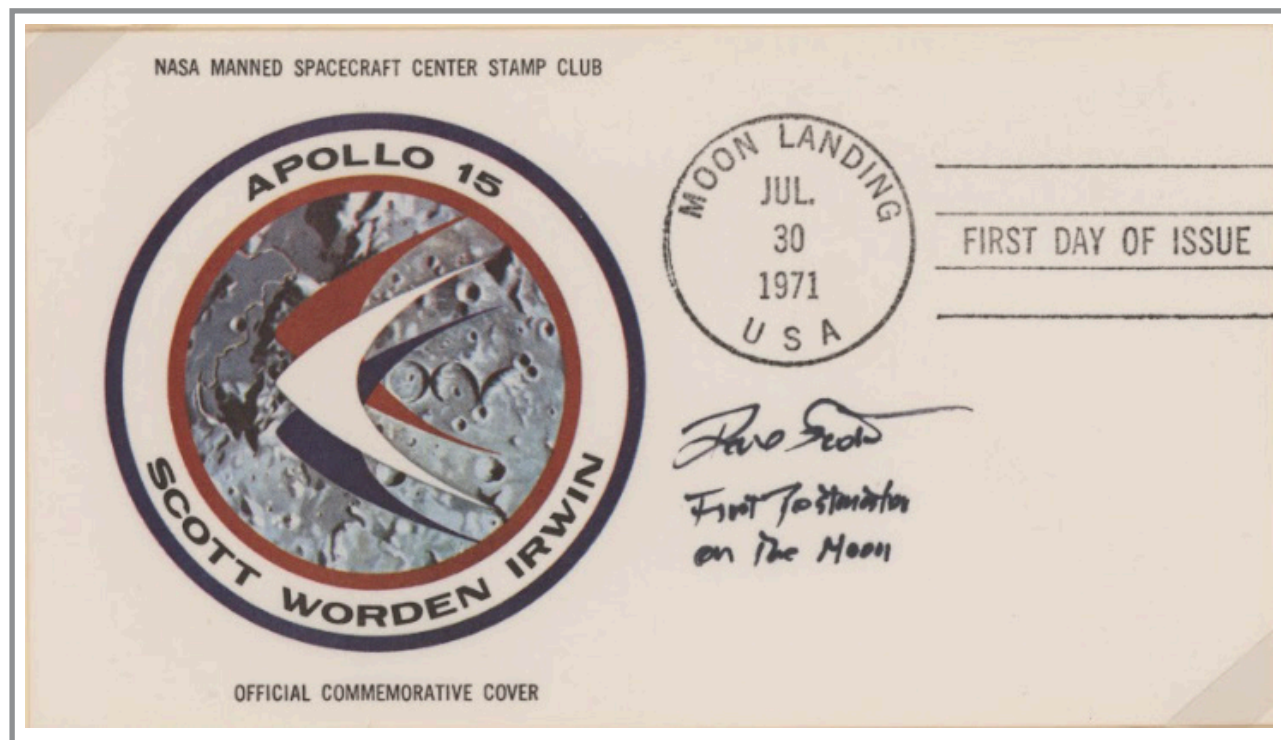
*Lovell carried 50 covers around the Moon. He entered them as #10 in his PPK list. After returning to Earth, the crew landed at Ellington Air Force Base, Texas. They were cancelled at the airport post office.*

On 31.01.1971 Apollo 14 was launched from KSC. Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell landed with LM Antares at Fra Mauro highlands, while Stuart Roosa surrounded the Moon in the CM Kitty Hawk. The astronauts left quarantine on 26.02.1971.



*Mitchell took 55 covers in Antares to the Lunar surface. After the flight, they received a red stamp reading "Delayed in Quarantine at Lunar Receiving Laboratory, M.S.C. Houston, Texas", and on 26.02.1971 – the day of the astronauts' release from quarantine – they were postmarked at Houston, Texas.*

On 30.7.1971 Apollo 15 Dave Scott and Jim Irwin landed with the Lunar Modul Falcon on the Moon at Hadley–Apennine, while Al Worden surrounded the Moon in the CM Endeavour. Scott and Irwin had 3 EVAs with the first Lunar Roving Vehicle.



*Before the flight, Matthew Radnofsky made a few trial cancellations of both Moon postmarks. They are the only strikes of the „Moon Landing, USA” postmark.*

On 02.08.1971 Scott opened the very first post office on the Moon. He cancelled an envelope at the request of the U.S. Postal Service. Dave Scott decided to use the “United States on the Moon” postmark. Apart from this none of the two postal stamps were used for cancellation in space.



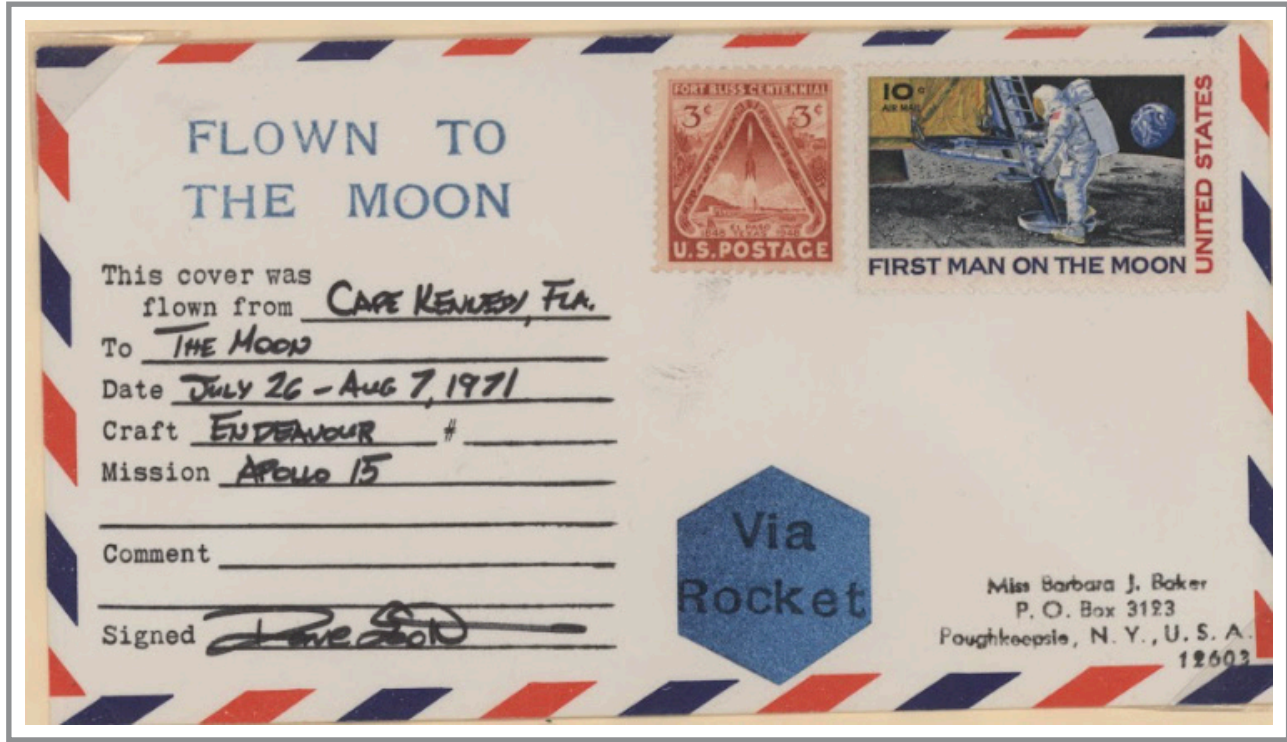
*Trial cancellation with the same setting as the official Moon letter. Scott signed as „First postmaster on the Moon“.*

The astronauts privately carried 398 of 639 covers postmarked in the KSC early on launch day to the Moon. Scott only took them to the lunar surface. They were not entered into the PPK list. This led to investigations of NASA, the Senate and the Ministry of Justice after the German dealer Sieger had sold 99 of them.



The 100 Sieger covers bear the handwritten confirmation „Landed At Hadley Moon, July 30 1971. They were postmarked at KSC on 26.07.1971 on board the Prime Recovery Ship USS Okinawa.

The wife of Richard Gordon, Barbara gave James Irwin a letter from her friend Barbara Baker to be taken to the Moon. The Apollo 15 astronauts were the back-up crew for Apollo 12.



This one-of-a kind cover was not postmarked at all. Dave Scott wrote the flight data on the designated lines of the typewriter text.

Jim Irwin was of Irish descent and, before his Moon flight, had covers printed that show a shamrock. He took eight of these covers to the Moon. Up to 42 more were destroyed inside Irwin's LM-PPK due to a misunderstanding between the two Moon walkers.



6 of the 8 Shamrock covers flown around the Moon stayed without postal treatment.

There are unflown covers from many missions which are similar to flown ones. Jim Irwin's addition „Hadley Base, 30 July 1971“ does not change that. It was done as a favour.



One of Irwin's shamrock covers used as a launch cover. It was signed the the Apollo 15 crew after their misson.

Apollo 16 was launched on 16.04.1972. John Young and Charlie Duke landed with LM Orion at crater Descartes, while Ken Mattingly surrounded the Moon. In 3 EVAs Young and Duke went 27 km by their lunar rover.



*Charlie Duke carried 25 covers with Crew Patch to lunar surface. They were exposed to the vaccum of the Moon during 3 EVAs.*

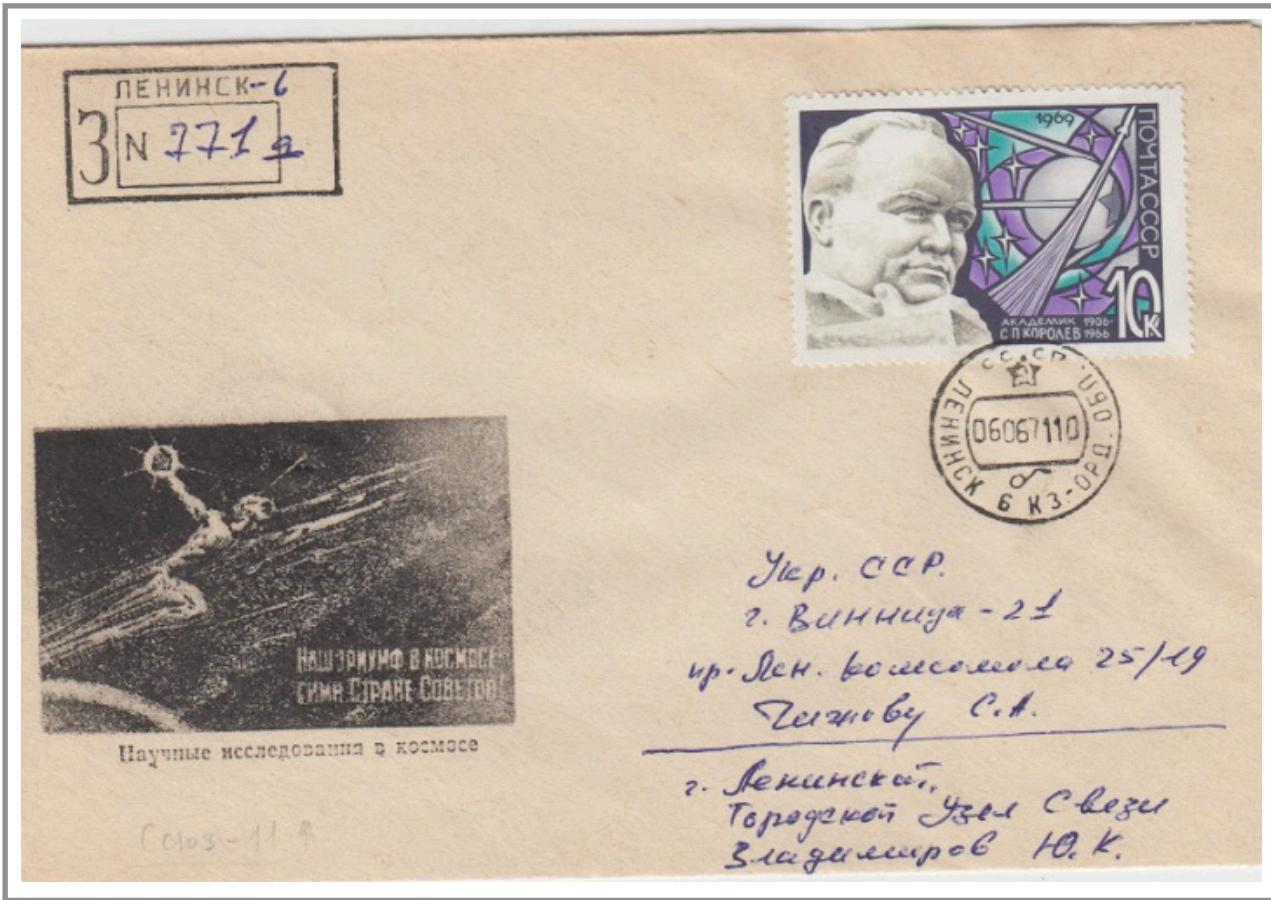
Due to the affair with the unapproved Apollo 15 Moon covers NASA has been forbidding their astronauts to carry philatelic items into space after this mission.



*Additionally, Charlies Duke took 3 covers hand-painted by the New York artist William R. Hanson to lunar surface. The 2 covers shown are the only Apollo 16 Moon flown covers signed by the whole cew.*

# First Space Stations

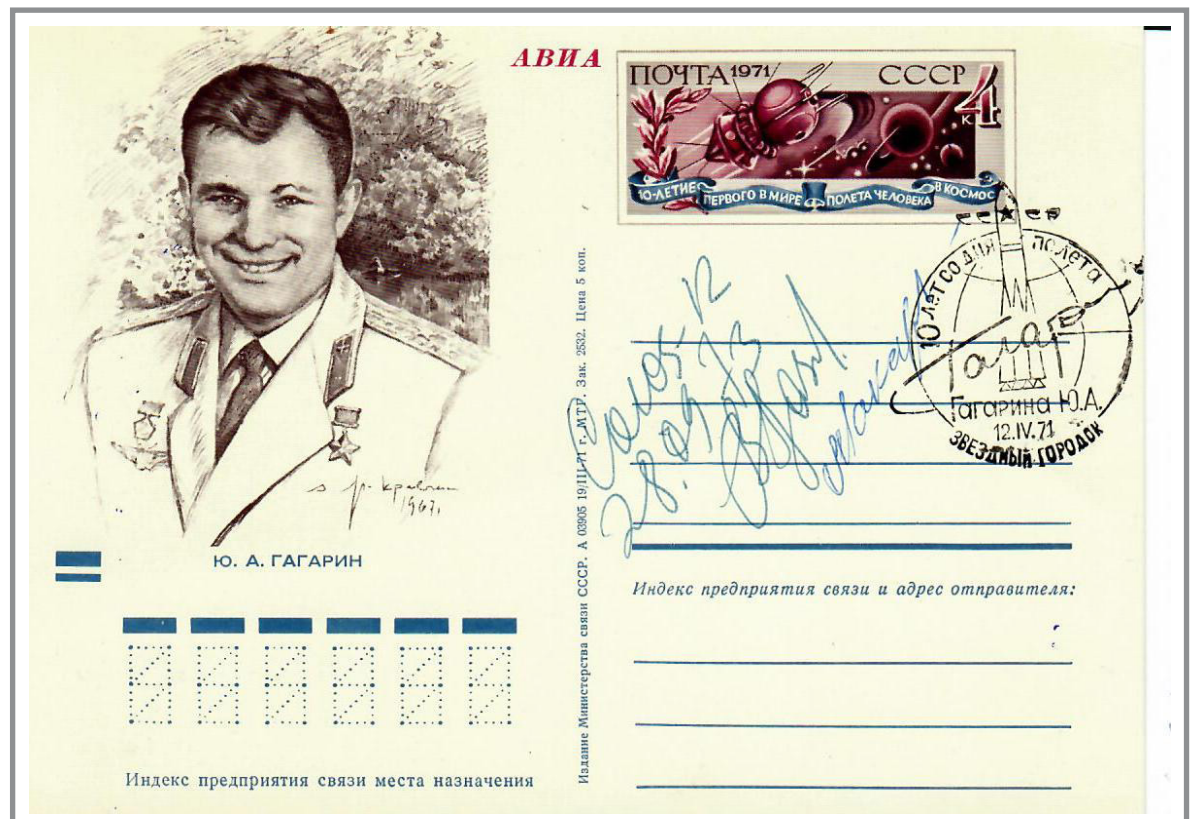
Salyut-1, the very first crewed space station, was launched atop of a Proton rocket on 19.04.1971. On 06.06.1971, Georgi Dobrovolsky, Vladislav Volkov, and Viktor Patsayev took off aboard Soyuz 11. After 23 days' work in Salyut-1 they suffocated on landing.



In 1970, the capital of the Baikonur Cosmodrome was renamed from Leninskiy to Leninsk. This cover might be backdated.

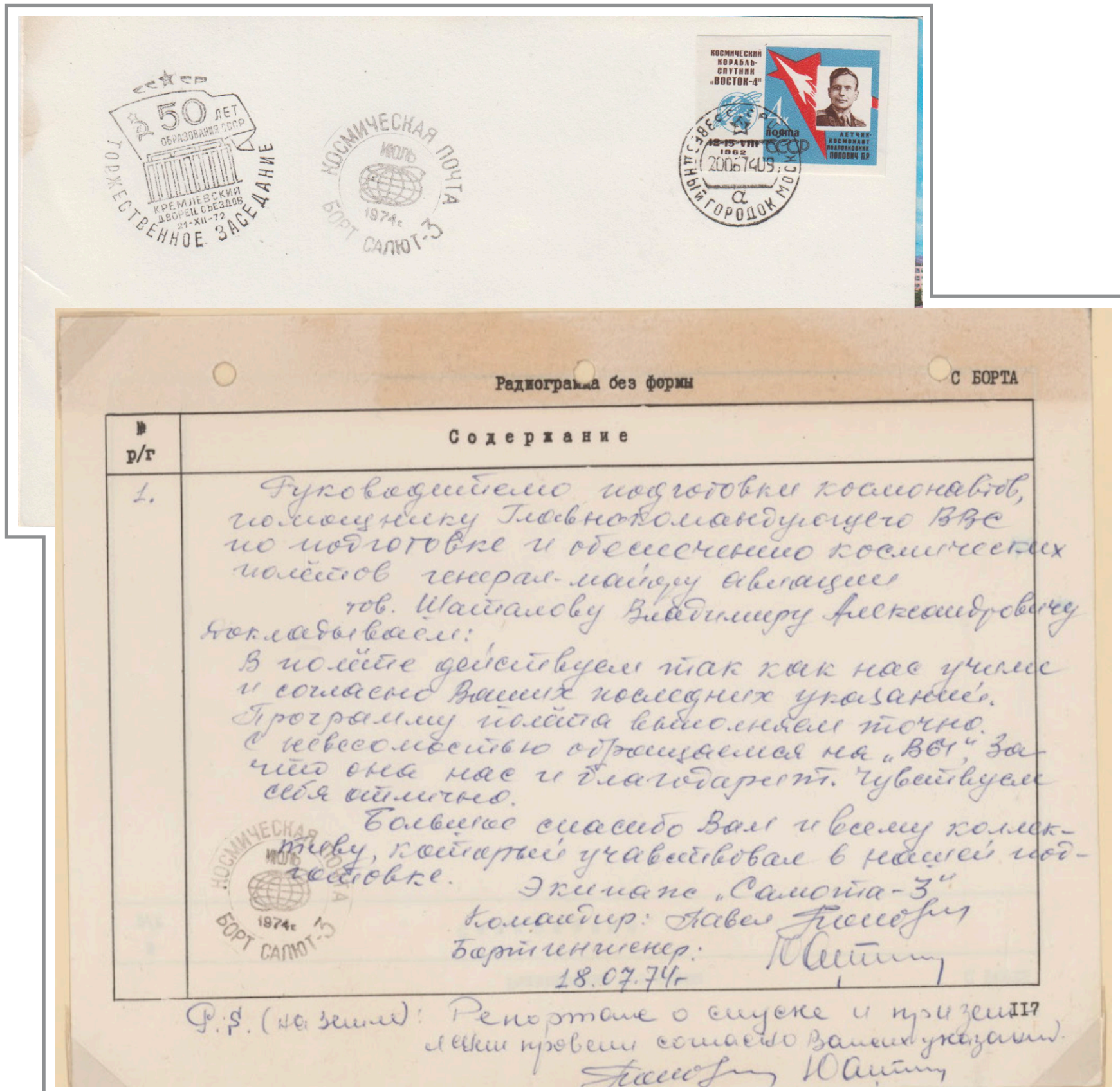
Soyuz 12 (27. - 29.09.1973) crew Vasili Lazarev and Oleg Makarov were to dock with the space station Salyut-2B that failed. That was why the spacecraft had no solar collectors. Since the Soyuz 11 disaster, the cosmonauts have been obliged to wear skaphanders again in critical phases such as take-off and landing.

Postcard commemorating the 10th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's historic space flight. Lazarev confirmed that it was flown on board Soyuz 12.



The military space station Salyut-3 was launched on 25.06.1974. It was equipped with an adapted Nudelman cannon. Soyuz 14 crew Pavel Popovich and Yuri Artyukhin (3. to 19.07.1974) mainly observed Earth.

Popovich attended the Kremlin's celebration of 50 years of the proclamation of the Soviet Union. The card was postmarked in Star City the day Soyuz 14 crew headed to Baikonur. Vladimir Chelomey's „Space Mail“ stamps for the military space stations Salyut-3 and 5 were used in space only.



The Soyuz 14 crew sent the first telegram from outer space to General Vladimir Shatalov and signed twice.



Anatoli Filipchenko and Nikolai Rukavishnikov simulated Apollo Soyuz Test Project. They docked a NASA docking ring with their new docking unit. Later, the air pressure was reduced and the oxygen content increased.

Government telegram from the city committee of the Sumy CPSU to Filipchenko. It was read to the cosmonaut during during their Soyuz 16 mission. Filipchenko is honorary citizen of Sumy.



Soyuz 16 flown card with Star City hand stamp from the crew's departure to Baikonur.

Salyut-4, the second successful civilian space station of the Soviet Union was launched on 26.12.1974.  
 The first crew Aleksei Gubarev and Georgi Grechko launched with Soyuz 17 on 11.01.1975.



Grechko reported in *Filateliya SSSR* No. 3/1975 that he had 5 numbered Soviet stamp blocks on board including „100 Years of Universal Postal Union“ No. 160365.

Till 09.02.1975 they observed the Sun, black holes, white dwarfs, and a supernova. They grew crystals, searched for mineral resources, and explored frog spawn, fruit flies, and bacteria in weightlessness.

Some covers flown with Soyuz 17 were postmarked in Star City on 17.02.1975.



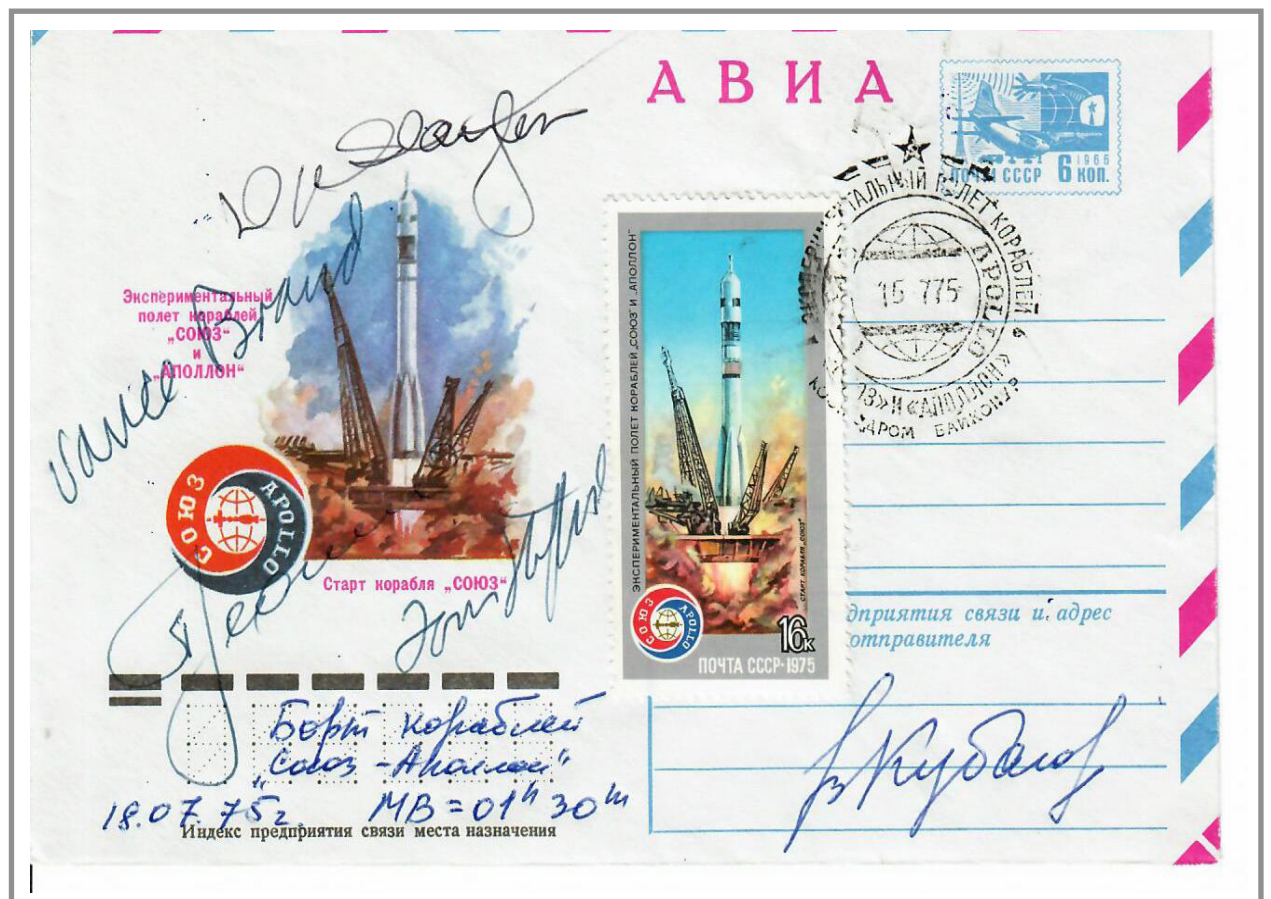
For Apollo Soyuz Test Project the Soviet delegation had proposed the first international Space Mail. Covers were to be cancelled at Baikonur Cosmodrome, Soyuz 19, Apollo, and the Prime Recovery Ship. After the excitement about the Apollo 15 Moon letters NASA abandoned the idea.



Almost all postal stationery printed for dispatch by Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga were destroyed.

On 15.07.1975 Alexei Leonov and Valery Kubasov launched on Soyuz 19 from Baikonur Cosmodrome. 7.5 hours later Thomas Stafford, Vance Brand and Donald Slayton followed in Apollo 19 from KSC. Two days later, both spaceships docked.

Kubasov took 25 covers into space including 5 sets of 4 different Soyuz-Apollo stationery postmarked at Kosmodrom Baikonur before launch. Each astronaut received a set.



Between 6.7. and 24.08.1976 Soyuz 21 crew Boris Wolynov and Vitally Scholobov spent 49 days in the military space station Salyut-5. They observed Earth and conducted medical, biological and technical tests.



The only known item with a postmark from Star Town of the day the cosmonauts departed to Baikonur.

In October 1978 Vyacheslav Sudov and Valeri Rozhdestvensky failed to dock Soyuz 23 to Salyut-5.

Before landing, less than 50 covers had been cancelled, including a good 20 on-board covers of the Commander. These 16 trial strikes of the station's seal proof how difficult clear imprints were obtained in weightlessness.



Viktor Gorbatko and Yuri Glazkov (Soyuz 24, 07. - 25.02.1977) were the last ones onboard Salyut-5.



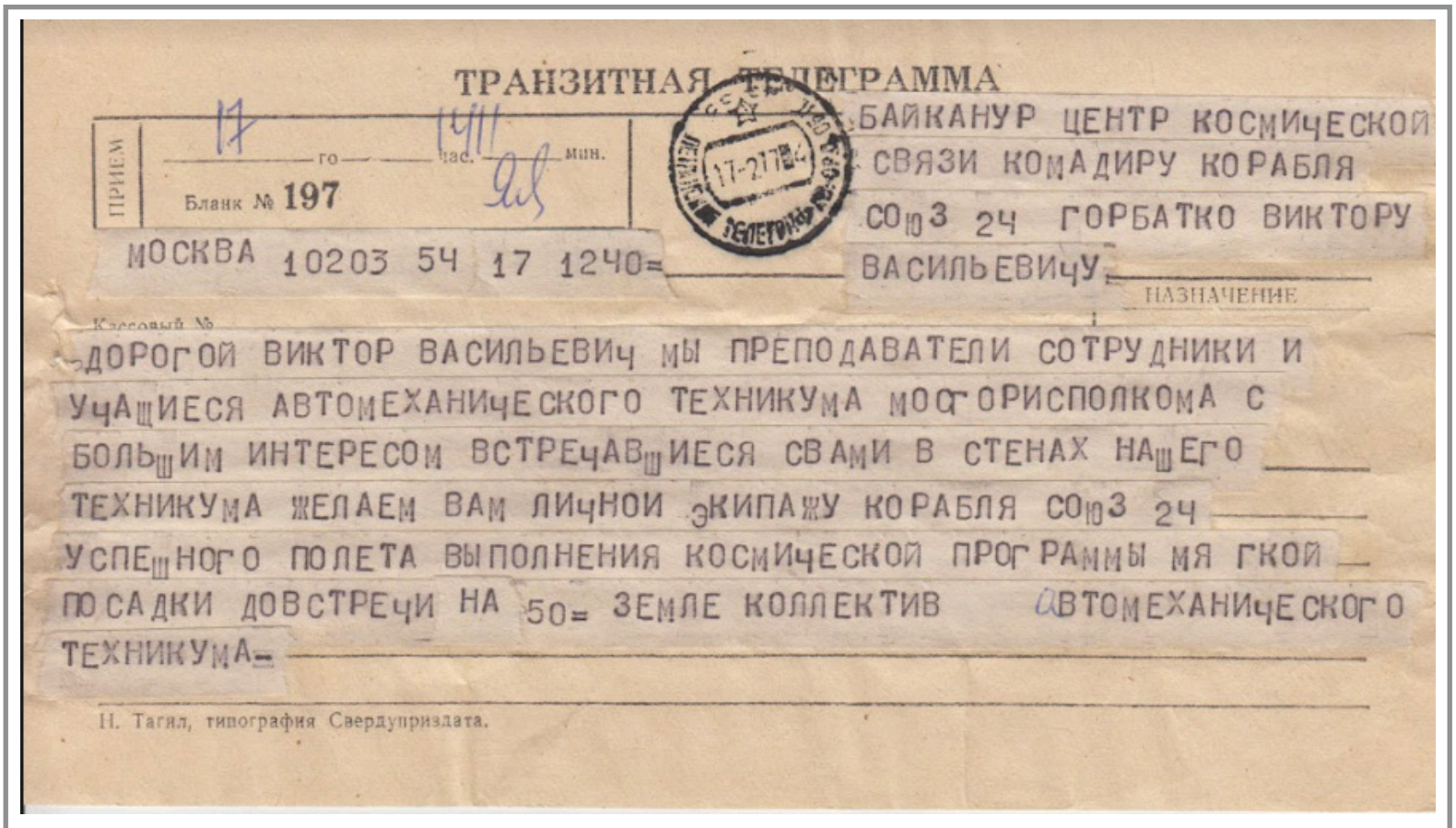
On board Salyut-5 Gorbatko prepared a Space Mail. The letter was intended as a gift for a celebration in Vancouver, but no cosmonaut took part.

To the dear members of the American committee on the construction and opening of the monument in 1975 in Vancouver in the honour of the first non-stop flight from the USSR through the North Pole to the USA, completed by the Soviet pilots V.P.Chkalov, G.F.Baiducov, A.V.Belyakov, and to the Chkalov museum in Vancouver on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the heroic flight, which will be celebrated in June 1977.

Board of the orbital station

"SALYUT - 5"





Transit telegram to Gorbatko. Transmission from Baikonur to Salyut-5 via radio. Postmark: Leninskiy Telegraf, Ksyl Orda oblast. A rare correct application of this type of telegram.



Express Telegram to the Soyuz 24 crew on board Salyut-5

# Salyut-6

Salyut-6 was the first space station with two docking mechanisms. Mainly civilian it orbited Earth from 29.09.1977 to 29.07.1982 at a typical altitude of 280 km every 90 Minutes.



On-board cover stamped and signed by 7 twin-crews.

Back of an on-board cover stamped and signed by 11 twin-crews.

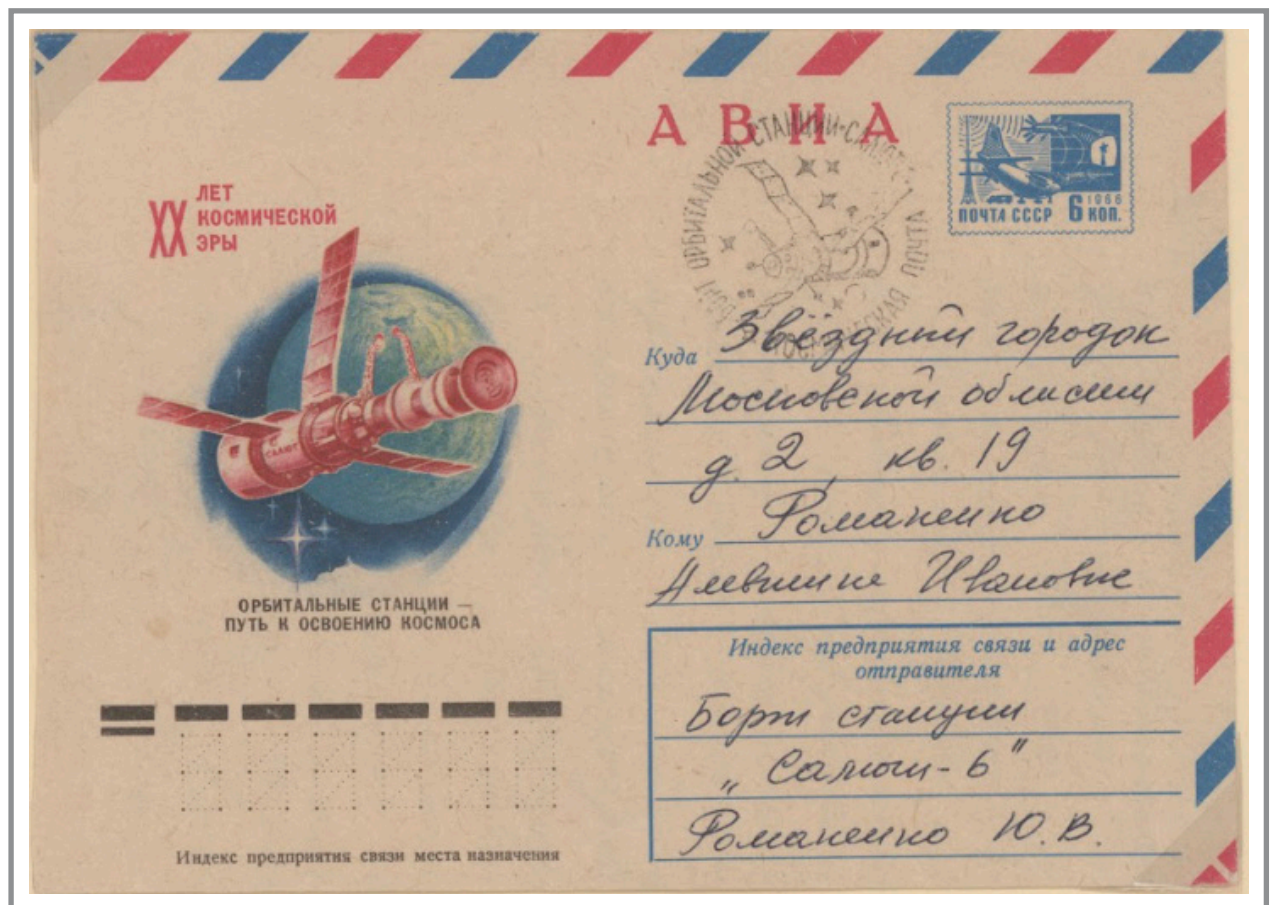


Yuri Romanenko and Georgi Grechko (Soyuz 26/29) were first resident crew. Vladimir Dschanibekow and Oleg Makarov (Soyuz 27/26) delivered a non-postal space mail cancellation.



To distinguish Earth from on-board cancellations, Grechko rasped away the 6th star below the T. Letter from Alevshina Romanenko to her husband Yuri on board the Salyut-6.

For the first time, two spaceships were linking up with a space station at the same time. Thus a postal exchange became possible.



On 16.01.1978 Vladimir Dshanibekov took to Earth the responding letter from Romanenko to Alevshina.



Soyuz 28 board engineer Georgi Grechko was appointed the first postmaster in Earth orbit.

Министерство связи  
Минский узел связи  
1 марта 8  
120



Борт орбитальной станции  
"САЛЮТ-6" Бортовой инженеру  
тов. ГРЕЧКО ГЕОРГИЮ КОСМИЛОВИЧУ

Направляется специальный календарный штемпель первого в мире космического отделения связи "САЛЮТ-6".

Примите поздравления с назначением Вас штатным сотрудником космического отделения связи "САЛЮТ-6".

Дополнительные разъяснения работы специальным календарным штемпелем:

1. Штемпель переводной.
2. Спецгашение провести датой выхода телерепортажа по прилагаемому сценарию.
3. Обработать утвержденное количество конвертов согласно сценария одним отиском штемпеля углы марок.
4. Возвратить прилагаемые конверты и спецштемпель с экипажем "СОЮЗ-28" с последующей через Дерябина Ю.И. начальнику узла связи.

Космодром - Байконур  
Журавлевой Г.Ф.

Основание - указания ГУПС Минсвязи СССР.



Начальник Ленинского ГУС

Г.Ф.ЖУРАВЛЕВА

Cosmodrom Baikonur post office's instruction for cancellation.  
The two postmarks should only be used on 13 covers for museums.

The Soyuz 28 Crew delivered Soviet and Czech postmarks. The setting -8-3 78 of the Soviet postmark proofs the cancellation in space. Official letter addressed to the Star City Museum.

ОТТИСК СПЕЦИАЛЬНОГО КАЛЕНДАРНОГО ШТЕМПЕЛЯ



"ЗАВЕРЯЮ"  
 НАЧАЛЬНИК ЛЕНИНСКОГО ЦУС  
 Г.Ф. КУРЖОГОВА



" 2 " *сентя* 1978 года

По возможности при возврате опечатать и составить реестр.



On 02.03.1978 Alexei Gubarev and the Czech Vladimir Remek launched with Soyuz 28.



The Star City Philatelic Club posted one registered letter with return receipt to Grechko. The whereabouts of the other one to Romaneno are unknown.



The return receipt was treated on board Salyut-6.

Receipt from Star City.



Zenon Jankowski was to become the first Polish cosmonaut. After the visit of the Polish Air Force chief General Wladyslaw Hermaszewski to the Star City GCTC, his younger brother Miroslav was nominated.



*Less than 35 of the 50 miniature sheets of the 1,50 Zloty Jankowski stamp stolen by a Polish emigrant stayed intact.*

Vladimir Kovalyonok and Aleksandr Ivanchenkov were the second resident crew. The Soyuz 30 crew Pyotr Klimuk and Miroslav Hermaszewski visited them first.



*Letter from Kovalyonok to his wife Nina delivered to Earth with Soyuz 30.*

Valeri Bykovsky and Sigmund Jähn from GDR visited Salyut-6 with Soyuz 31. Using the multispectral camera MKF-6M from Jena they searched for mineral resources in the GDR and other countries.

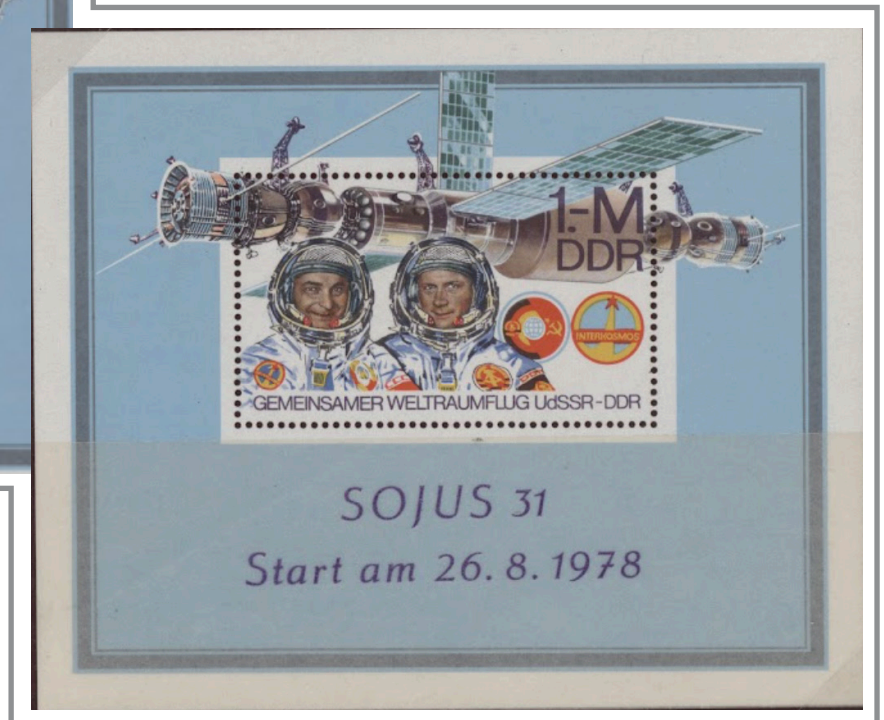


Vladimir Kovalyonok sent this letter to his wife Nina with Soyuz 31. Jähn and Bykovski set their on-board postmarks to the time of docking without altering it.

On 21.09.1978 the GDR issued a special block honoring the Soyuz 31 crew with the first German in space.



Imperforated essay with more serious faces of Sigmund Jähn and Valeri Bykovsky. 3 different imperforated essays survived.



Proof in the assumed drawing. The inscription „Soyuz 31, Start am 26.8.1978“ was printed in the final type on a glassine stripe. 3 different proofs with laughing faces survived.

On 10.04.1979 Nikolai Rukavishnikov and the Bulgarian Georgi Ivanov launched with Soyuz 33. On the next day the main engine failed during a docking attempt, they returned to Earth without docking on 12.04.1979.



Space mail was treated after the landing at the Hotel Cosmos in Baikonur Cosmodrome. 1 and 2 of the Soviet board postmark on same line proof a flown cover. This letter finally was delivered to Vladimir Lyakhov and Valery Ryumin with Progress 6.

A Hungarian cosmonaut was to launch with Soyuz 34 on 5.06.1979. This mission was postponed by a good year due to the Soyuz 33 docking failure

In the meantime the postage rose from 4 to 5 Forint. The prepared 4 Forint stamps were withdrawn and destroyed. Only most of 10 covers brought into the Soviet Union survived. This is the only Hungarian cover with board postmarks for the scheduled flight.



On 27.05.1980 Valeri Kubasov and the Hungarian Bertalan Farkas docked to Salyut-6. Their experiments included the observation of Earth, Sun and stars and the growing semiconductor crystals and interferon.



A single cover with the withdrawn 4 Forint stamp found the way into Salyut-6.

Towards the end of their mission Kubasov and Farkas realised they forgot to treat the official covers for museums. Only they bear the date 30.05.1980.



On 06.06.1980 Yuri Malyshev and Vladimir Aksyonov docked the first manned Soyuz T to Salyut-6. The first major revision of the Soyuz capsule since 1973 allowed to send three cosmonauts in pressure suits into orbit.



Leonid Popov used a cover postmarked during Soviet-Hungarian space flight for this letter to Yuri Romanenko. Yuri Malyshev and Vladimir Aksyonov delivered it to Earth with Soyuz T-2 on 09.06.1980.

Viktor Gorbatko and the Vietnamese Pham Tuan (Soyuz 37, 23.-31.07.1980) scanned damage of poison war in Vietnam and planned afforestation.

The large pentagonal seal of Salyut-6 proofs the cover was flown.





Vladimir Dzhanibekov and the Mongol Shugderdemidyn Gurragschaa launched with the Soyuz 39.



The trilingual Mongolian on-board postmark contains the words "КОСМИЧЕСКАЯ ПОЧТА".

Leonid Popov and the Romanian Dumitru Prunariu (Soyuz 40, 14. to 22.05.1981) were the last Salyut-6 crew.



The Romanian on-board postmark words "Cosmodromul Baiconur Mai 1981".

# Salyut-7

Anatoli Berezovoy and Valentin Lebedev entered Salyut-7 at first. Vladimir Dzhanibekov, Alexander Ivanchenko and the Frenchman Jean-Loup Chrétien were the first Salyut-7 visiting crew.



The pentagonal station seal was used only in space. Dzhanibekov used a „Par avion“ rubber stamp as a further proof of flown space mail.

On 19.08.1982 Leonid Popov, Alexander Serebrov and Svetlana Savitskaya becoming the second woman in space lifted off with Soyuz T-7.



On 27.08.1982 they delivered this letter from Anatoli Berezovoy with Soyuz T-5. Due to the lack of bare covers, it already was postmarked during Soyuz T-6.

After Radar antenna boom failed Soyuz T-8 returned to Earth without docking.



Due to the investigation on the failure, clearance at Leninsk Post Office in Baikonur was only possible on 25.4.1983. Gennady Strekalov wrote address and confirmation.

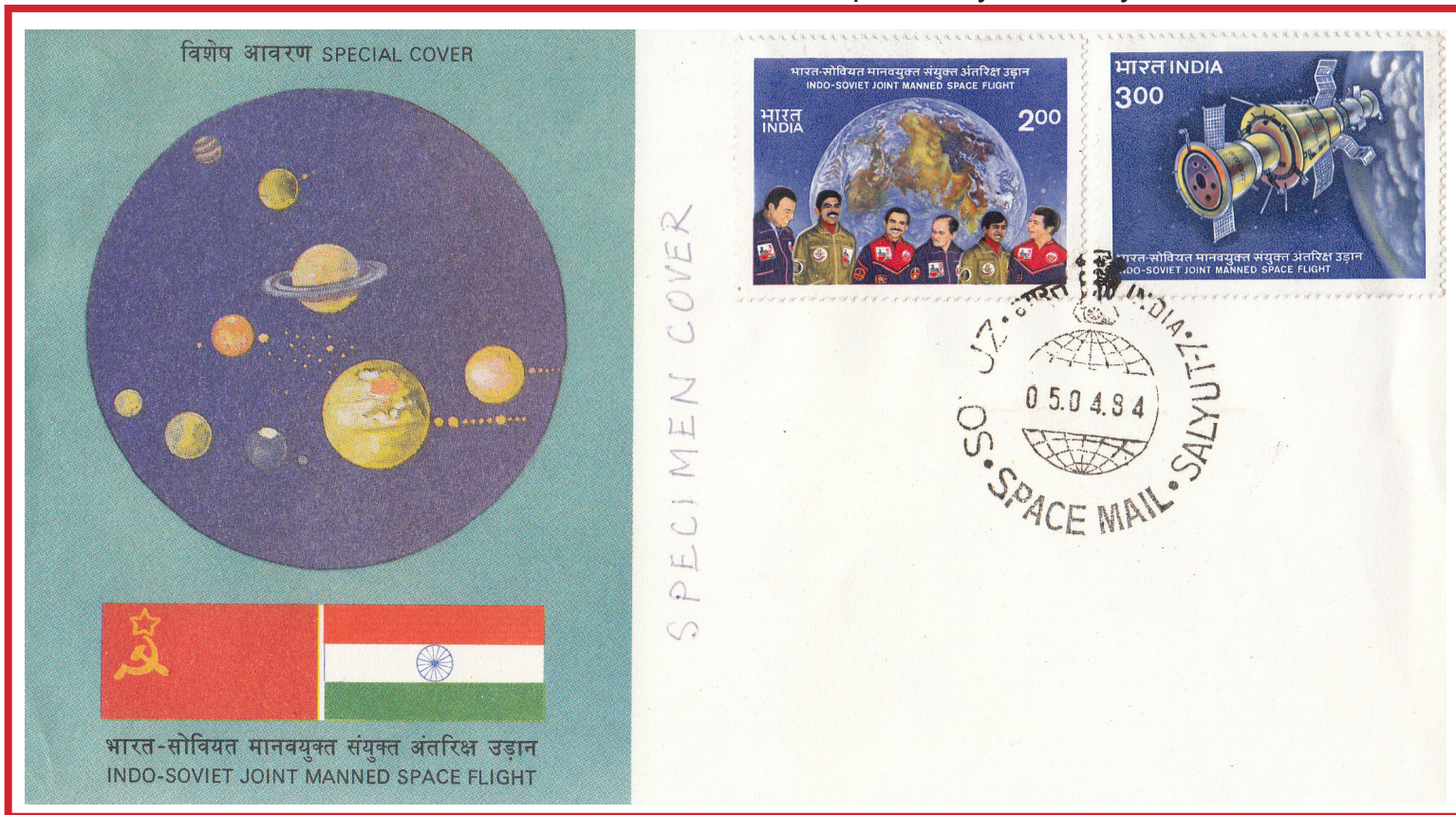
As Soyuz T-10-I exploded Soyuz T-9 crew Vladimir Lyakhov and Alexander Alexandrov received only two unmanned Progresses.



Letter Lyakhov sent to his wife with Kosmos 1443 on 23.08.1983.

The pentagonal Salyut-7 station seal proves it was in space.

The Indian Post prepared a 2 Rupees stamp featuring the crews Anatoli Berezovoy, Georgi Grechko and Ravish Malhotra as well as Yuri Malyshev, Nikolai Rukavishnikov and Rakesh Sharma. One month before launch Rukavishnikov fell ill. He was replaced by Gennady Strekalov.

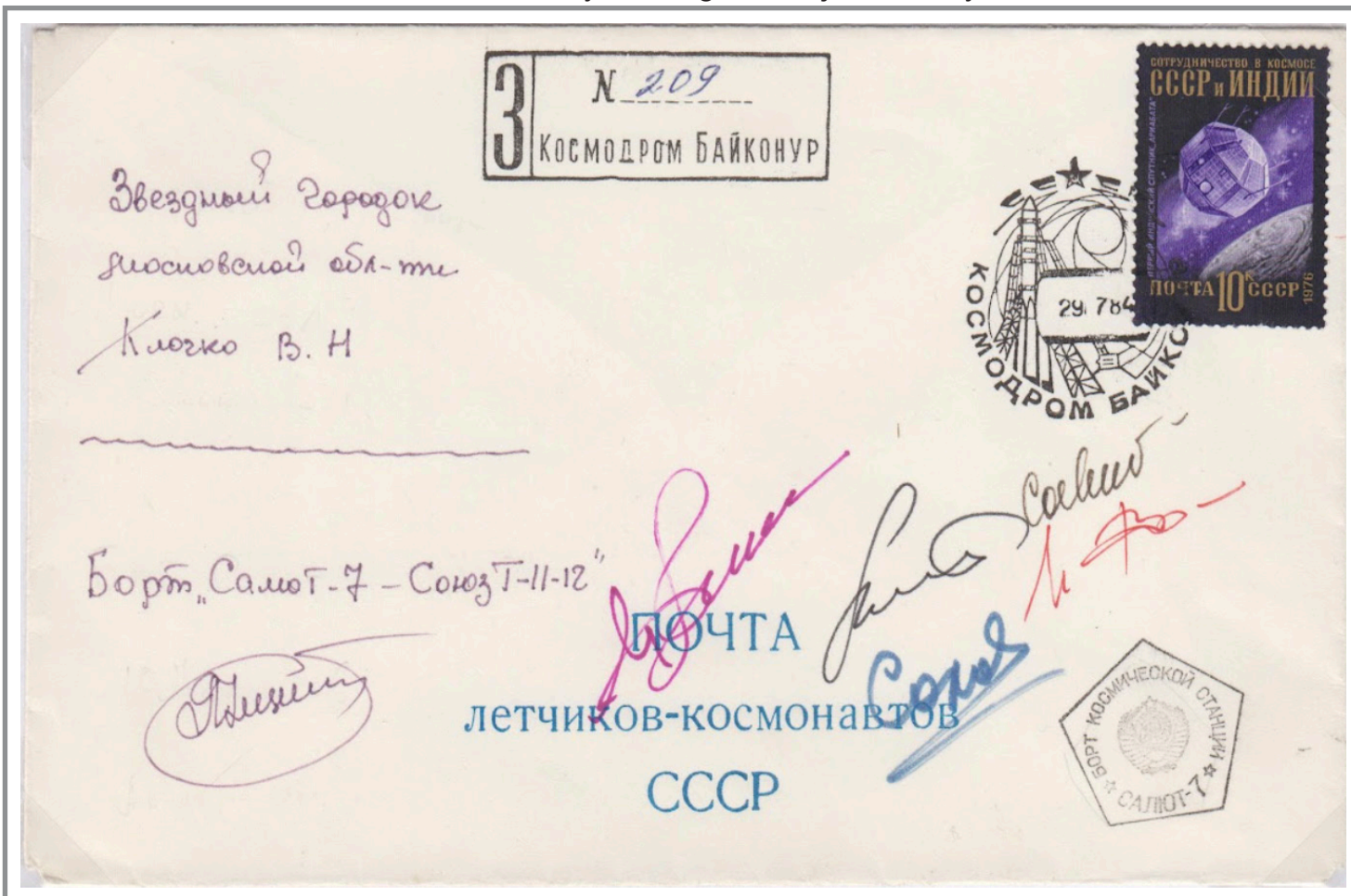


The only copy of these two Rupees stamp known to have survived was postmarked before the flight.

On 05.04.1984 Yuri Malyshev, Gennady Strekalov and the Indian Rakesh Sharma docked with Soyuz T-11.

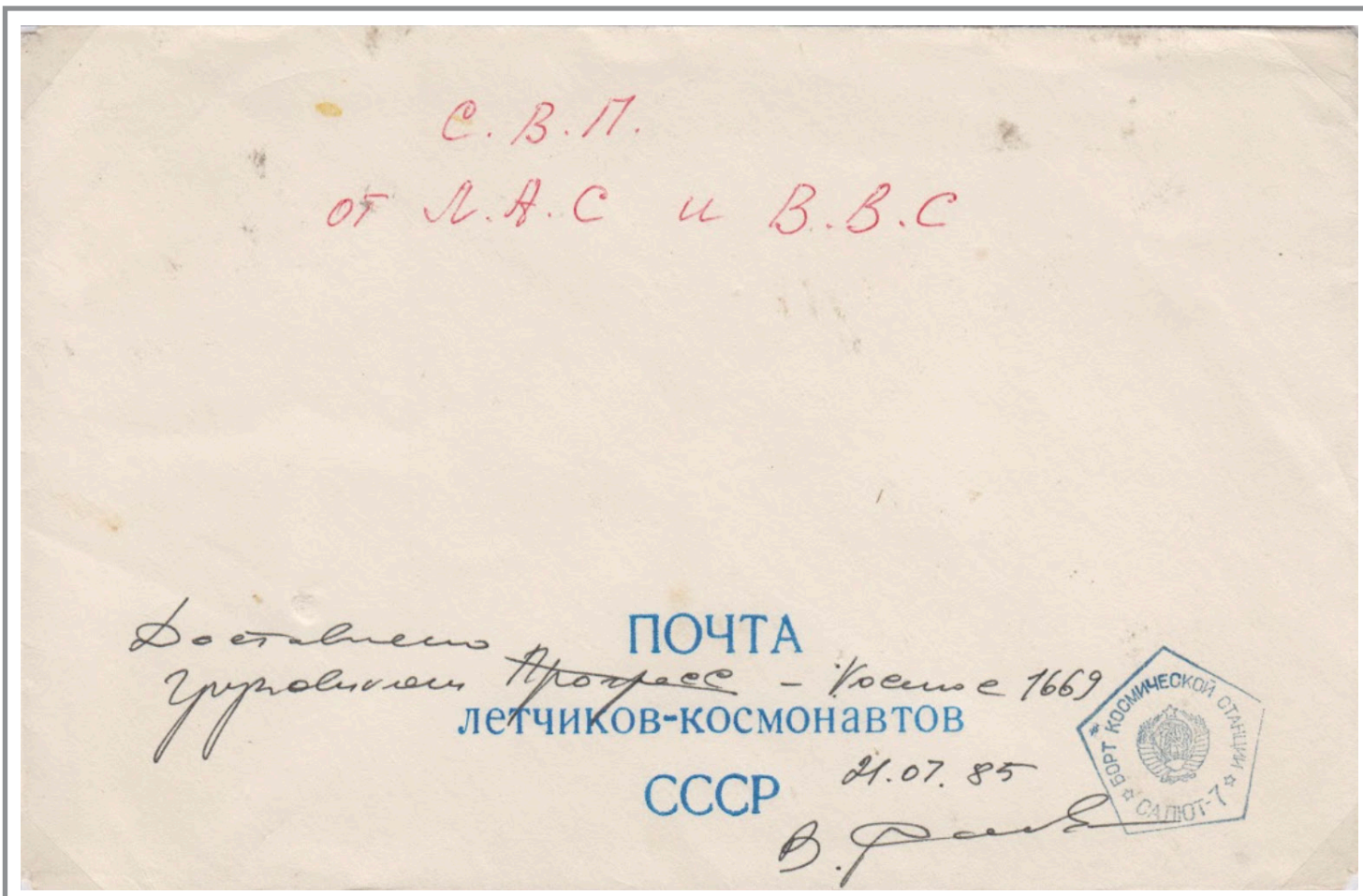


Soviet on-board postmark with incorrect setting 05 04 64. The Indian one with the setting -5.04.84 was only in use in Salyut-7. Rakesh Sharma confirmed on the flap it was stamped on board.



The Soyuz T-12 crew delivered this letter from Leonid Kisim to Earth. The small numerals in the Kosmodrom Baikonur postmark show that it is backdated. Until 27.7.1987 the digits were larger.

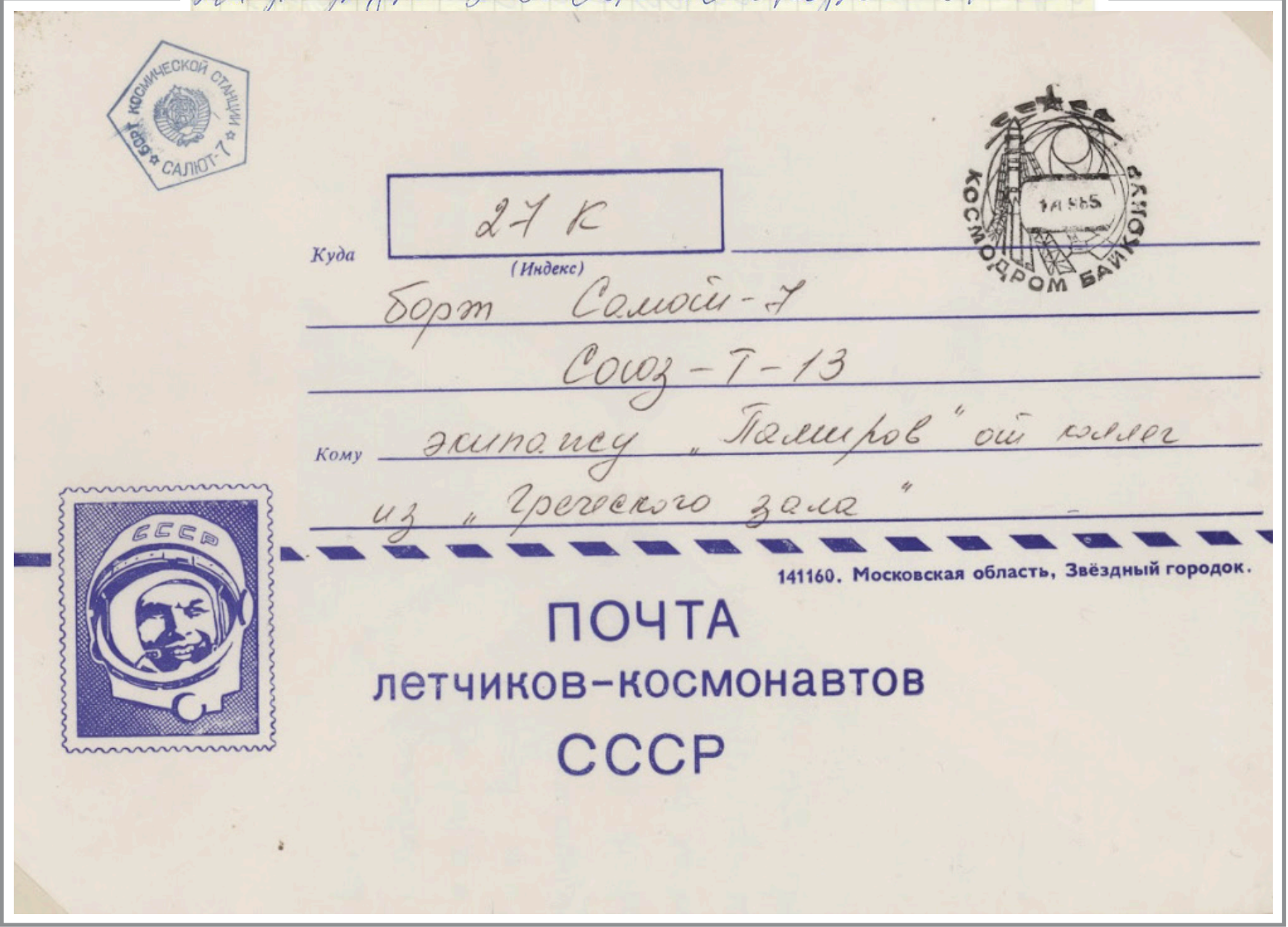
On 21.07.1985 Kosmos 1669 – a Progress that was temporarily out of control – docked to Salyut-7.



Letter from his family delivered to Victor Savinych on board Salyut-7.

Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Viktor Savinykh revitalized the ice-covered Salyut-6 space station as the power supply had failed. For safety reasons only one cosmonaut at a time was allowed to work in the station.

Здравствуйте Виктор и Владимир  
с приветом. Маме передаю вам своей  
сердечный привет желаю вам  
всего хорошего самого наилучшего  
крепкого здоровья чтоб вам было  
хорошо работать и вернуться  
на родную землю поскорей мне



On 19.09.1985 Soyuz T-14 brought Savinykh this cover with 5 letters from his mother and friends.

# Orbital Complex MIR

On 20.02.1986 the orbital complex MIR (Earth, peace) with 6 docking adapters was launched. Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovyov (Soyuz T-15, 13.3. to 16.07.1986) settled. After 52 days they left towards Salyut-7.



On most covers the pentagonal station seals of Salyut-7 and MIR are black or cyan blue, a few bear the Salyut-7 seal in violet. The postmarks from Baikonur Cosmodrome were added upon landing.

Kizim and Soloviev finished some experiments before returning to MIR on 25.6.1986.

Soyuz T-15 crew picked up covers that Savinykh, Vasyutin and Volkov had forgotten in Salyut-7 when suddenly returning to Earth.



Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveykin were the first MIR resident crew.



Alexander Viktorenko, Alexander Alexandrov and the Syrian Muhammad Fares delivered this letter from Yuri Romanenko to his son Artyom.

Aleksandr Viktorenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and the Syrian Muhammad Ahmed Fares arrived on 24.07.1987.



Syrian first day cover officially addressed to the Interkosmos Council of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.



On 23.11.1987 Progress 33 delivered the Mariya plasma telescope for astronomical observations, a new melting furnace, provisions, water, propellant, and air.



For commercial use Progress 33 delivered 1,000 addressed covers and an octagonal seal of MIR as well as 38 "Not for sale" covers for museums and dignitaries.

Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov launched on 21.12.1987. They stayed a whole year in space.

Long-time cover with misspelled trial cancellations 259897 of the Soviet postmark and -9. AUG 1988 of the Bulgarian postmark.



Anatoly Solovyov, Viktor Savinykh and Bulgarian Alexander Alexandrov arrived with Soyuz TM-5 on 09.06.1988.



Letter from cosmonaut Lev Dyomin to the resident crew Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov.

Solovyov, Savinykh and Alexandrov landed with Soyuz TM-4 on 17.06.1988.

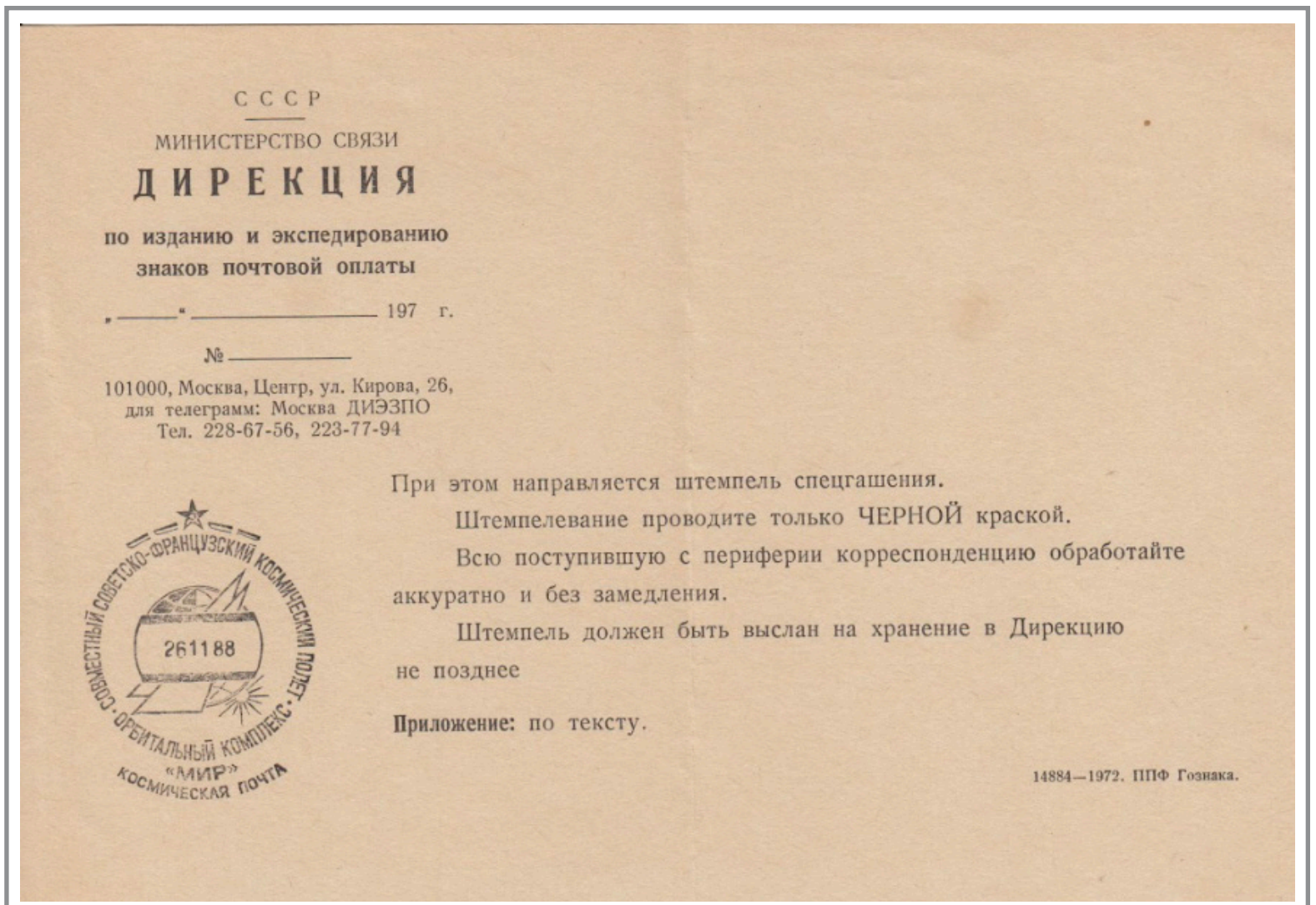


Titov's responding letter to Dyomin was delivered with Soyuz TM-4.



The Soviet Soyuz TM-7 on-board postmark remained on Earth. It was added to the flown cover after the flight.

Instruction of the Soviet Ministry of Communication for this postmark.



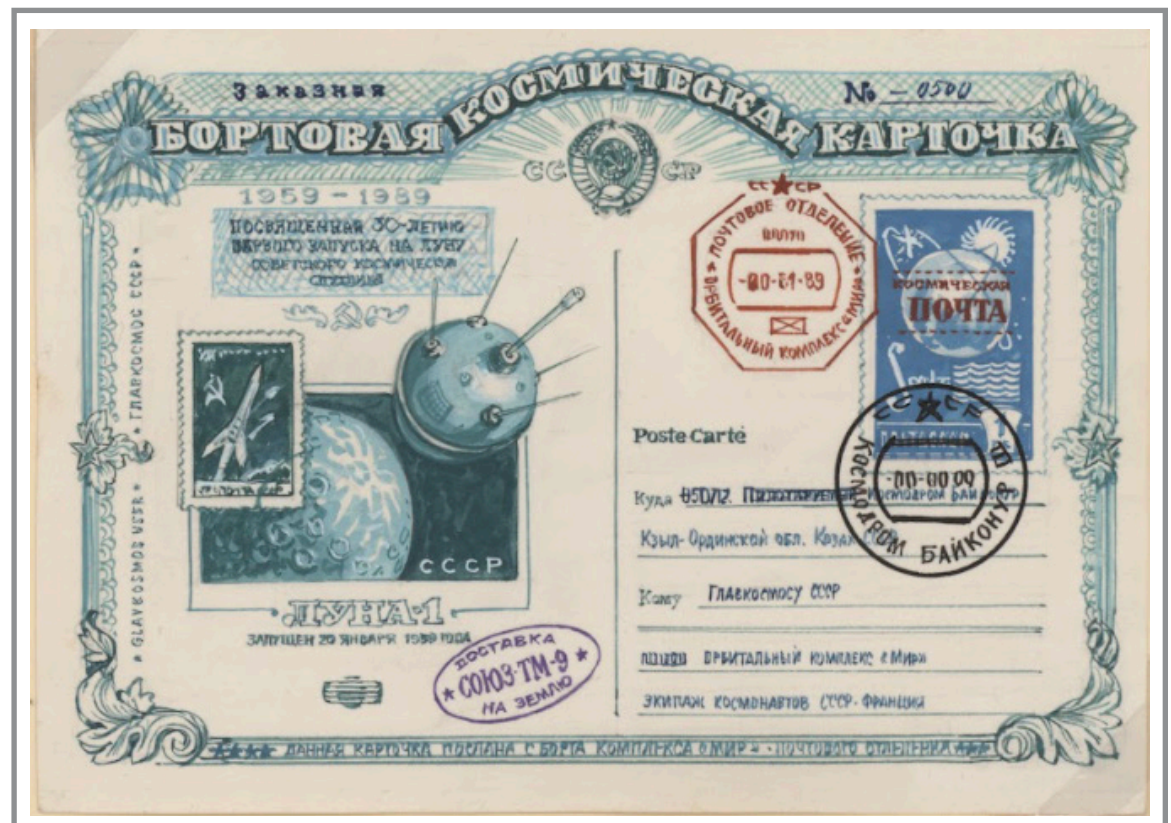
Alexander Volkov, Sergey Krikalyov and the Frenchman Jean-Loup Chrétien docked to MIR on 28.11.1988. Titov opened the first permanent post office in Earth orbit.



The French on-board postmark „La Poste France“ was only used in space. It was destroyed on entry into the Earth’s atmosphere. Only about 30 covers were done.

On 18.03.1989 Progress 41 delivered supplies, including the Bulgarian spectrometer Spektr 256.

Essay for the twin-card shown on the next page drawn by the designer German Komlev.



Twin-card up with Progress 41, down with Soyuz TM-7. Kniga's duplicate of Baikonur postmark.

**3** №471  
КОСМОДРОМ  
БАЙКОНУР

КОСМИЧЕСКАЯ ПОЧТА  
**Space Mail**

КОСМОС  
БАЙКОНУР

ИСТОРИЯ СОВЕТСКОЙ КОСМОНАВТИКИ



2 января 1959 года. Космодром Байконур  
Запуск первой ракеты в сторону Луны

КОСМИЧЕСКАЯ ПОЧТА



ПОЧТА СССР 1 руб

КОСМОС

БАЙКОНУР

180369

КОСМОДРОМ

160389

КОСМОС

БАЙКОНУР

468320

А №471 AU

КОСМИЧЕСКАЯ ПОЧТА  
**Space Mail**

КОСМИЧЕСКАЯ ПОЧТА



С 20 февраля 1986 года функционирует  
в космосе орбитальный комплекс МИР

КОСМОС

ИСТОРИЯ СОВЕТСКОЙ КОСМОНАВТИКИ

Специальное издание для космической почты

Международная книга Москва, СССР

КОСМИЧЕСКАЯ ПОЧТА



ПОЧТА СССР 1 руб

КОСМОС

МОСКВА

270489

КОСМОС

МОСКВА

468320

Б №471 AU

The 1 R „Space Mail“ stamp was sold in strips of 10. Barely more than 10 full sheets survived.

Alexander Volkov, Tachtar Aubakirow and Franz Viehböck docked with Soyuz TM-13 to MIR on 04.10.1991.



Soyuz TM-13 cover which landed with Progress M-10's return capsule Raduga-4 on 20.01.1992. The 04.10.1991 postmark is backdated, as the stamp arrived with Progress M-10 on 21.10.1991.



Letter from Anatoli Solovoyov to his son Gennadi. To save weight he wrote his message inside the flap. Raduga-6 delivered 2 letters.



*Родяги, привет! Письмо возвращено способом доставки посылки на Землю. Подом доставкой как на это письмо. До встречи, папа.*

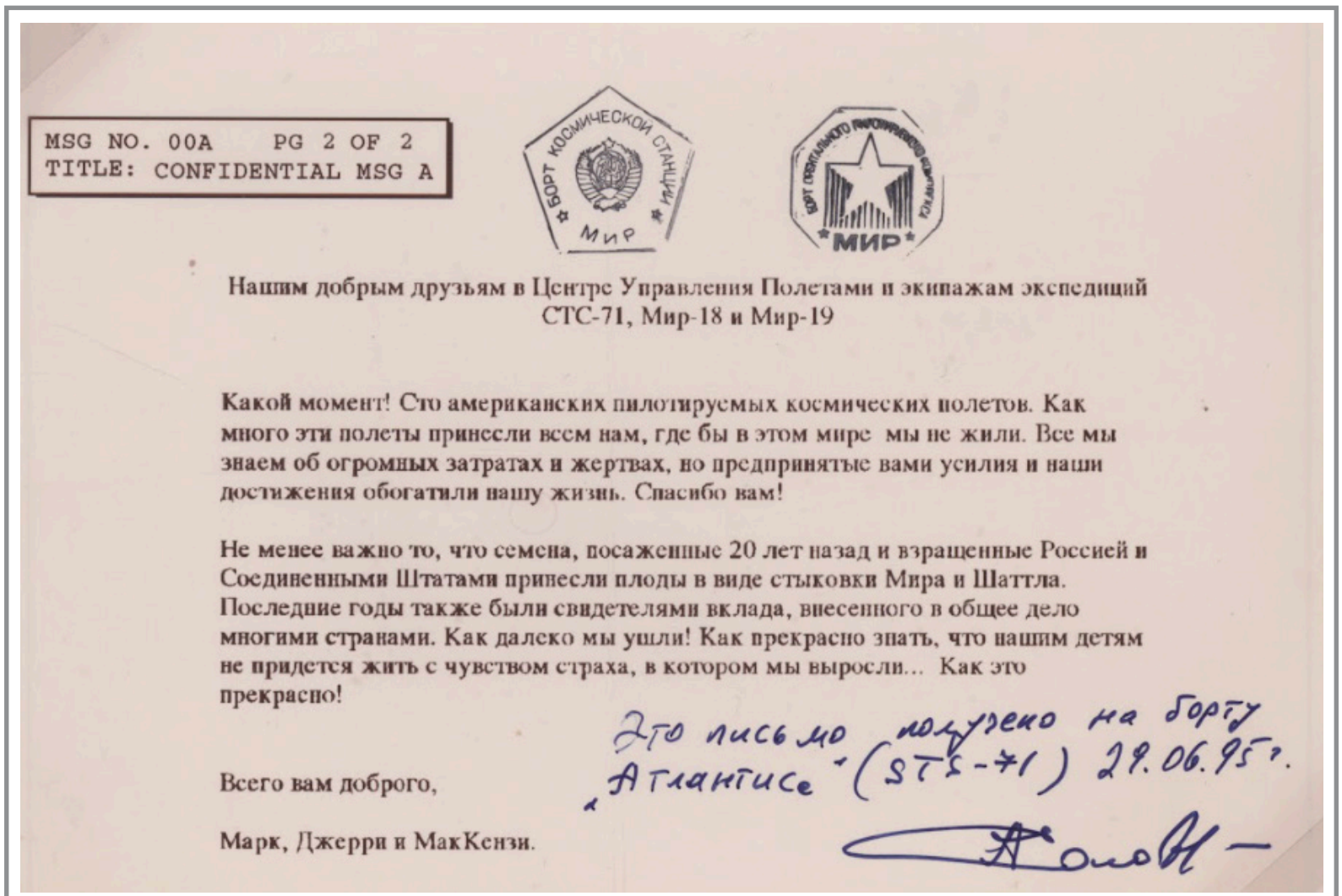
As Soyuz capsules can only bring little cargo to Earth, Progress M-14 was equipped with a Raduga (= rainbow) return capsule. On 21.10.1992 UTC, Raduga-6 landed.



On 4.07.1995 Vladimir Dezhurov, Gennady Strekalov and Norman Thagard landed with Space Shuttle Atlantis.



STS-71 delivered to Earth 3 letters with content from Anatoly Solovyov. This one is for space doctor Kylev in Houston.



The US Capcoms in the Russian Control Centre ZUP at Kaliningrad congratulated the STS-71 crew. 3 or 4 faxes for Solovyov were transmitted via Mission Control in Houston to Space Shuttle Atlantis.

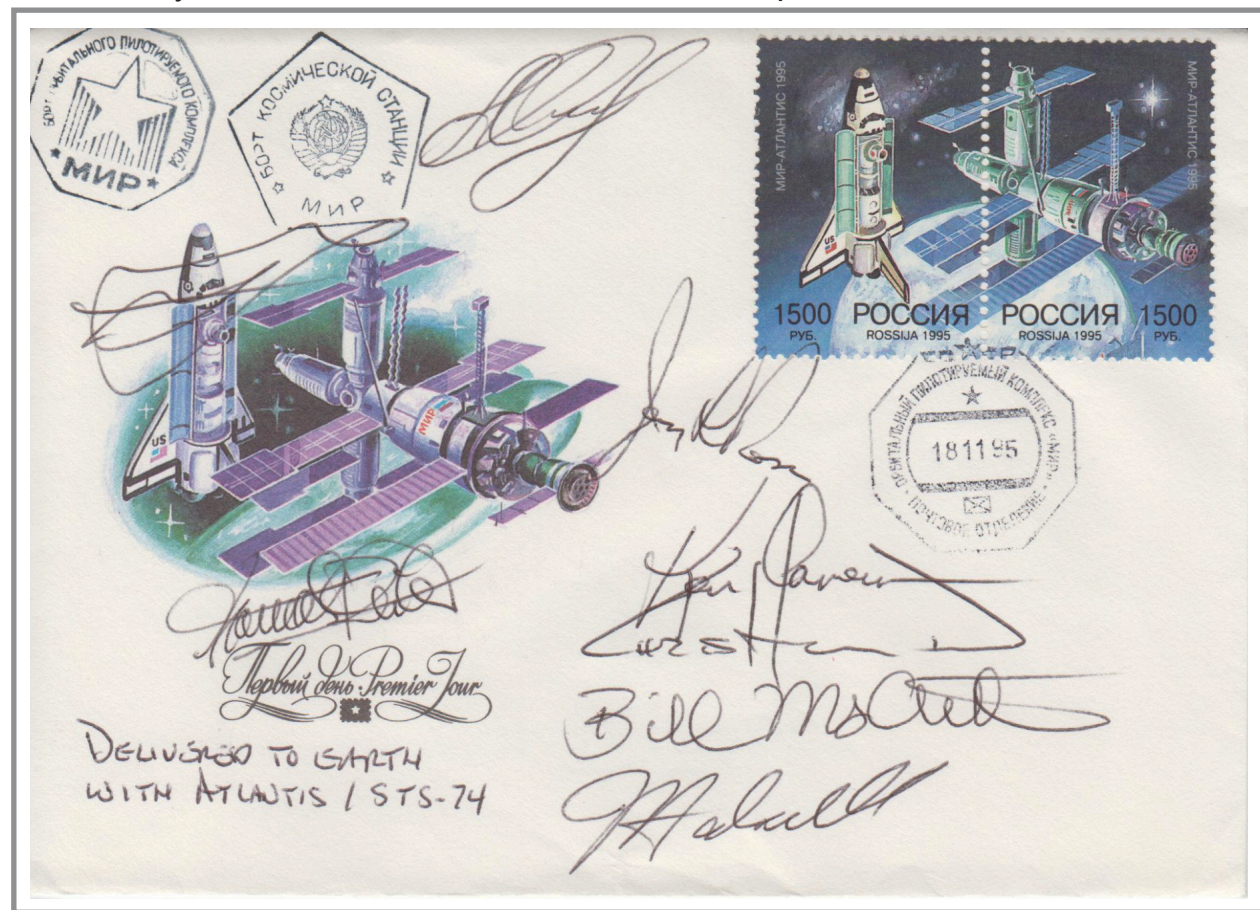


From 15. to 18.11.1995 the Atlantis / STS-74 astronauts Kenneth Cameron, James Halsell, Jerry Ross, William McArthur and the Canadian Chris Hadfield worked on board MIR.



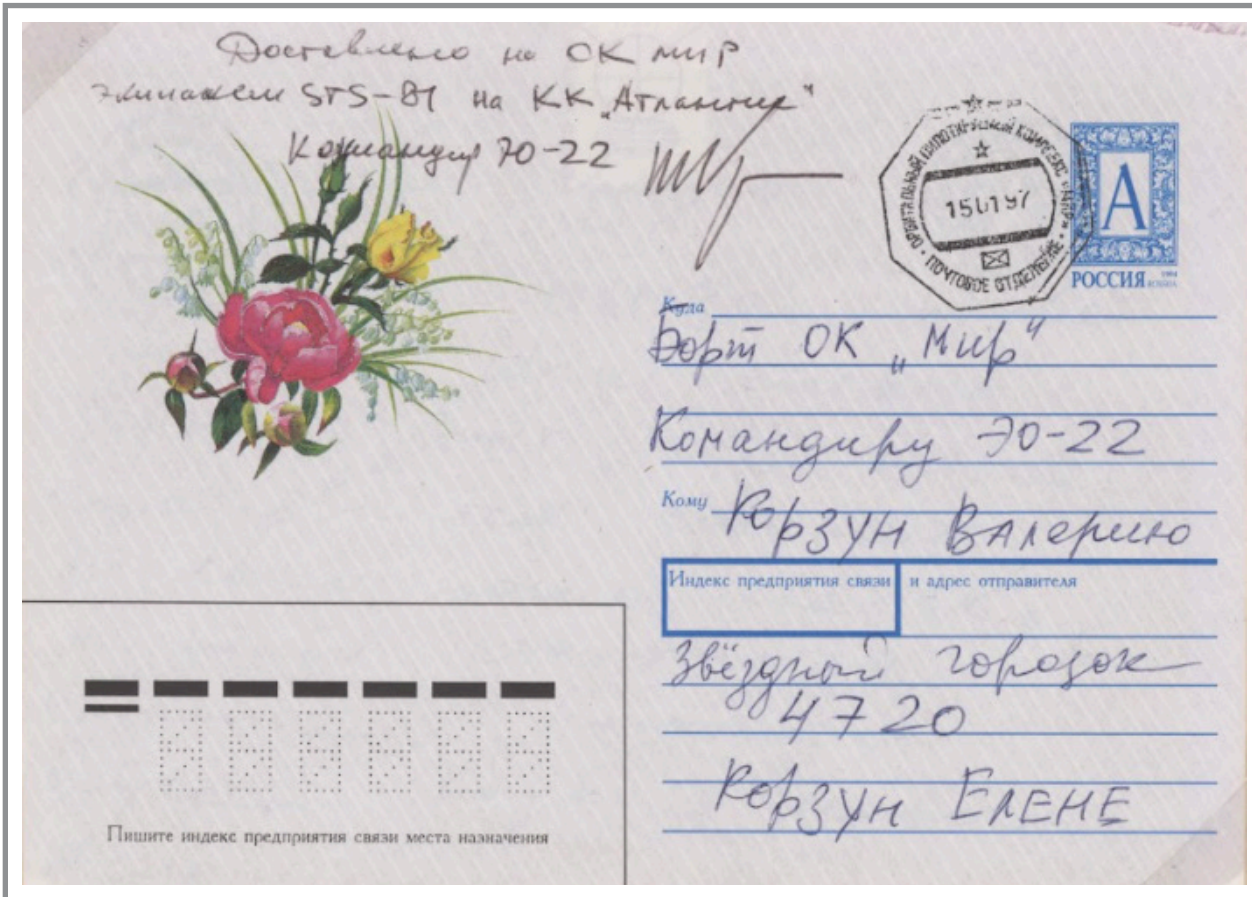
STS-74 delivered some 10 letters to MIR. This one is from space doctor W. P. Mateyev.

STS-74 delivered the Russian SDM docking module. During the joint 3-day space flight, the crew investigated the stability and noise of the more than 200-t complex.



The STS-74 crew did not sign covers for the Russian cosmonauts. Jerry Ross confirmed: „Delivered to Earth with Atlantis / STS-74“.

On 15.01.1997 Michael Baker, Brent Jett, John Grunsfeld, Marsha Ivens, Jeff Wisoff, Jerry Lineger docked with Atlantis / STS-81 to MIR.



STS-81 delivered this letter from his wife Yelena to Valeri Korzun.

The Space Shuttle Atlantis delivered 700 l of water and 1,806 kg of scientific material and equipment to the orbital complex MIR. Linenger replaced John Blaha as a member of the 22nd Resident Crew.



On 20.1.1997 STS-81 delivered the responding three-pages letter from Korzun to Yelena.

Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov came with Soyuz TM-26 for repairing MIR after the collision between Progress M-34 and module Spektr.



Soyuz TM-26 delivered a letter from the Hungarian back-up cosmonaut Bela Magyari to Vasili Tsibliev. It is the only joint franking of Hungarian 4 and 5 Forint „Joint Space Flight“ stamps.

James Wetherbee, Michael Bloomfield, the Russian Vladimir Titov, Scott Parazynski, the French Jean-Loup Chrétien, Wendy Lawrence, and David Wolf arrived with STS-86.



According to Anatoly Solovyov only two covers signed by the STS-86 crew were postmarked with STS-86 undocking date. They were delivered to Earth with Atlantis STS-86.

The STS-89 crew Terrence Wilcutt, Joe Edwards, James Reilly, Michael Anderson, Bonnie Dunbar, Salizhan Sharipov and Andrew Thomas were on board MIR with Endeavour from 24. to 29.01.1998.



Sharipov took 15 covers into MIR and back to Earth. Since 1972 NASA has forbidden their astronauts to carry philatelic items into space.

Discovery STS-91 was the last Space Shuttle visiting MIR. Charles Precourt, Dominic Gorie, Franklin Chang-Diaz, Wendy Lawrence, Janet Kavandi and Valeri Ryumin worked in the space station from 4. to 8.06.1998.



STS-91 delivered this letter from Talgat Musabayev to his daughter Katyusha to Earth.



РЕЕСТР

почтовой корреспонденции, отправленной с ОК "МИР" на Землю на космическом корабле Союз ТМ-27

№ <sup>п/п</sup>	
1.	Тюгалака И.А. от Тюгалака И.И.
2.	Тюгалака Е.Г. от Тюгалака И.И.
3.	Вальтеру Холфервизеру от Тюгалака И.И.
4.	Тепоме Геннадий от Тюгалака И.И.
5.	Гаскодину Людвигу от Тюгалака И.И.

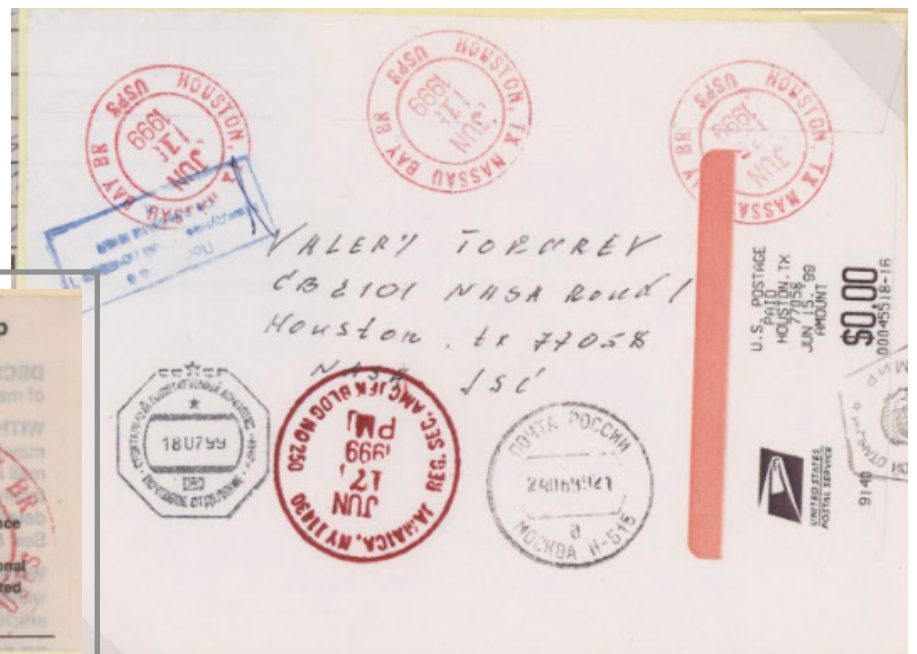


Gennady Padalka and Sergey Avdeyev listed each letter they wrote on board MIR. Only 2 of the 13 letters Soyuz TM-27 delivered to Earth on 25.08.1998 were posted. This letter from Padalka is the earliest known letter from a space station which was posted registered abroad.

Gennadi Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev were the antepenultimate residential crew on board MIR. Discovery STS-96 were the second crew building the International Space Station from 27.5. to 06.06.1999.



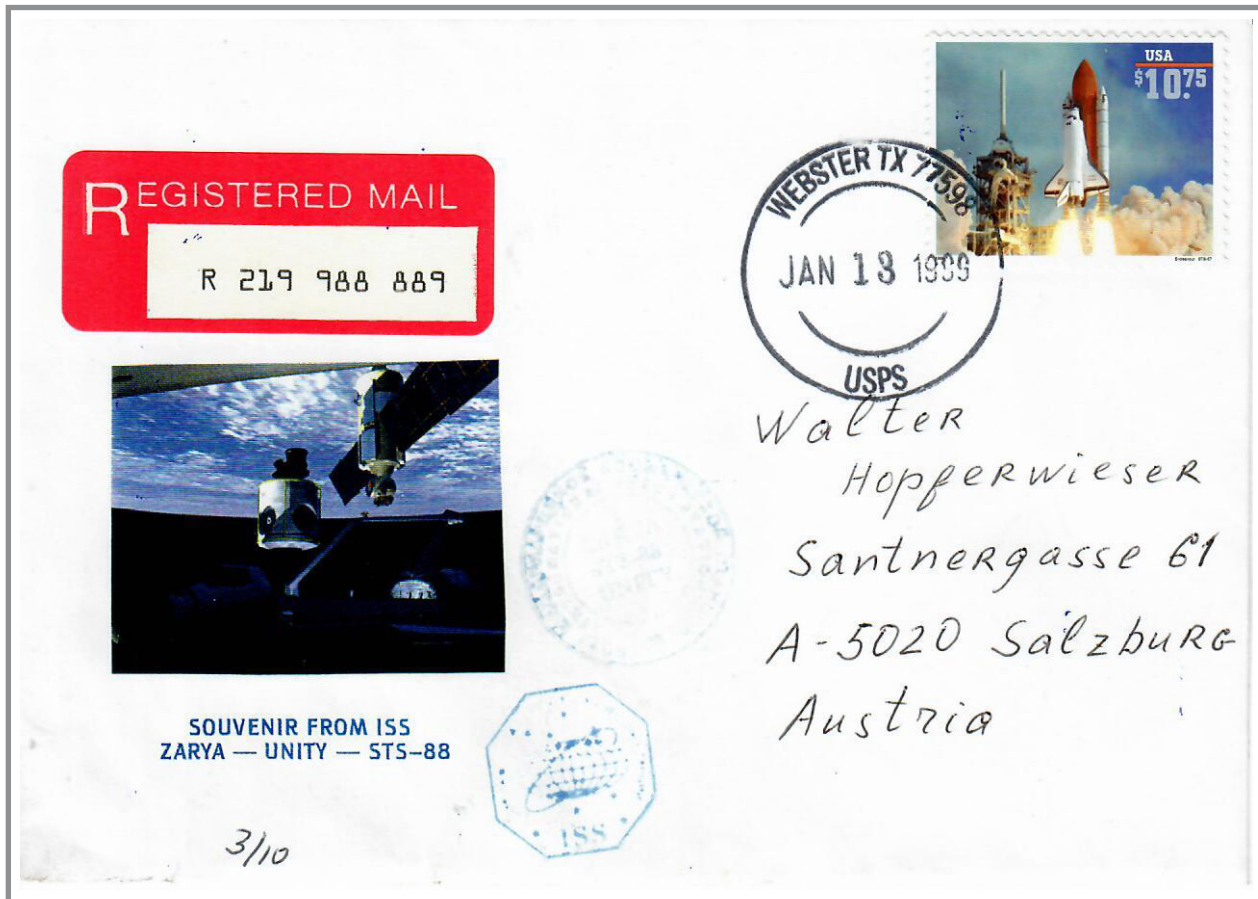
On 18.07.1999 Progress M-42 delivered 2 of the 8 letters Valery Tokarev wrote on board the ISS to the Orbital Complex MIR. This one is addressed to Sergei Avdeyev.



Registered No. <b>R 748382531</b>		Date Stamp
To Be Completed By Post Office	Reg. Fee \$ <b>6.00</b>	Special Delivery \$
	Handling Charge	Return Receipt \$
	Postage \$ <b>0.60</b>	Restricted Delivery \$
	Received by	
To Be Completed By Customer (Please Print) All Entries Must Be in Ballpoint or Typed	Customer Must Declare Full Value \$	<input type="checkbox"/> With Postal Insurance
		<input type="checkbox"/> Without Postal Insurance
	FROM <b>215A TX. HOUSTON Rouff 150 TOKAREV VA MOSCOW RUS</b>	
	TO <b>SERGEY AVDEYEV St. KHovanSKaya</b>	
PS Form 3806, February 1995		Receipt for Registered Mail

# International Space Station

On 20.11.1998, the first Zarya (dawn) module was launched from Baikonur.  
The Space Shuttle Endeavour / STS-88 (4. to 15.12.1998) delivered the US connecting node Unity.



To write 7 letters, Krikalyov found paper, envelopes, and two on-board cancellations aboard Zarya. Postage is a \$10.75 Space Shuttle stamp. However, the international registered postage was only \$6.60.

James Halsell, Scott Horowitz, Mary Weber, Jeffrey Williams, James Voss, Susan Helms, and the Russian Yuri Usachyov docked to ISS with the Atlantis / STS-101 from 20. to 26.05.2000.



Usachyov left a circular cancellation on Earth which Yuri Galkin had produced on behalf of RKK Energia. He canceled 8 maybe flown crew signed first day covers of the 7 Ruble Space Exploration block on Earth.

On 26.07.2000, the Russian service module Zvezda linked up with the space station. The module had been manufactured as a backup for the core module of the Mir station, to be the core of a cancelled Mir-2.



With Zvezda, 20 covers of RKK Energia were delivered to the ISS. 10 were distributed to Russian dignitaries; another 10 were given to NASA. Before using the circular cancellation, Malenchenko removed the fourth star.

Terrence Wilcutt, Scott Altman, Edward Lu, Richard Mastracchio, Daniel Burbank as well as Yuri Malenchenko and the doctor Boris Morukov (both Russia) were aboard the ISS with Atlantis STS-106 from 10. to 18.09.2000.

Malenchenko wrote 6 letters which were posted as registered mail at the Nassau Bay post office, Houston and 3 cards which stayed unposted. Morukov lost his package with envelopes, paper, and cards on board the ISS.





Since Yuri Gidzenko, Sergei Krikalyov, and William Shepherd docked Soyuz TM-31 to the ISS on 02.11.2000 the space station has been constantly manned. Endeavour / STS-97 was docked from 02.to 09.12.2000.



Gidzenko and Krikalyov sent 18 letters with STS-97 to Earth. They were posted at registered letters from Houston, Texas.

Kenneth Cockrell, Mark Polansky, Robert Curbeam, Marsha Ivins, and Thomas Jones were on board the ISS with Atlantis / STS-98 from 09. to 16.02.2001. They delivered and installed the laboratory module Destiny.

STS-98 delivered 12 letters to the ISS including 2 registered letters from Wien bearing the special postmark from 30.10.2000 in commemoration of the Soyuz TM-31 launch.



Atlantis / STS-98 took 420 kg of waste and packaging material back to Earth.



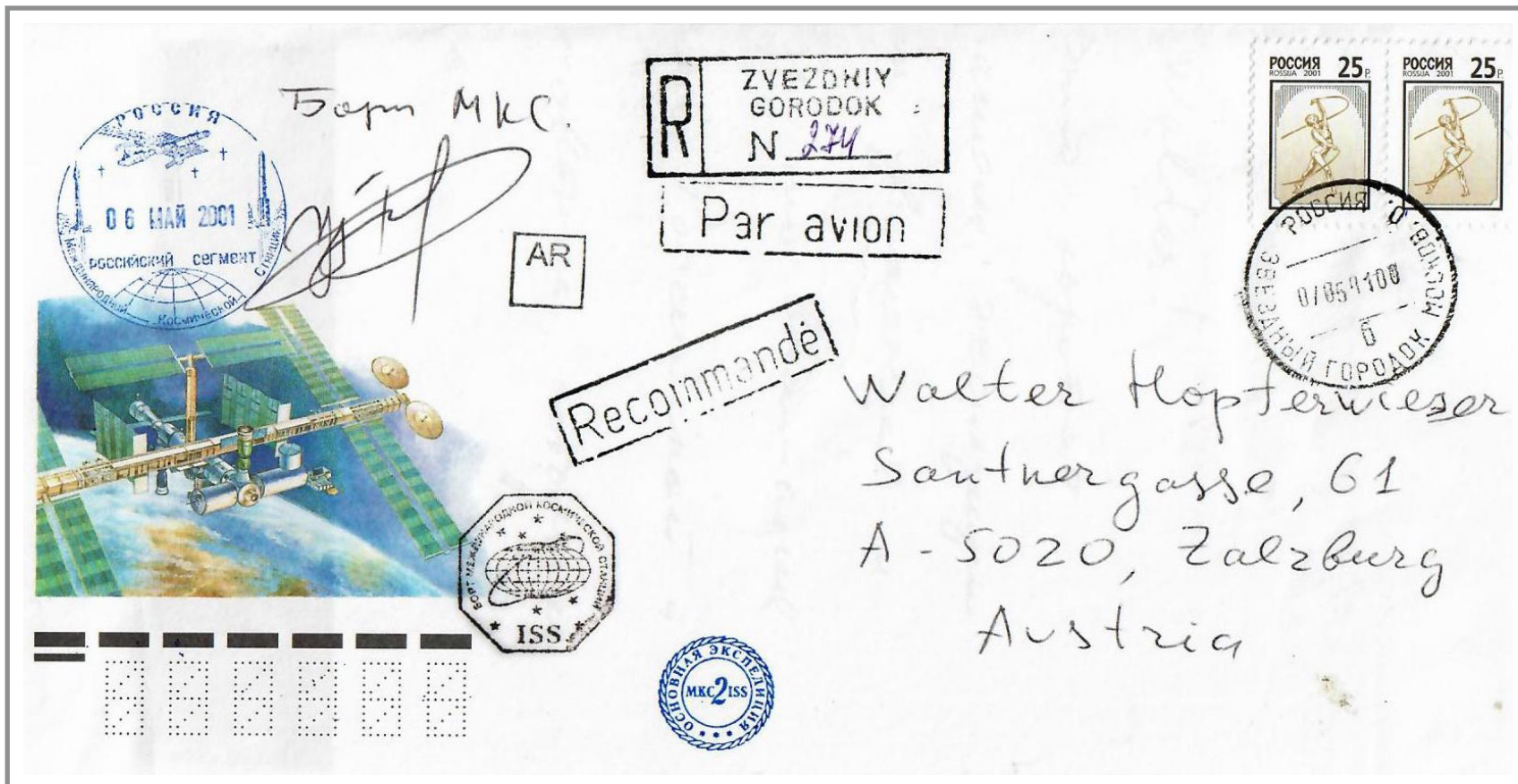
15 letters delivered on board Atlantis / STS-98 to Earth were sent as registered mail from Houston Post Office, Nassau Bay, on 03.03.2001. This one is written by Sergei Krikalyov.

James Wetherbee, James Kelly, Andrew Thomas, Paul Richards, James Voss, Susan Helms, and the Russian Yuri Usachyov linked up with the ISS on 10.03.2001. Usachyov, Voss, and Helms formed the ISS-2 Crew.

STS-102 delivered 4 letters from Usachyov to Earth: 3 to Switzerland and this one to Austria. They were posted from Houston Post Office, Nassau Bay on 26.04.2001.



A Soyuz capsule allows three space travelers a fast return to Earth. Soyuz capsules are certified for 6-month. Talgat Musabayev, Yuri Baturin, and the first ever Space Tourist Dennis Tito landed with Soyuz TM-31.



With Soyuz TM-31, 13 letters were delivered to Earth and were posted in Star City on 07.05.2001. Two had been sent by Usachyov, the others were carried by Musabayev and Baturin.

On 17.09.2001, Progress DC-1 docked to Zvezda. The usual payload module had been replaced with the docking module Pirs. Spaceships can dock at this airlock used to exit into open space.



A single letter was delivered with Progress DC-1. It was sent registered from Salzburg on 12.08.2001.



Michael Bloomfield, Stephen Frick, Rex Walheim, Ellen Ochoa, Lee Morin, Jerry Ross, and Steven Smith were on the ISS with STS-110 in April 2002. They delivered the first segment of the Integrated Truss Structure S0.



Yuri Onufriyenko sent 2 letters with STS-110 to Austria and 1 each to Russia and Belgium. They were probably thrown into a mailbox in Houston. The postage of this letter was validated in Austria.

Yuri Gidzenko, Roberto Vittori from Italy, and the space tourist Mark Shuttleworth from South Africa docked Soyuz TM-34 to the ISS on 27.04.2002.

Soyuz TM-34 delivered 5 letters with content to the ISS. This letter was posted at Koppl near Salzburg. The Bonusbrief covers the regular mailing worldwide. The registration fee was added with ATS, EUR and supplementing stamps.



329 УЗЕЛ  
 ФЕЛЬДЬЕГЕРСКО-  
 ПОЧТОВОЙ СВЯЗИ  
 УЛ. САДОВНИЧЕСКАЯ, 53  
 Г. МОСКВА, 125045

ПОЧТА РОССИИ  
 48 06 01  
 \*6\*

РОССИЯ ROSSIA  
 0 2 2 0  
 КОП  
 ПИ 41073



Уважаемый Юрий Иванович!

Поздравляю Вас с Днем принятия Декларации о государственном суверенитете Российской Федерации.

12 июня мы по праву называем Днем России. Этот праздник - символ национального единения и общей ответственности за настоящее и будущее нашей Родины. Время требует от нас слаженной и энергичной работы на благо государства, общества и каждого гражданина России, в интересах свободы и демократии.

Желаю Вам и Вашим близким здоровья, благополучия и успехов.

Президент  
 Российской Федерации

*Vladimir Putin*  
 В.ПУТИН

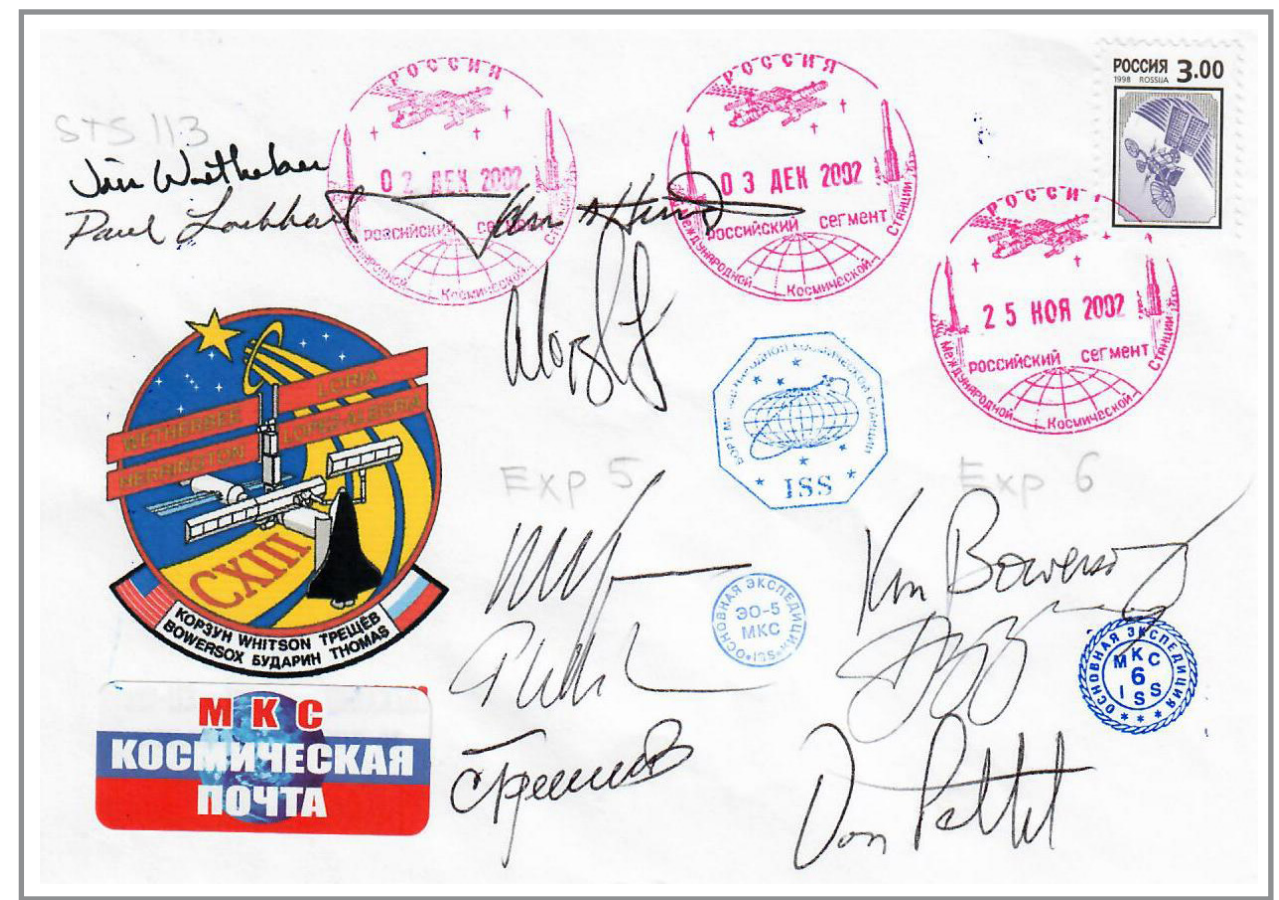
ИЮНЯ  
 РОССИИ  
 сийской Федерации  
 Юрию Ивановичу



СИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

д.46, кв.107

James Wetherbee, Paul Lockhart, Michael Lopez-Alegria, John Herrington, Kenneth Bowersox, Nikolai Budarin from Russia, and Donald Pettit were docked with Endeavour / STS-113 to the ISS from 25.11.2002 to 2.12.2002.



Cover cancelled with the STS-113 docking and undocking dates. It has been signed on board of the ISS by Expedition 5, Expedition 6 and STS-113 crews.

Valeri Korzun  
 CDR  
 Exp 5



Russian Crew Surgeon  
 A. Vasin  
 John F. Kennedy Space  
 Center  
 Kennedy Space Center, Florida  
 32899

Letter from the Crew Surgeon A. Vasin at Kennedy Space Center to Valeri Korzun. It was delivered with STS-113. Only this time the NASA Office collecting the freight canceled stamps with a date stamp. This happened on 11.11.2002.

Yuri Onufriyenko carried hand-signed congratulations from Vladimir Putin. They were the only items he stamped on the Russia Day 12.06.2002.

Aleksandr Kaleri, Pedro Duque from Spain, and Colin Michael Foale from the US docked Soyuz TMA-3 to the ISS on 20.10.2003. Duque supervised 24 experiments of Spanish and ESA researchers in the Cervantes mission. In the Matryoshka experiment, cosmic radiation was measured with cosmonaut dummies.



Soyuz TMA-3 delivered a single letter onto the ISS. It was sent from Star City to Yuri Malenchenko.

On 31.01.2004, Progress M-1-11 delivered 2,345 kg of food, air, propellant, two Orlan-M spacesuits, a replacement seal for an air-leaking Destiny window, experiments, and replacement parts.



Progress M-1-11 delivered 2 letters. This one contains New Year wishes to Michael Foale.

Steven Lindsey, Mark Kelly, Michael Fossum, Lisa Nowak, Piers Sellers, Stephanie Wilson, and the German Thomas Reiter docked with the Space Shuttle Discovery / STS-121 to the ISS on 06.07.2006.



Cover signed by STS-121 and ISS-13 crews. Half a year after her flight NASA terminated Nowak's assignment as an astronaut due to an incident of criminal misconduct.

Frederick Sturckow, Lee Archambault, Patrick Forrester, Steven Swanson, John Olivas, James Reilly, and Sunita Williams landed with Atlantis / STS-117 at Edwards Air Force Base due to violent storms in Florida.



With STS-117, Oleg Kotov sent 2 letters. The other one to Germany got lost in the Mail. The letter was posted at Houston, Albert Thomas Sta.

STS-120 crew Pamela Melroy, George Zamka, Scott Parazynski, Stephanie Wilson, Douglas Wheelock, Paolo Nespoli from Italy, and Daniel Tani delivered the Harmony connecting node. They undocked on 05.11.2007.



Yuri Malenchenko wrote 4 letters to be send to Earth with STS-120. They were posted on 17.06.2008 from Houston Nassau Bay Station. Yuri Galkin made the circular ISS-16 stamp for the crew.

Yuri Lonchakov delivered with Soyuz TMA-13, the postmark: "Post of Russia Russian Segment On Board the ISS Moscow 101000". The post office of the ISS is subordinated to the Moscow main post office.

On 18.10.2008, official covers of the Russian Space Agency Roskosmos were cancelled with the on-board postmark. Very few postal stationary items carry the on-board postmark with exactly the same setting 18.10.08 12 as the official ones.





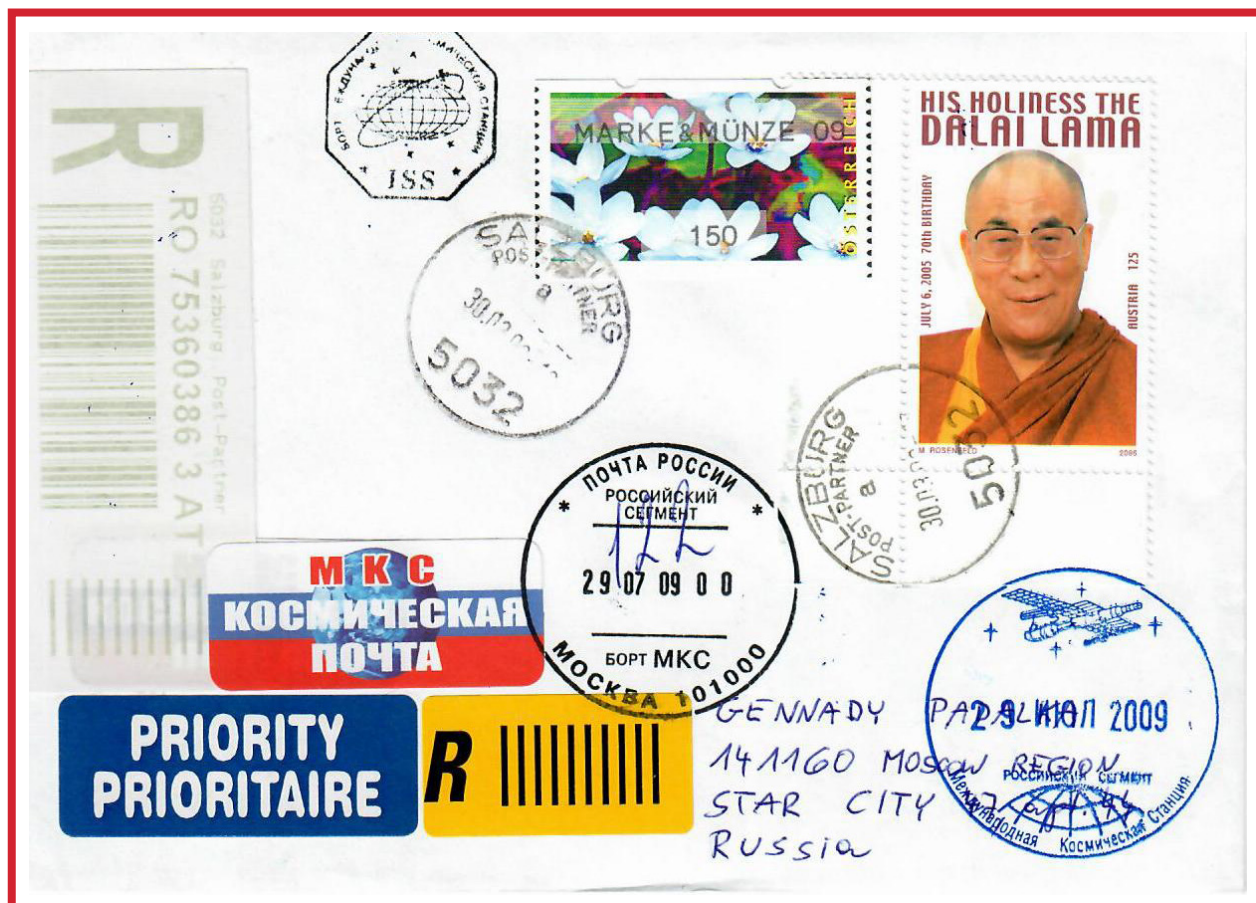
On 24.10.2008. Sergei Volkov, Oleg Kononenko, and Richard Garriott, landed with Soyuz TMA12  
87 km north of Arkalyk.



Lonchakov used the ISS postmark 23.10.08 0 0 on a single card without any message. It was delivered to Earth with Soyuz TMA-12. He addressed it to Vyatcheslav Klochko in Star City. The regular use of the postmark began upon arrival of Gennady Padalka on 28.03.2009.

On 29.07.2009, Padalka docked Progress M-67 to the ISS, delivering a 2,344 kg-freight: supplies, propellant, equipment, experiments, and replacement parts for the Russian BITS 2 data and telemetry system.

In 2005 Austrian Post prepared a 1.25 € stamp for the 70th birthday of the Dalai Lama. Upon request of China it was withdrawn. A letter with greetings from Georgi Grechko, Roman Romanenko, philately head Erich Haas and others run postally from Salzburg to Star City. It was delivered to ISS with Progress M-67.



Mark Polansky, Douglas Hurley, Christopher Cassidy, Julie Payette from Canada, Thomas Marshburn, David Wolf, and Timothy Kopra delivered the last part of Kibō with Endeavour / STS-127 on 17.07.2009.



STS-127 delivered 3 letters. The one from Dalaas, Austria is the only one which has been posted.

Alan Poindexter, James Dutton, Richard Mastracchio, Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger, Stephanie Wilson, Naoko Yamazaki (Japan), and Clayton Anderson were on board the ISS with Discovery / STS-131 from 07. to 17.04.2010.



Maksim Surayev, Jeffrey Williams, and Guy Laliberte from Canada docked Soyuz TMA-16 on 02.10.2009. Laliberte, the founder of Cirque du Soleil, broadcast the One Drop campaign.



On-board cover signed by Soyuz TMA-15 and Soyuz TMA-16 crews.



With STS-131, Oleg Kotov was allowed to send only a single letter to his wife Svetlana. It held a card addressed to Vyacheslav Klochko. To gain space for the registration labels, it was sent enclosed in a large envelope Matryoshka-style.

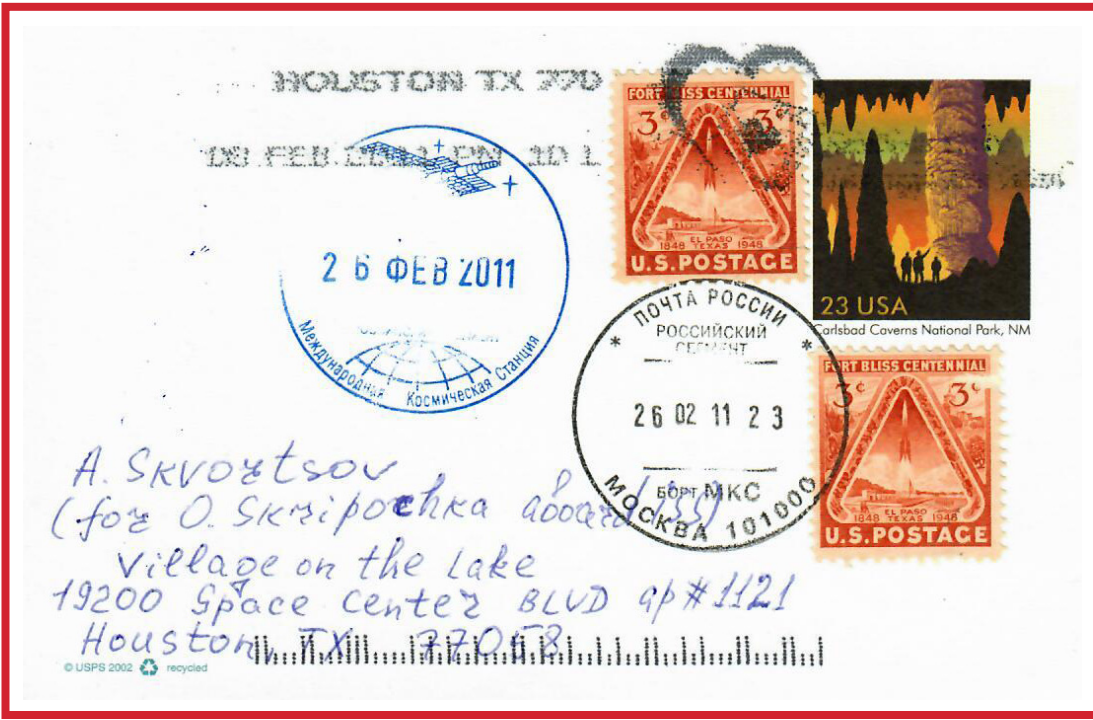
Kenneth Ham, Dominic Antonelli, Garrett Reisman, Michael Good, Stephen Bowen, and Piers Sellers were on board the ISS with Atlantis / STS-132 from 16. to 23.05.2010. They delivered the Russian Rassvet MIM-1 module which was connected to the Zarya module on 18.05.2010. It served to transport American equipment.



Card from Star Town to the ISS crew. It was delivered inside Rassvet inside the Space Shuttle Atlantis / STS-132.

Steven Lindsey, Eric Boe, Nicole Stott, Alvin Drew, Michael Barrat, and Stephen Bowen were on board the ISS with Discovery / STS-133 on her final space flight from 26.02. to 07.03.2011. They delivered the fourth Express Logistics Carrier and the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module Leonardo with the human-like robot Robonaut 2.

STS-133 delivered a single card onto the ISS. It was written by Vyatcheslav Klochko and Alexander Skvorzov. The card from a mailbox was canceled with a printer.



Aleksandr Samokutyayev, Andrei Borisenko, and Ronald Garan launched with Soyuz TMA-21 on 5.04.2011. 2 days later they docked with the ISS. The spaceship was named after Yuri Gagarin.



Soyuz TMA-21 cover signed by Soyuz TMA-20, TMA-21, TMA-02M, STS-134, and STS-135 crews. On board of the ISS the STS-135 crew signed 2 covers for each cosmonaut. Thus 2 such covers exist.



Honoring the 50th anniversary of the first manned spaceflight the Russian Post and Roskosmos sent a special postmark to the ISS. It was used only on 60 official covers each for Soyuz TMA-M and TMA-20. One of each stayed on board for 7 years. All other stamps on this cover were added before the Soyuz MS-05 landing.

Mark Kelly, Gregory Johnson, Michael Fincke, Roberto Vittori from Italy, Andrew Feustel, and Gregory Chamitoff were on board the ISS with Endeavour on its final space mission STS-134 from 18. to 30.05.2011.



STS-134 delivered 2 cards for the ISS-27 cosmonauts on board the ISS.

STS-134 delivered the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer which researches cosmic radiation till the end of the ISS.

With STS-134 the ISS-27 cosmonauts sent 26 letters to Earth. They were confiscated in the Houston Astronaut Office. In February 2012, they were released and then, on 09.02.2012, posted as registered mail. Shown is a letter from Aleksandr Samokutyayev to the PR China.



Atlantis, which stood ready for emergencies during STS-134, was launched as the last Space Shuttle mission STS-135. If necessary, the four astronauts would have returned to Earth on board Soyuz capsules. Christopher Ferguson, Douglas Hurley, Sandra Magnus, and Rex Walheim connected to the ISS on 10.07.2011.



STS-135 delivered 3 letters with the Space Shuttle special postmark from Graz and 2 cards from Star City onto the ISS.

Atlantis was the last Space Shuttle to leave the ISS on 19.07.2011.

STS-135 cover signed by Soyuz TMA-21, TMA-02M, and STS-135 crews. On board of the ISS the STS-135 crew signed 2 covers for each cosmonaut. Thus 2 such covers with Russian stamp exist.



On 22.05.2012, Dragon C2 was launched on a Falcon-9 v1.0 rocket from Cape Canaveral. The spacecraft, manufactured by Elon Musk's SpaceX, docked to the ISS on 25.05.2012. Although the mission was planned as a test flight with no payload, it nevertheless delivered 460 kg of cargo to the station and returned 660 kg.

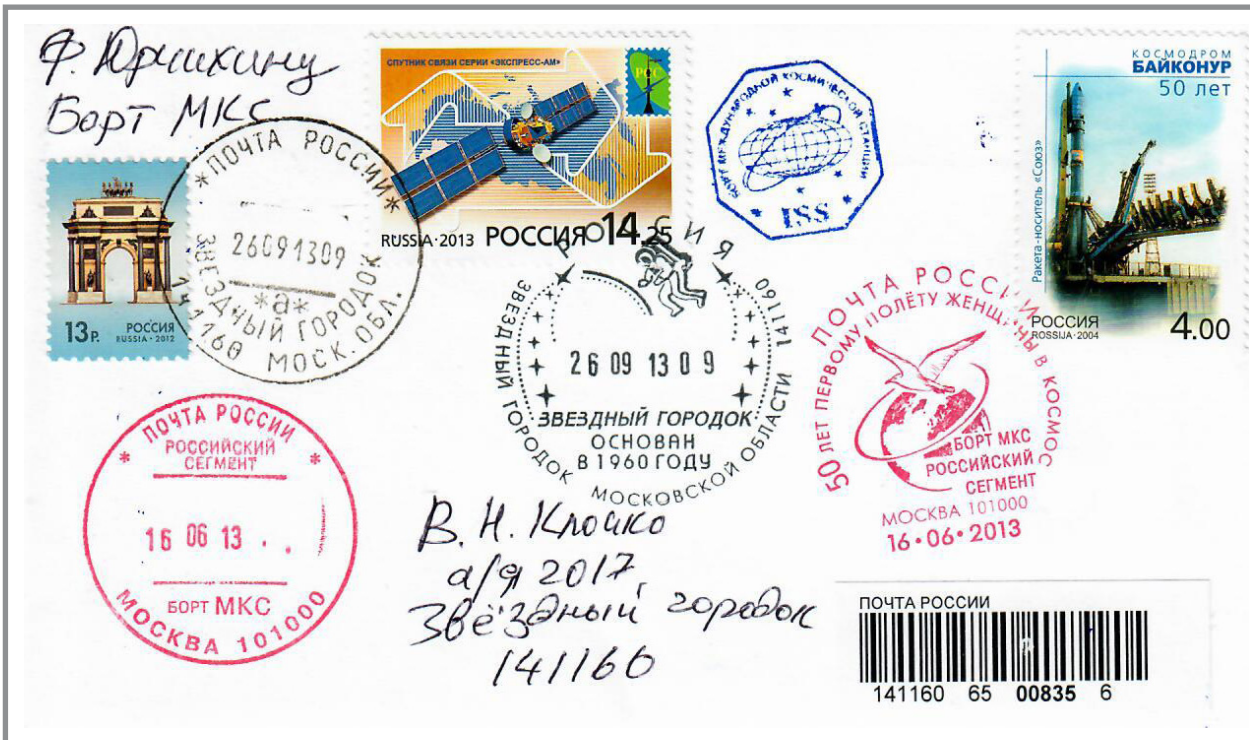


Dragon C2 delivered a single card onto the ISS.

On 17.05.2012 Gennady Padalka delivered with Soyuz TMA-04M a letter from Apollo 16 astronaut Charlie Duke. The block shows Duke on the Moon and has a second unperforated hologram stamp. Both were postmarked in New Braunfels on 4.01.2012.



16.06.2013 marked the 50th anniversary of Valentina Tereshkova's launch into space. On this occasion, the Russian Post sent a special on-board postmark to the ISS.



Letter with red special postmark delivered to Earth by Soyuz TMA-08M. Soyuz TMA-09M commander Fyodor Yurchikhin, who stayed on board of the ISS, sent 16 letters including 6 with red postmark.

On 18.03.2015 the 50th anniversary of Alexey Leonov's first ever space walk was celebrated without special postmark on board the ISS.

This letter from Anton Shkaplerov to Alexey Leonov was taken to Earth with Soyuz TMA-15M. It was signed by Alexey Leonov.





Gennadi Padalka, Mikhail Korniyenko, and Scott Kelly docked to the ISS on 28.03.2015. Korniyenko and Kelly stayed aboard the ISS for almost a year. Padalka set a record with a total of 878 days in space.



*Soyuz TMA-16M delivered the first official space mail from Liechtenstein to the ISS. The personalized stamp depicting ISS was only available on the 391 flown covers.*

Dragon CRS-6 was launched on a Falcon-9 v1.1 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on 14.04.2015. On 15.04.2015, Samantha Cristoforetti captured Dragon with the 17.6 m long robotic arm from the Cupola and berthed it to Harmony. The vessel delivered 1,950 kg including an espresso machine and 16 Cube satellites.



*Dragon CRS-6 delivered 2 letters onto ISS. Both are aerograms.*

On 5.07.2015 Progress M-28M delivered a 2,381-kg payload which included 520 kg of propellant, 420 kg of water, 48 kg of oxygen, and 1,393 kg of replacement parts, supply goods and material for experiments.



*This Letter with special postmark from Wien honoring the first space walk by Alexey Leonov was dispatched onto the ISS with Progress M-28M. It was signed by Alexey Leonov.*

With Progress M-28M, the Russian Post sent a special postmark to the ISS, in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Apollo-Soyuz. It was brought back to Earth with Soyuz TMA-16M.



*Gennadi Padalka brought this letter with special postmark honoring the 40th Anniversary of Apollo-Soyuz with Soyuz TMA-16M to Earth on 12.09.2015. On 18.9.2015 it was dispatched from Star Town post office*

2015 marked the 175th anniversary of the issue of the Earth's very first postage stamps. During Korniyenko's stay, two Britons, the singer Sarah Brightman and the first British ESA astronaut Tim Peake, were to come to the ISS. On this occasion, the cosmonaut delivered a few historical letters onto the ISS. Blue is the color that represents space. Each ISS crew consisted of six people.



On 8.07.1840 this 7th step letter was posted from Easingwold to a bank in Knaresbro in Yorkshire. A strip of 6 Two Penny Blue stamps plate 1 covers the rate of 1 s for 5 to 6 oz; lettered TA to TF with red Maltese Cross. The back bears a 15.12.2015 ISS postmark.

Dragon CRS-9 set off on a Falcon-9 Full Thrust rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on 18.07.2016. On 20.07.2016, Jeffrey Williams captured the CRS-9 with the Canadarm2 robotic arm and berthed it to the Harmony module. Part of the cargo spacecraft's 2,257-kg payload was the International Docking Adapter.

Dragon CRS-9 delivered 3 letters onto ISS. They are Air Mail cards.

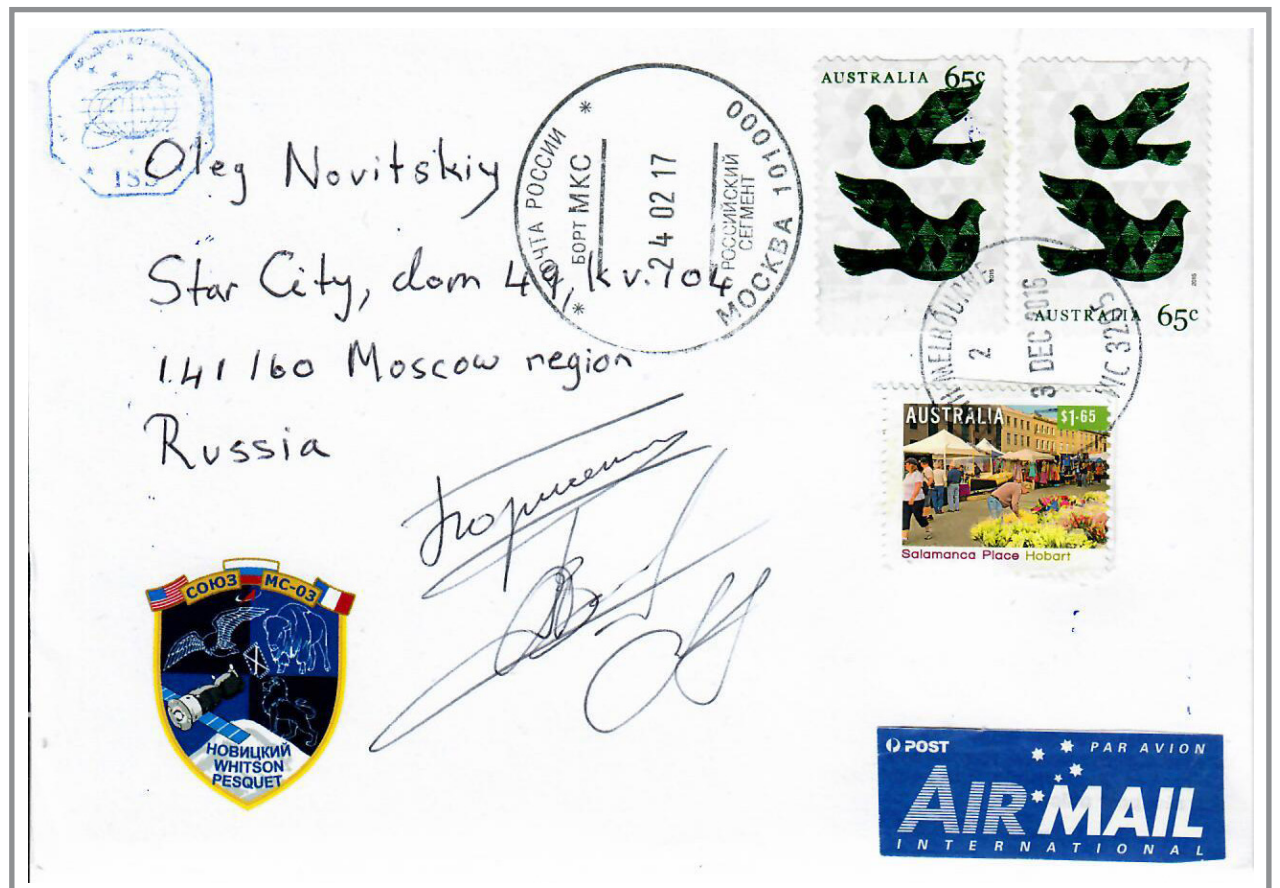


Progress MS-05, laden with 2,450 kg of supplies, linked up with the ISS on 24.02.2017.

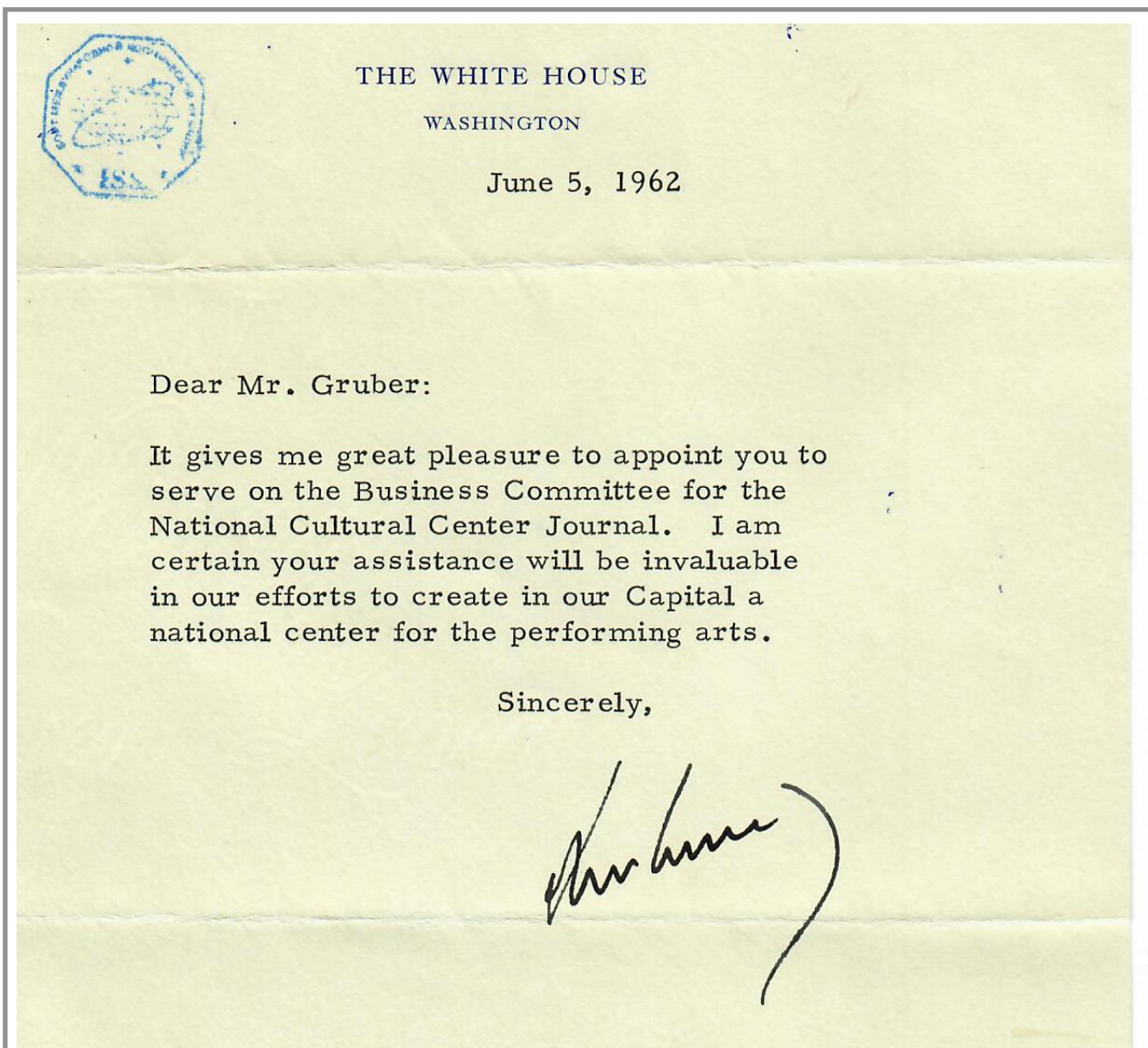


Progress MS-05 delivered 7 letters to Oleg Novitskiy, including one franked with an imperforate Austrian 2006 block „Post from another world“ which contains meteorite dust.

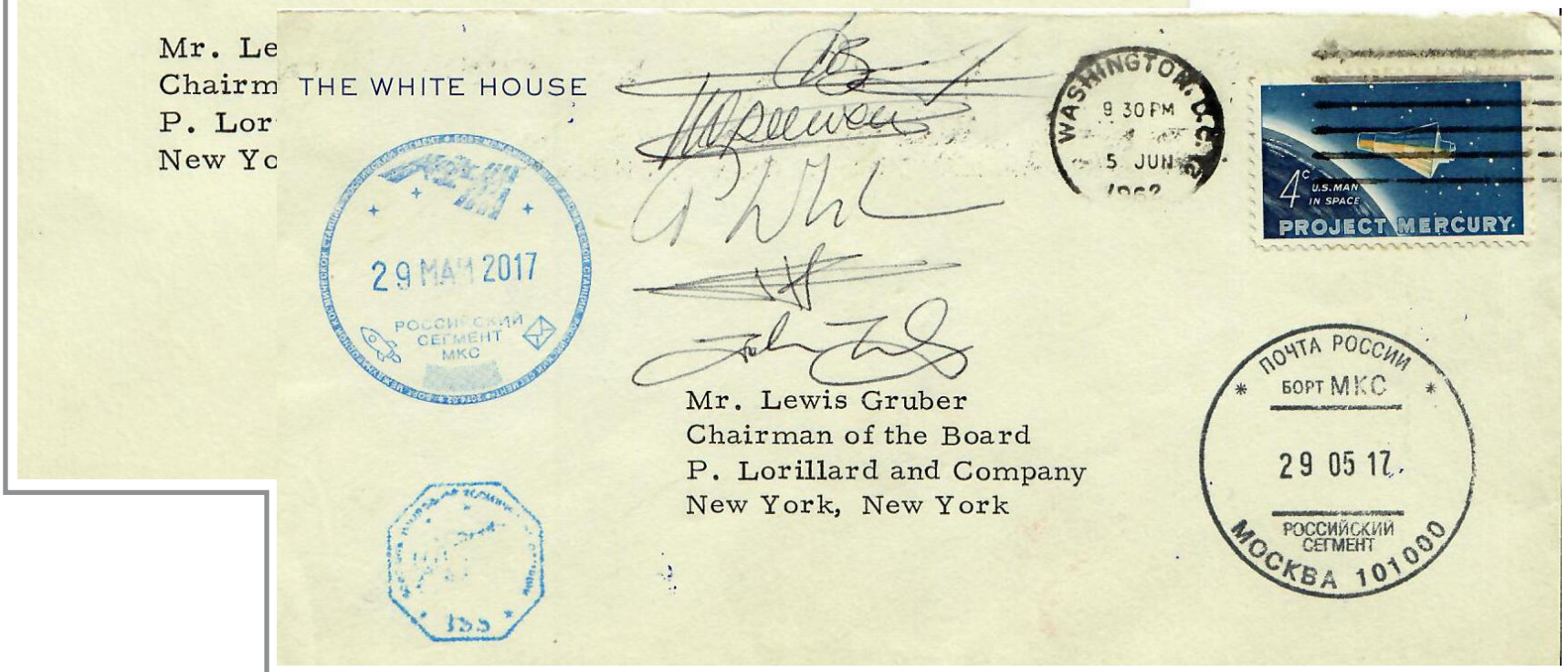
An uncanceled 65 C 2015 Christmas stamp with shift was found in kiloware. The third stamp also has been reused after escaping cancellation.



John F. Kennedy was born on 29.5.1917 in Brookline, Massachusetts and murdered on 22.11.1963 in Dallas, Texas. On 25.05.1961 the 35th President of the United States said „this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth.“



*A single letter was postmarked on board of the ISS on Kennedy's 100th birthday. It bears the signature of the President. The cover is signed by the ISS-51 crew Oleg Novitsky, Thomas Pesquet, Peggy Whitson, Fyodor Yurchikhin, and Jack Fischer.*



Mr. Lewis Gruber  
Chairman of the Board  
P. Lorillard and Company  
New York, New York

THE WHITE HOUSE



*Handwritten signatures and scribbles, including a large signature that appears to be 'John F. Kennedy'.*

Mr. Lewis Gruber  
Chairman of the Board  
P. Lorillard and Company  
New York, New York





The first official Isle of Man space mail was carried with Soyuz MS-8. 250 middle stamps were printed. Their nominal reads „Postage paid to International Space Station“. This means 3.99 IMP as all 3 stamps together cover the postage of 6.00 IMP for a registered letter to Russia.

Letter from Oleg Artemiev's wife Anna Malikhova to her husband on board ISS. It was delivered with Dragon CRS-14.



On 11.10.2018 Aleksei Ovchinin and Tyler Hague launched with Soyuz MS-10. A side block of the Soyuz rocket collided with the central core when the first stage separated. The astronauts reached 90.3 km height. The upper sphere serves as a life compartment during longer flights. From 50 km it hit the ground unbraked.



Roskosmos and the Russian Post flew 60 covers with Soyuz MS-10. Ovchinin confirmed by hand that they were on board Soyuz MS-10.

Aleksey Ovchinin and Nicklaus Hague soon got another chance to fly. Together with Christina Koch they docked with Soyuz MS-12 to the ISS on 15.03.2019. On 03.10.2019 they landed 146 km southeast of Dzheskasgan.

Letter from Ovchinin to his wife Svetlana. The cover first time flew with Soyuz MS-10.

Stamped at the Soyuz MS-12 docking. It is signed by ISS-59 to 61 crews Oleg Kononenko, David Saint-Jacques, Anne McClain, Aleksey Ovchinin, Nicklaus Hague, Christina Koch, Alexander Skvortsov, Luca Parmitano, Andrew Morgan, Oleg Skripochka, Jessica Meir and Hazzaa Al Mansoori.

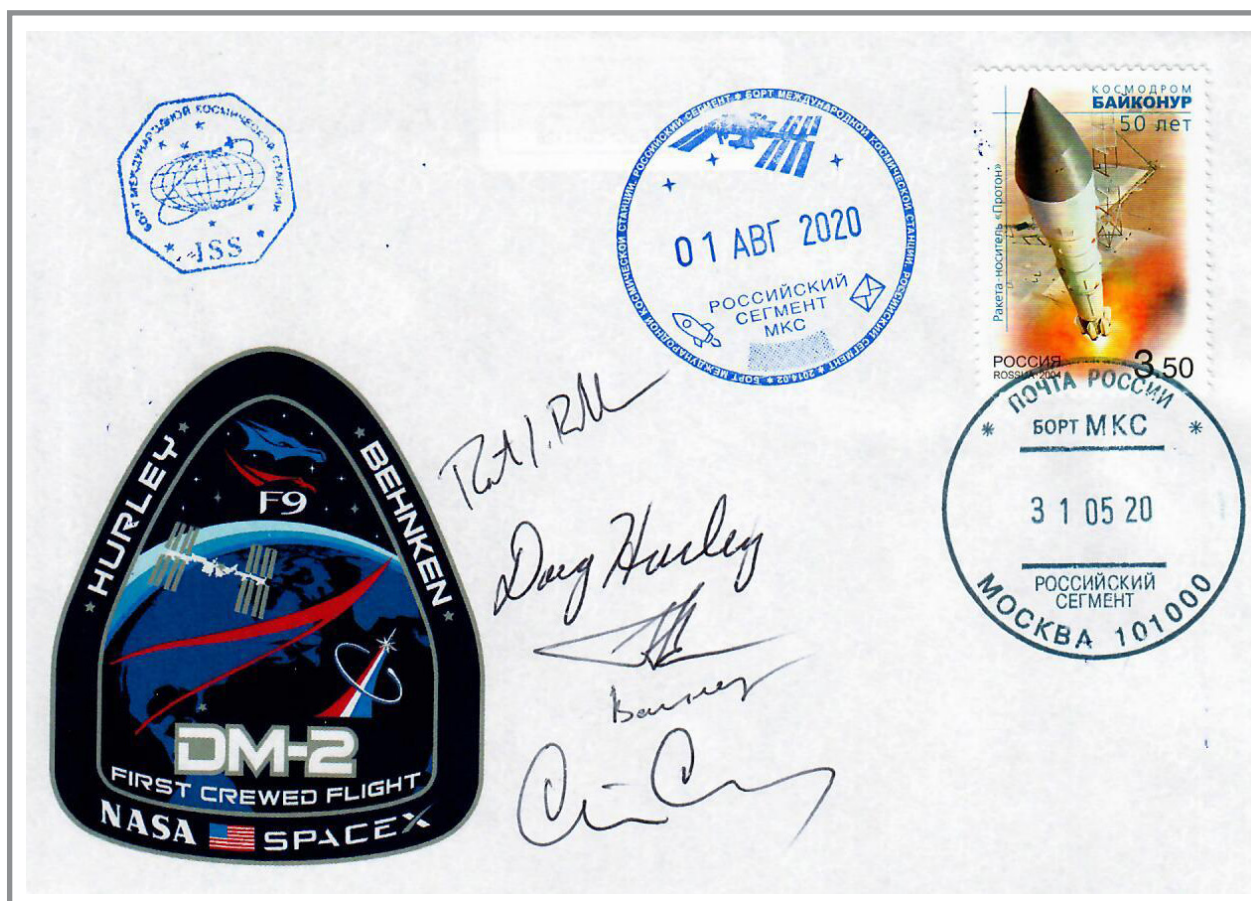


Following an only six-hours solo flight Aleksandr Skvortsov, Luca Parmitano and Andrew Morgan docked with Soyuz MS-13 to the ISS on July 20, 2019.



Letter with the large prince's hat celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Principality of Liechtenstein with an edition of 2019 copies. It was posted from the Castle Vaduz on 5.06.2019 and delivered to ISS on 21.07.2019.

8 years after the latest manned US space flight STS-135, Douglas Hurley and Robert Behnken launched with Crew Dragon Demo-2 on 30.05.2020. The next day they docked onto ISS. Hurley and Behnken spent over 100 hours completing science experiments. Behnken completed 4 spacewalks with Chris Cassidy.



Crew Dragon Demo-2 cover signed by Douglas Hurley and Robert Behnken as well as Soyuz MS-16 crew Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner and Chris Cassidy.



After 62 days Crew Dragon Demo-2 „Endeavour“ undocked from ISS. A maximum of 4 g was experienced by Dragon capsule and their crew. Endeavour splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico.



Letter sent to Earth by Anatoly Ivanishin with Crew Dragon Demo-2. It was posted from Nassau Bay post office, Houston on 23.09.2020.

With Soyuz MS-17 Oleg Novitsky, Pyotr Dubrov and Mark T. Vande Hei were the first to reach the ISS in an ultrafast two-orbit rendezvous flight plan three hours after launch on 14.10.2020.

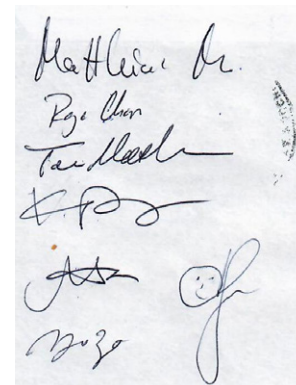


Letter with a 500 € Austrian Unicorn Crypto stamp. It was posted on the first day of issue from Steyr-Gleink. Covering a writing and a 1 g gold bar from Austrian mint it arrived onto ISS with Souz MS-17.



Анатолий Иванович  
До востребования  
Звёздный городок  
141160 Московская обл.  
Anatoly Ivanishin  
Russia

Anton Shkaplerov, actress Yulia Peresild and her film director Klim Shipenko flew to ISS with Soyuz MS-19. Till 17.10.2021 the Russian Segment became a film studio for shooting 35 minutes of „Вызов“ (The Challenge).



Cover with on board postmark of Soyuz MS-19 docking. It was signed in space by 20 astronauts forming Dragon Crew-2 and Crew-3 as well as Soyuz-18, 19, 20 and 21 crews.

Shane Kimbrough, Megan McArthur, Akihiko Hoshide, and Thomas Pesquet launched with Dragon Crew-2 on 23.04.2021. The capsule was already used as Crew Dragon Demo-2, the Falcon 9 booster as SpaceX Crew-1. Splashing down on 9.11.2021, this was the longest spaceflight by a US crewed spacecraft, 199 days.

Letter from Anton Shkaplerov delivered to Earth with Crew-2.

Shane Kimbrough, Megan McArthur, Akihiko Hoshide, Thomas Pesquet, Anton Shkaplerov, Pyotr Dubrov, and Mark Vande Hei signed on the back.



Alexander Misurkin, Yusaku Maezawa, and Yozo Hirano were on board ISS from 8. to 19.12.2021.  
The Japanese billionaire Maezawa hired SpaceX to fly him and companions around the Moon.



Letter from Anton Shkaplerov delivered to Earth with Soyuz MS-20. It was signed in space by Soyuz MS-20 crew, SpaceX Crew-3 Raja Chari, Tom Marshburn, Matthias Maurer, and Kayla Barron as well as Anton Shkaplerov, Pyotr Dubrov, and Mark Vande Hei.



On 17.02.2022 Progress M-19 delivered 1,632 kg dry cargo, 431 kg fuel, 40 kg oxygen, and 420 kg water.

Special postmark from Wien signed by Soyuz MS-19 crew, back-up crew Oleg Artemiev, Aleksei Dudin and Alena Mordovina as well as Pyotr Dubrov, Mark Vande Hei, Tom Marshburn, Matthias Maurer, and Kayla Barron.



До востребования  
Звёздный городок  
141160 Московская обл.  
Антону Шкаплерову  
Russland

Axiom 1 crew Michael López-Alegría, Larry Connor, Mark Pathy from Canada, and Eytan Stibbe from Israel stayed on board from 9. to 25.04.2022. They worked through a very ambitious program for space tourists.



Ax-1 cover with on-board postmark of the docking day as well as on board cancellations of docking and undocking dates. It is signed by Axiom 1, SpaceX Crew-4 and Soyuz MS-21 crews as well as Anton Shkaplerov.

The Dragon Crew-4 Kjell Lindgren, Robert Hines, Samantha Cristoforetti from Italy, and Jessica Watkins was launched and docked to ISS on 28.04.2022. The mission lasted 170 days. ESA accomplished Minerva.

Dragon Crew-4 cover with on-board postmark of the docking day 28.04.2022. It is signed by SpaceX Crew-4 and Soyuz MS-21 crews. The later consists of Oleg Artemiev, Sergei Korsakov, and Denis Matveyev.



# Chinese Space Mail

FSW-2-2, the 16th Recoverable Satellite surrounded the Earth from 03. to 18.07.1994. Main task was photographing the Earth.



M. P. O

JF19(2-2)

940104 7 3 2 7 5 0

Y  
SATELLITE  
4年5月20日  
回式衛星回  
7月18日在北

108 of 2,846 covers flown were issued by the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center Military Post Office.

Who signed below, hereby certifies that: the No. ~~D1~~ <sup>940104</sup> special cover was put into cabin of the sixteenth Chinese recoverable satellite at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center On 1994. 5. 20., after a voyage in space, it was taken from the recovered cabin at Beijing when the cabin was unsealed on 1994. 7. 18.

江丁民愛空

發射裝封現場公證人簽章  
Signature & seal notary  
in charge of put—in  
日期 (Date)

開艙取封現場公證人簽章  
Signature & seal notary  
in charge of take—out  
日期 (Date)



發射場發射日郵政日戳  
Postmark of launch  
site on launch day



著陸場著陸日郵政日戳  
Postmark of landing  
site on landing day

FSW-3-2, the 19th Recoverable Satellite was launched from JSLC on 29.08.09.2004. It landed with 150 kg payload near Suining in Sichuan Province on 24.09.2004.



6 of 261 covers flown were issued by the BITTT. All covers bear the Jiuquan special postmark dated 10.08.2004 and the postmark Beijing – China's Aerospace City dated 25.09.2004 on the reverse.

The 21st Recoverable Satellite was launched on an Long March 2 C-III with payload fairing from JSLC on 02.08.2005. FSW-3-4 landed on 28.08.2005 near Suining-He Chi.

9 organizations sent philatelic 739 items in 21 varieties with FSW 3-4 including 95 covers of the JSLC Military Post Office.



The Chinese manned spaceship Shenzhou-1 (divine ship) performed 4 orbits a trial flight on 19.11.1999.



*On board cover of the Beijing Institute of Tracking and Telecommunications Technology BITTT. All flown covers bear the notary's dry seal.*

Shenzhou-2 was launched on an LM-2 F from Jiuquan on 09.01.2001. After 108 orbits, it landed in Inner Mongolia. A bracket of the parachute broke, and the capsule bore into the ground unbraked.

*Cover Nr. 287 of the China Institute of Space Medico-Engineering CISME. Nr. 1 to 2,000 were inside the capsule.*



Shenzhou-2 had a second pair of solar panels and carried with a monkey, a dog and a rabbit, and several radiation detectors.



*Cover Nr. 89 of 300 flown by BITTT. Most of the notary's cellophane ribbons were damaged. Therefore the covers lack the notary's dry seal and the notarial certificate.*

Shenzhou-2 flew 64 scientific experiments, including 19 biological experiments and radiation detectors. The capsule performed three active maneuvers.

*Unflown cover Nr. 432 with additional red „not flown“ stamp. Like flown covers it was postmarked in Beijing Xibeiwang on the day the covers were loaded in the capsule.*





On 25.03.2002, Shenzhou-3 was launched on top a LM-2 F with an escape tower. A life-size doll tested the life-support system. After 108 orbits, Shenzhou-3 landed in Inner Mongolia.



Cover of CISME with the Jiuquan special postmark dated 20.03.2002 and on the back the Beijing - Haidian Xibeiwang 1 postmark dated 04.04.2002. It is signed by all 14 taikonauts.

Shenzhou-4 simulated a manned flight in space from 29.12.2002 to 05.01.2003. After 14 orbits landing near Hohhot in Inner Mongolia.

Cover of CISME with the Jiuquan special postmark dated 29.11.2002 and on the back the Beijing - China's Aerospace City postmark dated 08.01.2003. It is signed by all 14 taikonauts.



On 15.10.2003 the first Chinese taikonaut Yang Liwei launched in Shenzhou-5 from Jiuquan Launch Center. The 200 × 343 km orbit was boosted to a 343 km circular orbit.



Cover of CISME with the Jiuquan special postmark dated 06.09.2003 and on the back the China's Aerospace City postmark dated 18.10.2003. It is signed by all 14 taikonauts. 4,307 philatelic items were flown including 201 such covers.

After 14 orbits in 21 hours the capsule touched down on the grassland of Dorbod Xi in Inner Mongolia, only 4.8 km away from the planned landing site.

Silk cover of the China Manned Space Engineering Office CMSE. Most of the 2,000 silk covers were distributed among dignitaries.



中国载人航天工程办公室  
01863 邮政编码

杨利伟

太空飞行封条

此封条经中华人民共和国北京市公证处用透明胶带纸粘贴在中国航天医学工程研究所发行的纪念封包装袋上,并于2003年9月6日在中国酒泉卫星发射中心,将这种贴有封条的包装袋密封装入神舟五号载人飞船返回舱内。

2003年10月15日9时至10月16日6时23分,此封条随同神舟五号载人飞船环绕地球飞行14圈,太空飞行21小时23分。

SPACE FLOWN SEAL

This seal is stuck by Beijing Notary Public Office The People's Republic of China with transparent tape on the package of the commemorative cover issued by China Space Medico Engineering Research Institute. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003, at China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, this kind of packages sealed up with seal strip were loaded in the return cabin of Shenzhou-5 manned spacecraft.

From nine o'clock on October 15<sup>th</sup> to six twenty-three on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003, this seal followed Shenzhou-5 manned spacecraft flying around the earth for 14 circles. The time of flying was 21 hours and 23 minutes.

邮政包裹包装袋

谢京昆

100094



收件人地址: 中国北京航天城1号信箱

收件人姓名: 张建明 收

寄件人地址姓名: 中国酒泉卫星发射中心 王东烁 收

京司证01007号证据保全专用章  
公证人员: 谢京昆  
保全日期: 2003年9月6日

邮编: 732750

北京邮政管理局监制

7号

On loading into the capsule, a notary marks the cover bunches with cellophane ribbons. They are transported in postbags. After landing, the notary checks the integrity of the ribbons and uses his embossed seal to confirm the transport on the cover. Finally he issues a multi-page certificate with a picture of the flown item.

中华人民共和国北京公证处  
京司证01007号证据保全专用章  
2003年9月6日  
保全日期

On 12.10.2005, Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng launched with Shenzhou-6 from Jiuquan. Chicken eggs and silkworms were kept in a small laboratory.



4,699 philatelic items were carried including 77 covers of JSLC Military Post Office.

The Shenzhou-6 return capsule landed on the grassland of Dorbod Xi in Inner Mongolia on 17.10.2005.

16 covers with an illustration by Detlev van Ravenswaay were delivered to their addressees on board of the ISS with Soyuz TMA-8 on 1.04.2008. Signed by Shenzhou-6 crew and both back-up crews.



RUSSIA 寄俄罗斯  
141160 Moskovskoi oblasti  
Zvezdny gorodok  
Crew onboard ISS

On 25.09.2008, 3 taikonauts launched from JSC. Two days later Zhai Zhigang, wearing a Feitian spacesuit, was the first Chinese to exit into open space for 22 minutes. Liu Boming supported him in the orbital module. Ling Haipeng stayed in the pressurized Re-Entry Module.



BITTT issued 78 covers. One of the part that was signed by Shenzhou-7 crew.

After 45 orbits, the Shenzhou-7 capsule landed in the Inner Mongolian steppe in the Siziwang area on 28.09.2008.

Shenzhou-7 carried 3,618 philatelic items including 20 covers of JSLC Military Post Office.



On 29.09.2011, China launched its first space station Tiangong-1 (= heavenly palace) on an LM-2 F from Jiuquan.



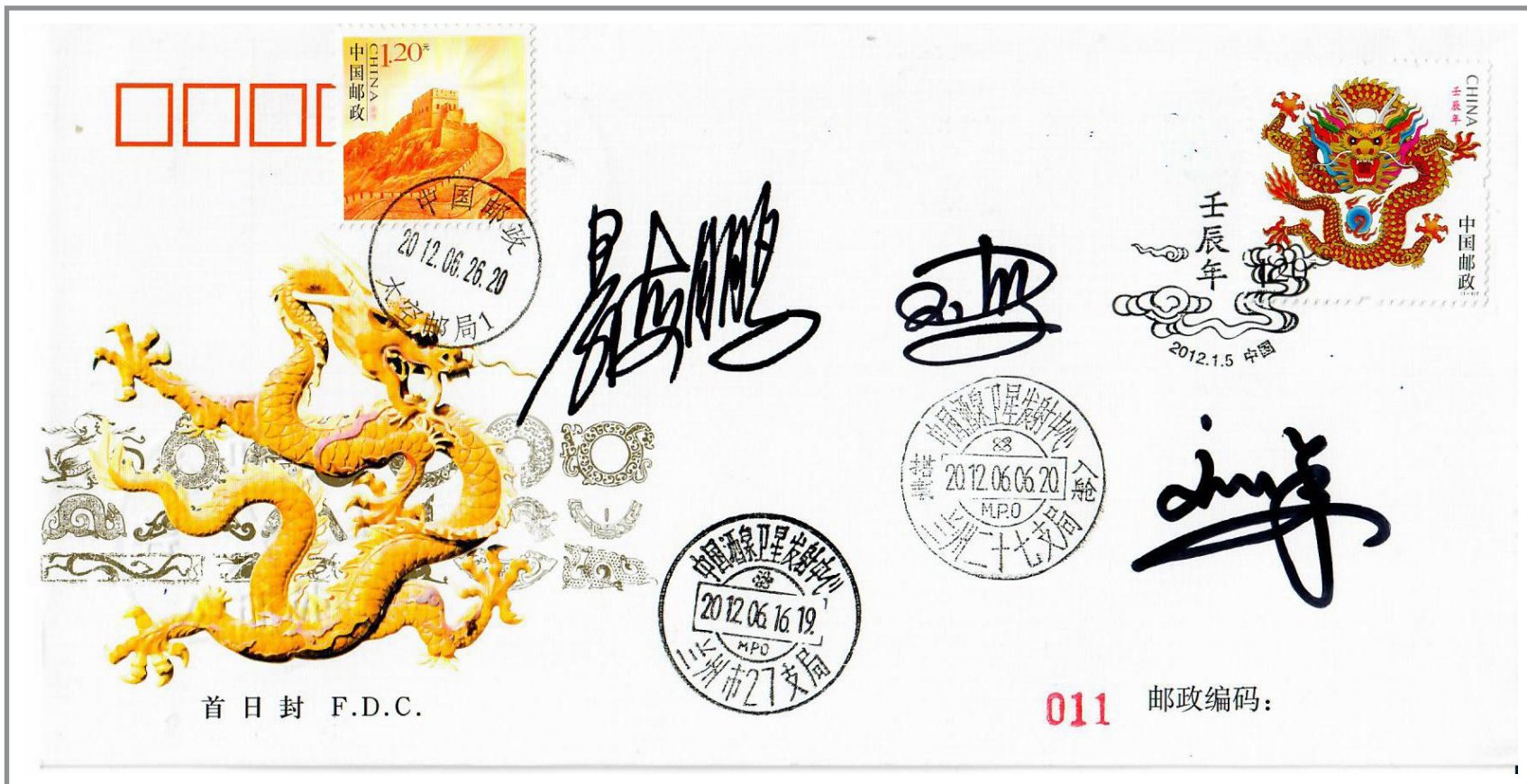
Among 14,940 philatelic items carried by Tiangong-1 were 50 covers of BITTT. They landed with Shenzhou-10.

Unmanned Shenzhou-8 lifted off 01.11.2001 and docked to Tiangong-1 on 04.11.2011. On 03.11.2011, China's first post office in space opened its doors. Yang Liwei was appointed Honorary Postmaster.

Cover of BITTT. The space post office in Beijing Aerospace City is located near the BACC Mission Control Center and has the postal code 901001. The postmark has the distinguishing number 1 for flown covers.



Ling Haipeng, the first female taikonaut Liu Yang and Liu Wang launched with Shenzhou-9 on 16.06.2012.



CAST cover signed by the crew. As already with Shenzhou-8, both launch and landing are indicated by backdated Jiuquan and Siziwang Qi postmarks. Additionally Beijing, China's Aerospace City 1 01.07.2012.

Nie Haisheng, Zhang Xiaoguang, and Wang Yaping set off with a CZ-2F/G from Jiuquan on 11.06.2013.



Among 5,620 philatelic pieces delivered to into space by Shenzhou-10 were 19 crew signed FDCs by BITTT.

Nie Haisheng was mission commander. Pilot Zhang Xiaoguang was in charge of rendezvous and docking.  
Wang Yaping conducted the scientific experiments and taught a physics lesson by TV.



One of 62  
Shenzhou-11 covers  
issued by BITTT.

Chang'e 5-T1 was launched on a Long March 3 rocket from Xichang Cosmodrome on 23.10.2014.  
Equipped with cameras and carrying biological samples, the probe flew around the Moon and  
landed in Siziwang, Inner Mongolia on 31.10.2014.

With Chang'e 5-T1,  
686 philatelic items  
flew around the  
Moon including 10  
covers from BITTT.





On 26.06.2017, the first CZ-7 rocket was launched from the new Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the south of China. It can transport up to 13.5 t and will bring Tianzhou cargo spacecraft to Tiangong stations.



Flown cover signed by Lin Da An, the designer of the postmark „Space Mail loaded in the capsule, Wenchang Space Post Office 1“ and by Liu De Liang, the Wenchang postmaster.

The Duoyongtu Feichuan Fanhui Cang capsule, a full-scale Tianzhou model, landed on 26.06.2017.

Cover issued by the Space Post Office of China Post.



On 15.09.2016 the space station Tiangong-2 was launched on a Long March 2FT2 rocket from Jiuquan.



Cover issued by the JSLC Military Post Office.

The Shenzhou-11 crew Jing Haipeng and Chen Dong worked on board Tiangong-2 from 18.10. to 17.11.2016.



Cover issued by the JSLC Military Post Office signed by the Shenzhou-11 crew.

On 5.05.2020 a new reusable spacecraft was tested with a LM-5B rocket from Wenchang SLC. It should be able to carry 6 astronauts into Earth orbit as well as to the Moon and beyond.



The Zhong-Lian-Guo-Xing Calligraphy & Painting Company Ltd. sent 10 series of two covers on the the first flight of the new reusable spacecraft. They notary's dry seal proves that they were flown.