

# **ASTROPHILATELY COMMISSION**

**CHINA 2019**

**FIP Qualifying Seminar**

**Astrophilatelic Basics**

**Appropriate Philatelic Material**

**Judging Astrophilately**

**Guideline Changes**

**Charles Bromser - Astrophilately Commission Chairperson**

# Astrophilatelic Basics

## Definition

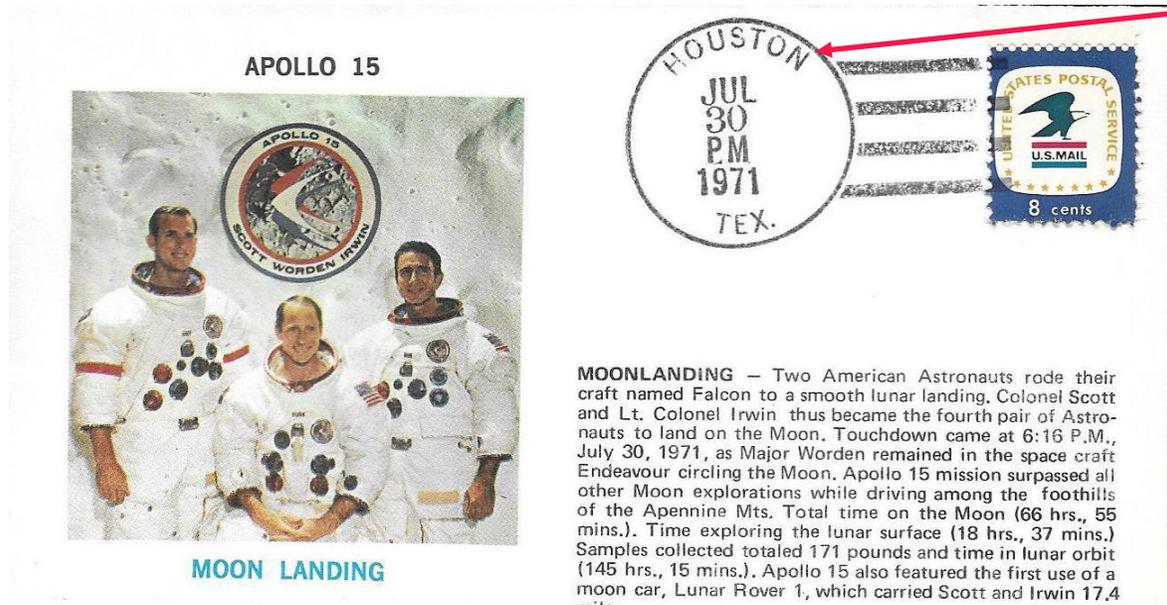
Astrophilately is a philatelic study of:

- space flights and space-related events and
- illustrates historical, scientific and technical progress achieved in the exploration of space

**Postmarks are the most important element of each astrophilatelic cover**

# Astrophilatelic Basics

## Cancellation from the Correct Location

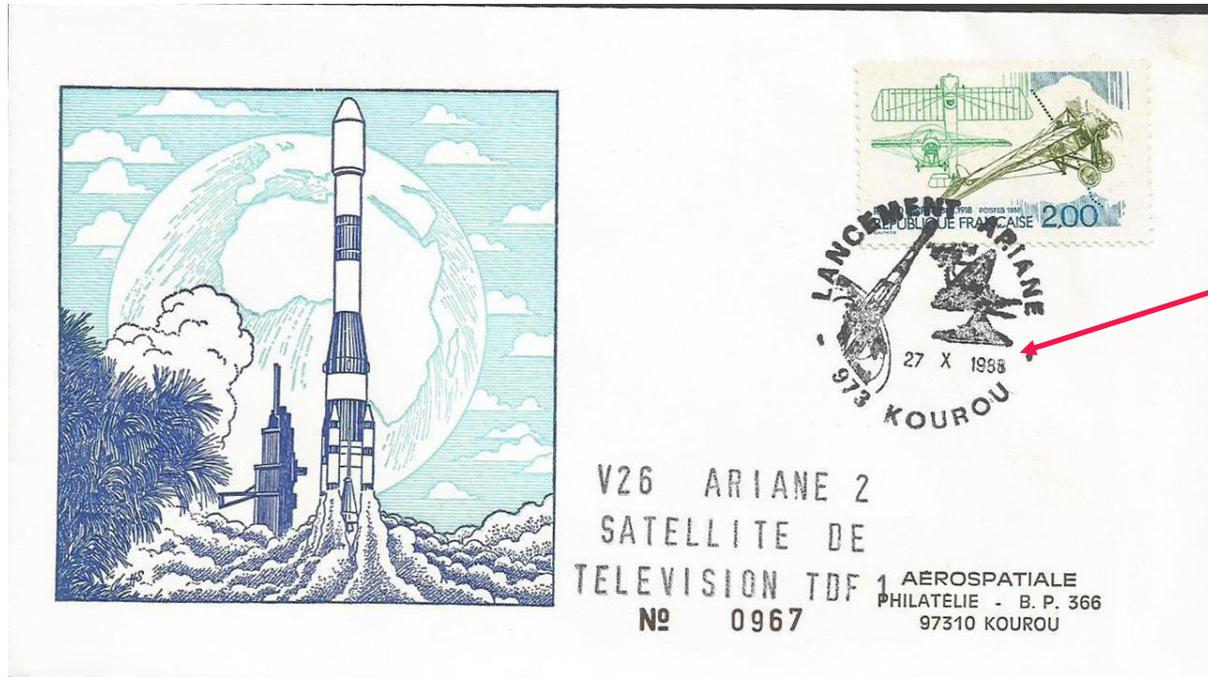


Apollo 15 Moon landing - **Houston, TX** – 30 July 1971

- Post office **nearest** to event
- Prime **recovery ship** - sea landing
- Close to Mission Control Centre or on-board for events **in space**
- **Supporting facilities** - tracking stations, support aircraft, etc
- Cancellations from other locations not suitable

# Astrophilatelic Basics

## Cancellation must have Correct Date



- The **exact date**
- When post office is closed the postmark of the **next working day** is acceptable

Arian V26 launch - Kourou – 27 October 1988

# Astrophilatelic Basics

The **write up** should cover:

- Dates, location, purpose of event
- Key aspects of technical data
- Special activities on board
- Extra-vehicular activities (EVAs)
- Payloads, and scientific experiments



# Appropriate Material

## Philatelic Items in Astrophilately

Most philatelic items can be shown in Astro:

Event Covers

Space Mail

Postal Stationery

Telegrams

Military Post

Maritime Mail

Rocket Mail

Stratosphere Mail

Letters to & from Space

Propaganda Leaflets

Electronic Mail

Stamps

# Appropriate Material

## Postal-Astrophilatelic material

Covers must be postal with stamps, postmarks, on-board postmarks, labels and markings showing special treatment

Items such as stamps, vignettes, artist's drawings, essays, proofs, colour trials, printing errors can be used sparingly



STS -135 - Houston, TX – 12 July 2011



Piccard record -Stratosphere balloon  
18 August 1932

# Appropriate Material

## Rocket Flown Astrophilatelic material

Philatelic items with an on-board cachets or authenticating signatures to provide evidence of being in a rocket or spacecraft



Stamp cancelled on the ISS with Energia non-postal cancel  
No official postal postmark on the stamp

On-board cachet

Authenticating signatures

ISS Expedition 5 - 1 November 2002 – On-board cachet

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers

Launch, docking, undocking, EVA, landing, launch aborts, test launches, launch failures

### Cancellations:

- Post office nearby launch or landing with exact date of event
- Close to Mission Control Centre or on-board post office for EVAs
- Vicinity of mission control centre or crash area where spacecraft burned up or crashed

**Special cancellations** only if no event cancellation exists

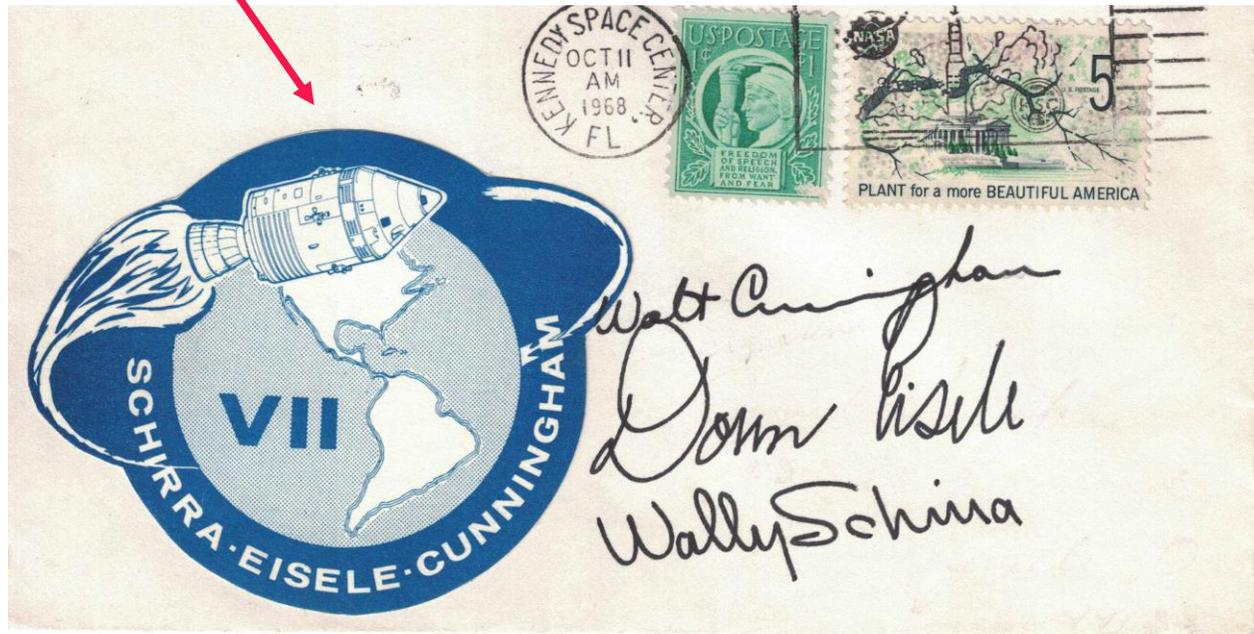
**Anniversary cancellations** are not suitable

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Launch

KSC cachet

KSC Postmark

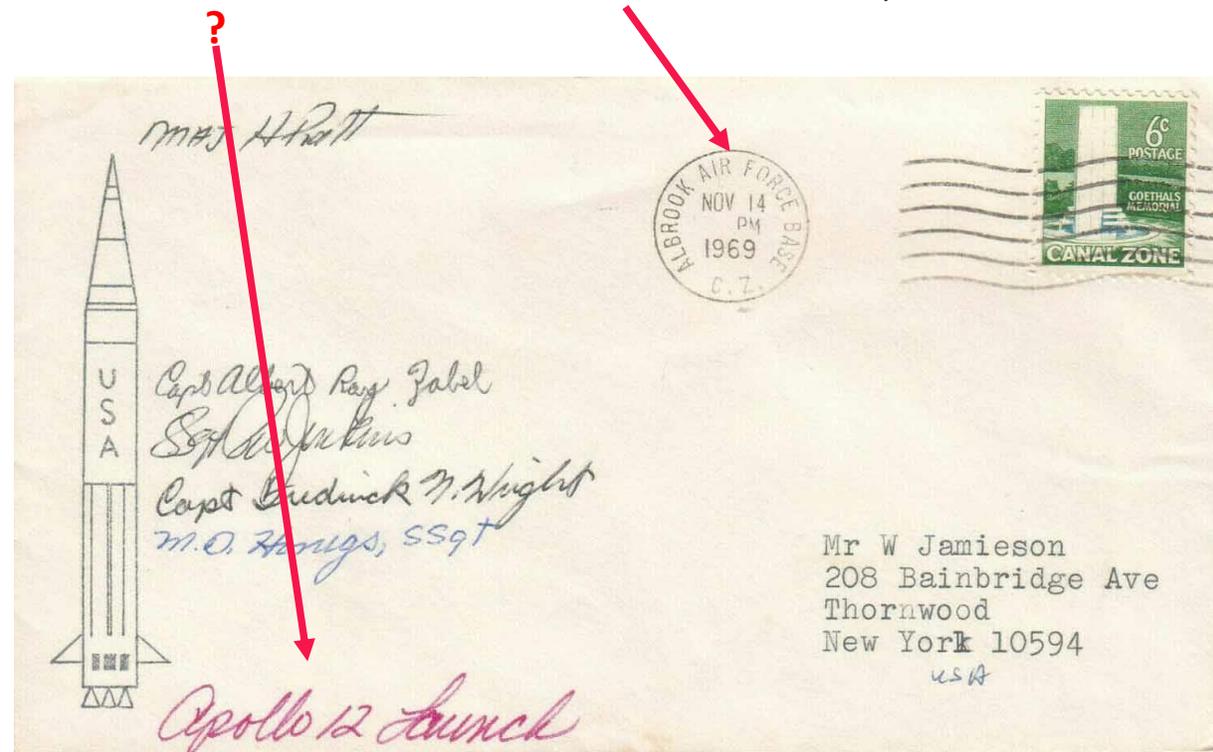


Apollo VII Launch – KSC 11 Oct 1968

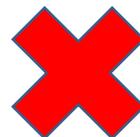


Correct location, date, KSC cachet

Albrook A.F.B., Panama



Apollo XII Launch – Albrook Air Force Base 14 Nov 1969



Wrong location & correct date

# Appropriate Material

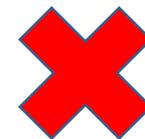
## Event Covers - Launch

Khmelnytskyi



ELDO launch - Woomera - 4 August 1967

Correct location & date



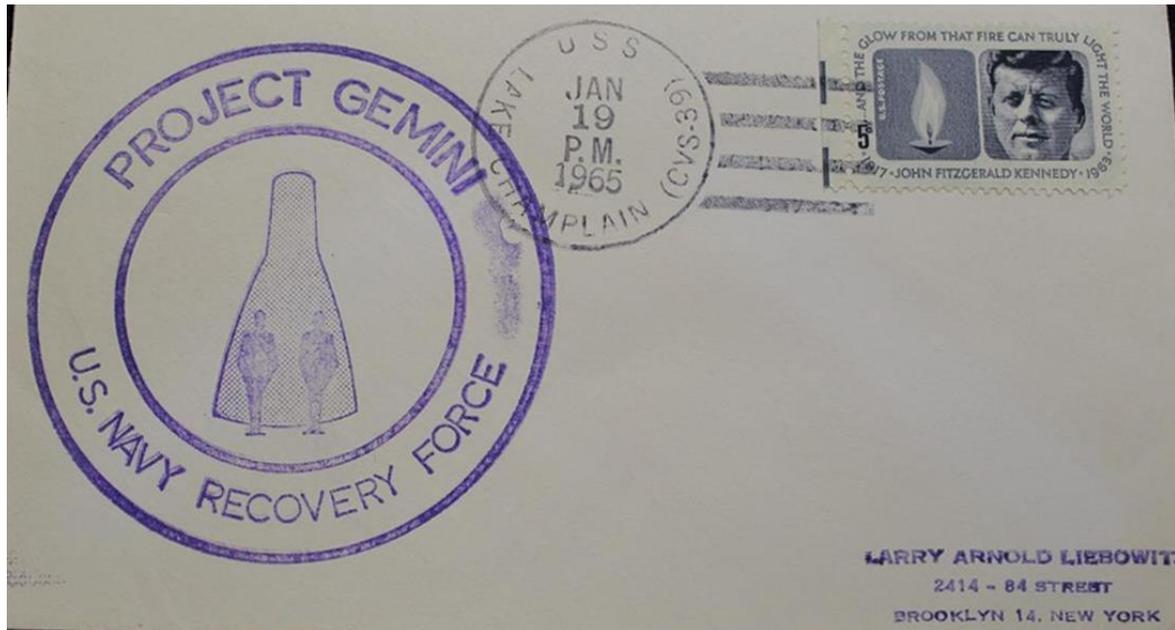
15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gagarin Flight

Wrong location & wrong year

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Landing

USS Lake Champlain

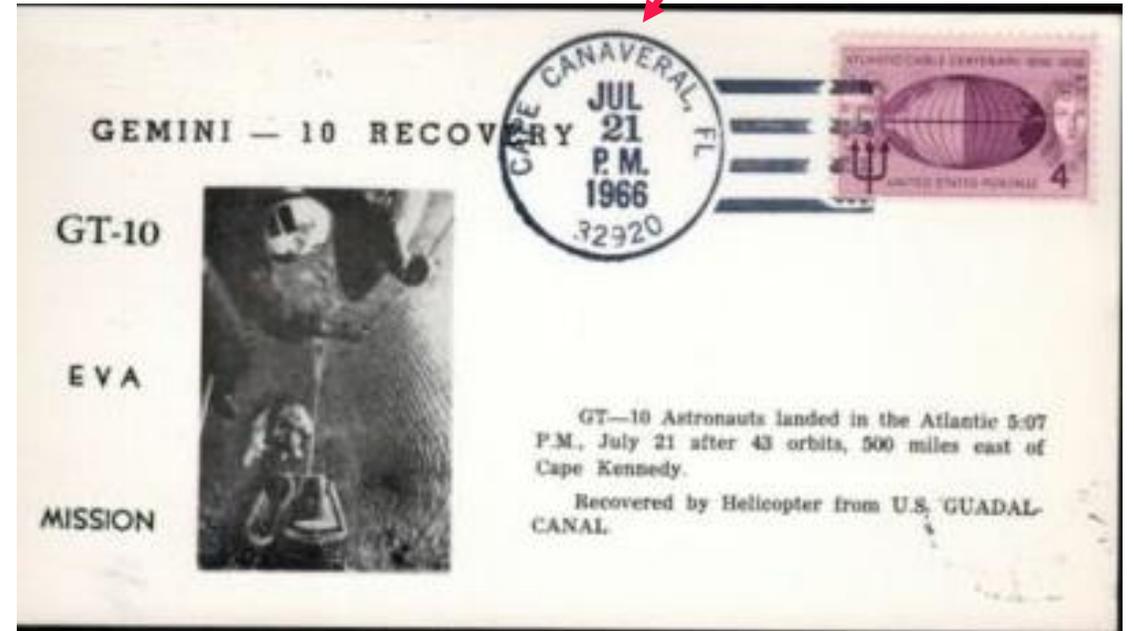


Gemini II Splash down - Lake Champlain 19 January 1965

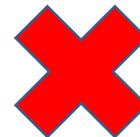


Correct primary recovery ship & date

Cape Canaveral



GT 10 Splash down – Cape Canaveral 21 July 1966



Wrong location & correct date

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Landing

Baikonur Cosmodrome



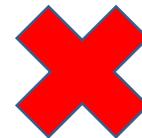
Shenzhou-5 Landing Dorbod Qi 16 October 2003



Correct location & date



Soyuz T-14 - Landing Baikonur 21 November 1985



Wrong location & correct date

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Docking / EVA



✓ Progress M-56 docking – Korolev - 26 April 2006

✓ Skylab EVA - Houston, TX - 22 November 1973

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Support Facilities

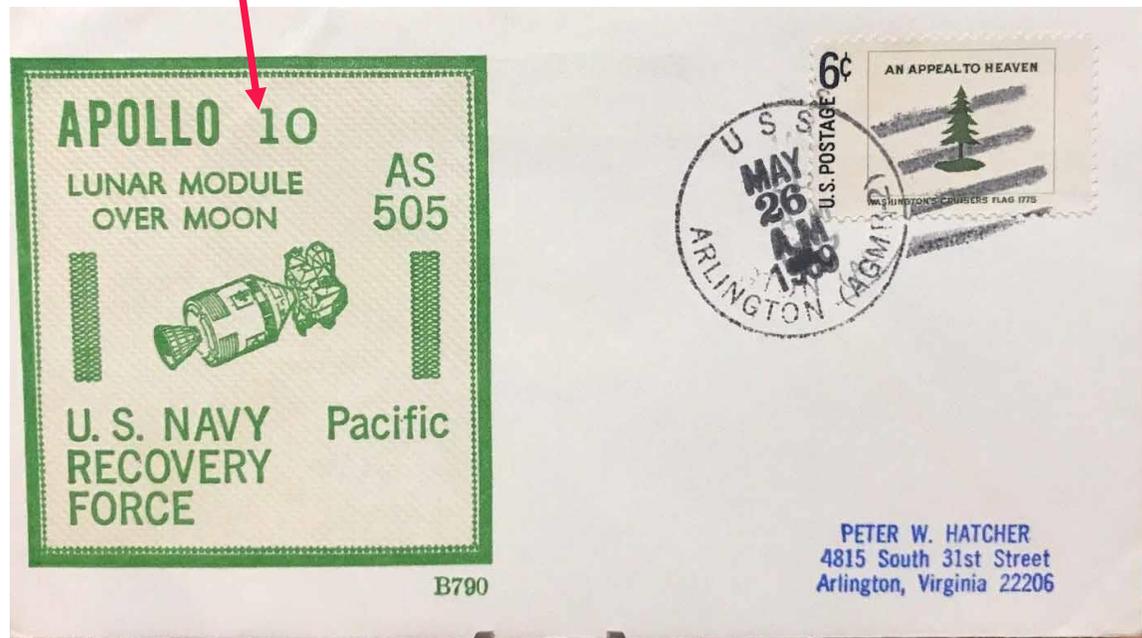
Covers from tracking stations, secondary recovery ships, aeroplanes, rescue helicopters and other supporting aircraft, if they are postmarked during the mission

Official cachets are preferred.

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Support Facilities

Beck Cachet



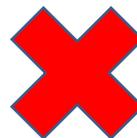
Apollo 10 - Secondary Recovery Ship – USS Arlington  
26 May 1969



Correct date, location



Apollo 11 - Secondary Recovery Ship – USS Arlington  
1 Aug 1969

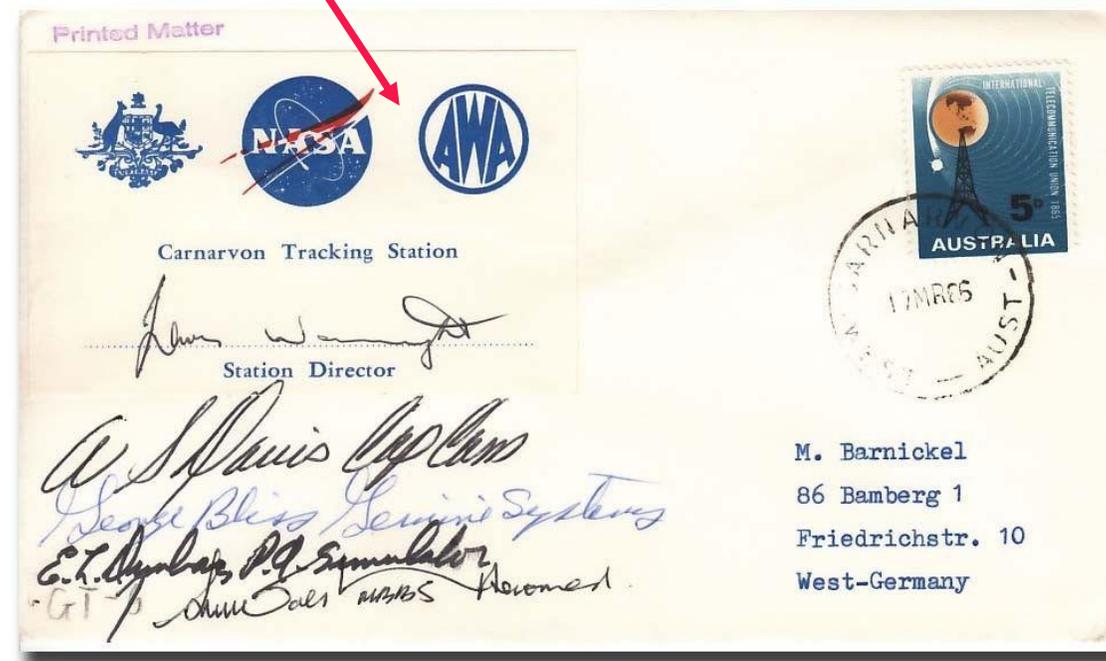


Wrong date, location

# Appropriate Material

## Event Covers - Support Facilities

NASA Cachet



STS-4 – T-38 Chase Plane Assists Landing  
Edwards Air Force Base 4 July 1982

Gemini 8 tracking -Carnarvon  
17 March 1966

# Appropriate Material

## Other Event Covers

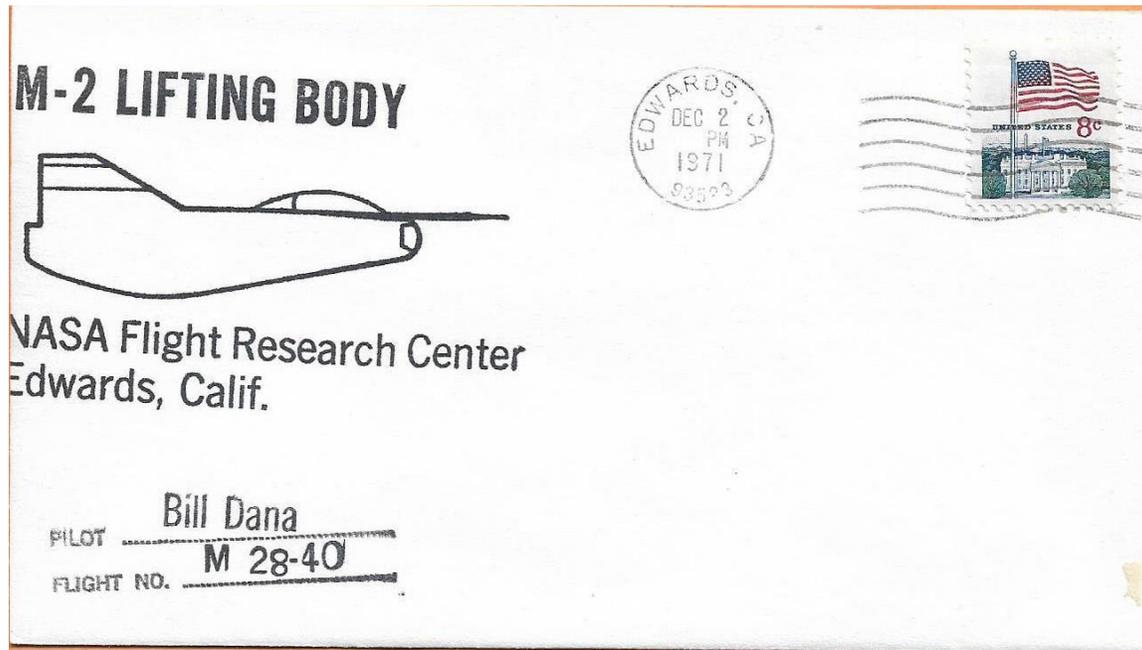
Can show testing, technical, organisational or political milestones for space flights or space programs

Includes rollouts, roll-backs, and important meetings as well as completion and delivery of key components of rockets and spacecraft

Precursors should be shown

# Appropriate Material

## Testing – Lifting bodies, wind tunnel test



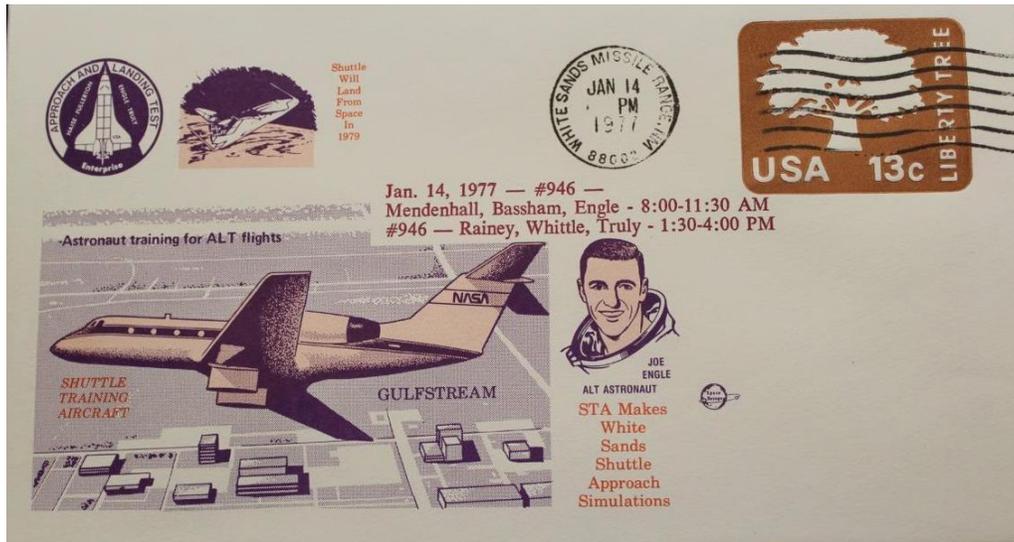
M-2 Lifting Body Edwards Air Force Base, CA  
2 December 1971



Wind Tunnel Test - Moffett Field, CA  
18 November 1976

# Appropriate Material

## Astronaut training



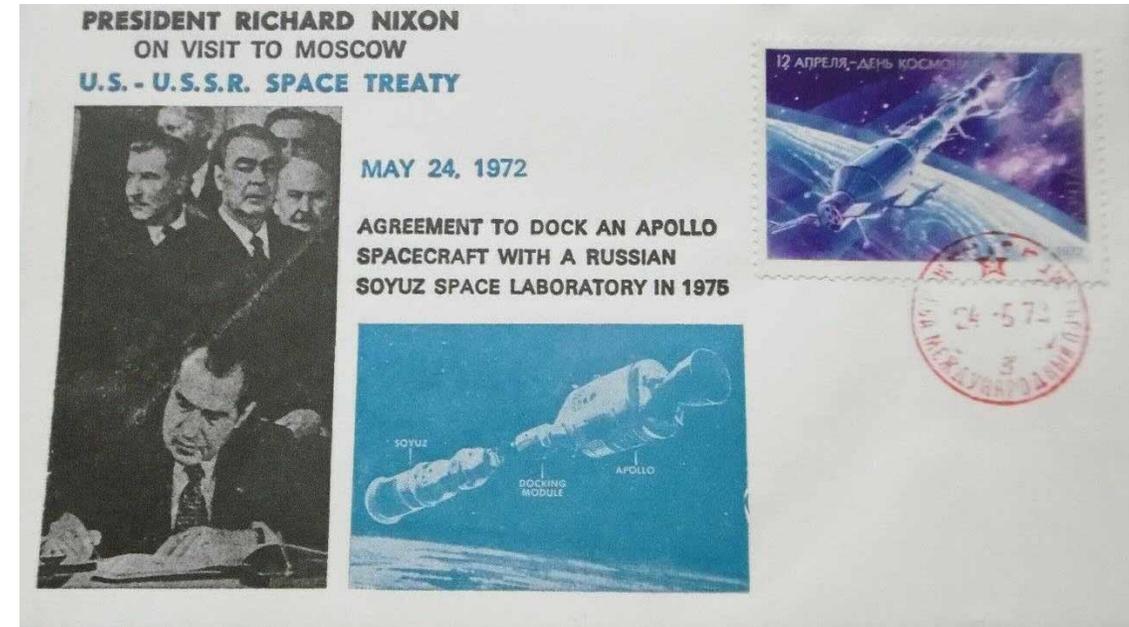
White Sands Missile Range, NM – 14 January 1977



Houston, TX – 12 August 1977

# Appropriate Material

## Roll Outs & Important meetings

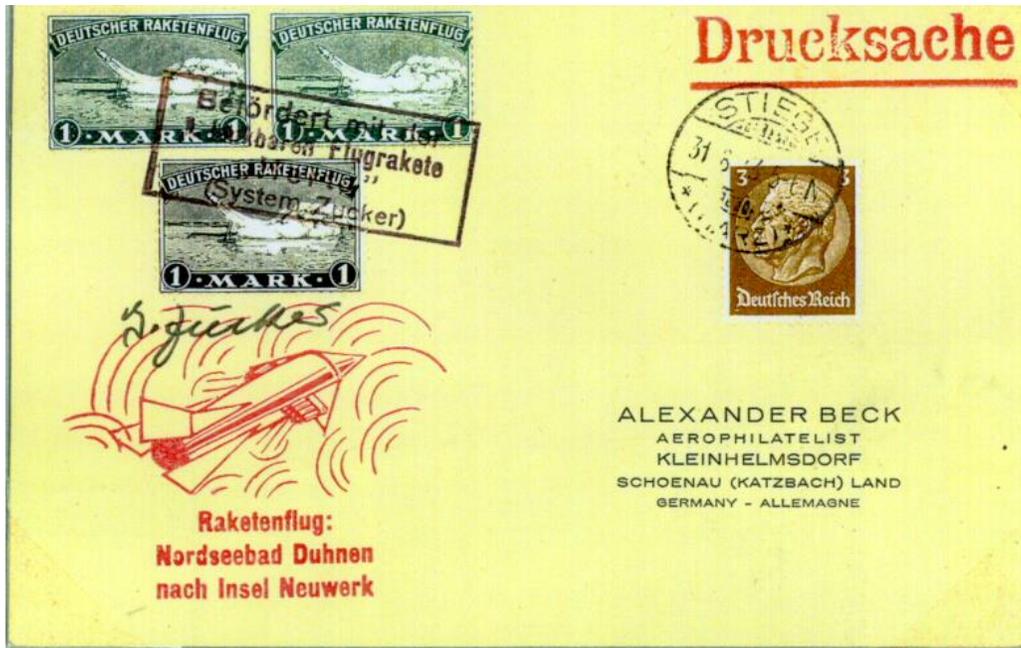


Columbia Roll Out - Kennedy Space Center, FL  
29 December 1980

ASTP Agreement signed - Moscow  
24 May 1972

# Appropriate Material

Guidelines recommend relevant precursors



Gerhard Zucker - Herta rocket - Stiege, Germany  
31 August 1933



X-15 -Edwards Air Force Base, CA  
17 September 1959

# Appropriate Material Spacemail

Philatelic material flown onboard at least one spacecraft

Must be cancelled on-board showing the appropriate markings

- on-board postmarks
- on-board cachets
- authenticating signatures

Often signed by the crew in space

# Appropriate Material

## Spacemail



Salyut-5 – Soyuz 21 - 6 July 1986



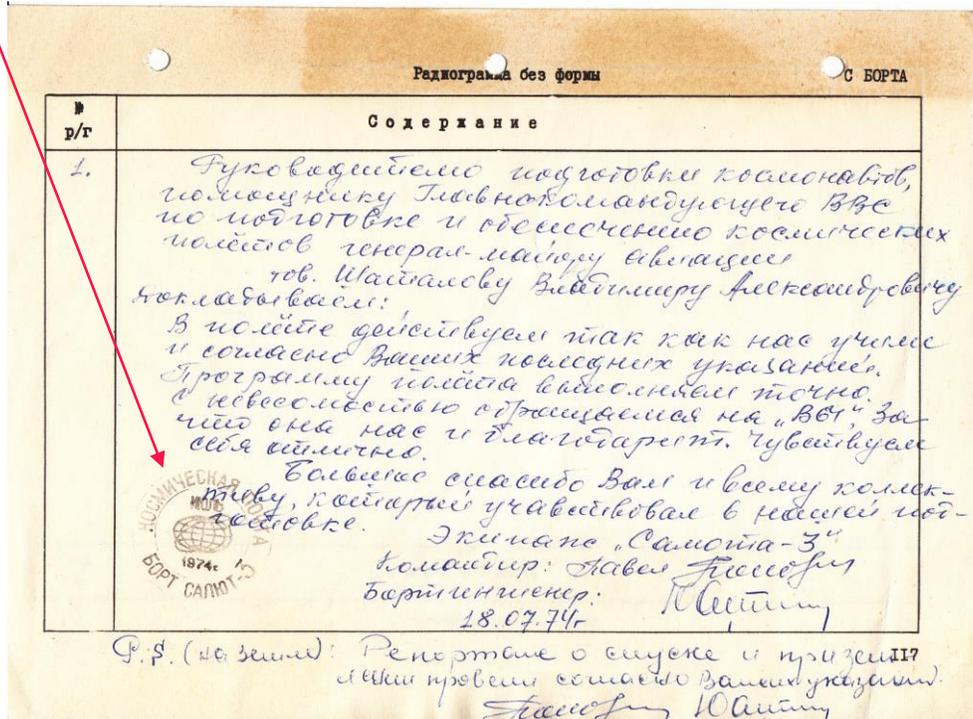
Shenzhou-5 – 6 September 2003

# Appropriate Material

## Spacemail

Board cachet

Official post marks



Salyut-3 - Telegram to Shatalov – 18 July 1974

Shenzhou-10 – 1-28 June 2013

# Appropriate Material

## Stamps, Postal Stationery & Special Cancellations

Stamps or postal stationery issued by country involved in the depicted space event, within 12 months of the event

They should **not** bear a wording highlighting an anniversary

Special cancellations only where no event covers exist

First day of issue postmarks should not be shown unless the date coincides with the event

**This kind of material should not dominate.**

# Appropriate Material Stamps



Stratosphere Balloon Disaster - 1934



Ariane 5 - Liberia



Non participating country - Anniversary

# Appropriate Material Postal Stationery

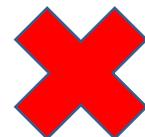
Space Mail

Soyuz rocket



Soyuz 4 launch  
14 January 1969

Date 19. 3. 1971

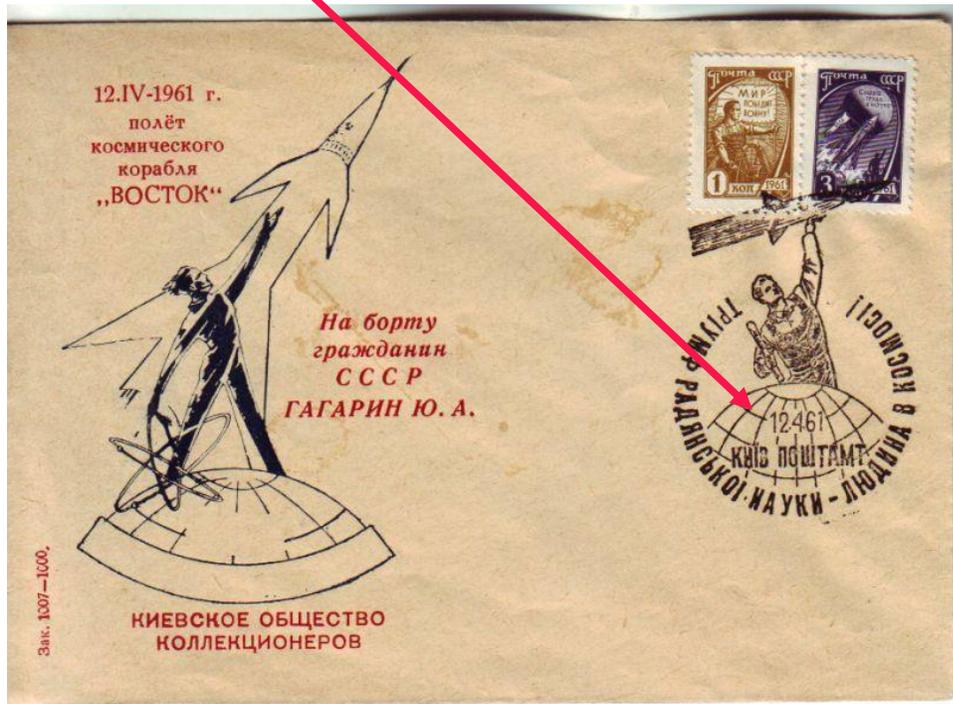


10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# Appropriate Material

## Special Cancellations & Club Cachets

Kiev, 12 April 1961



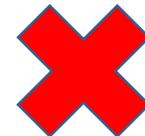
Gagarin launch 12 April 1961- Kiev

Club cachet

Magadan, 25 Feb 1979

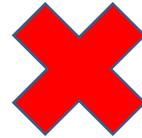
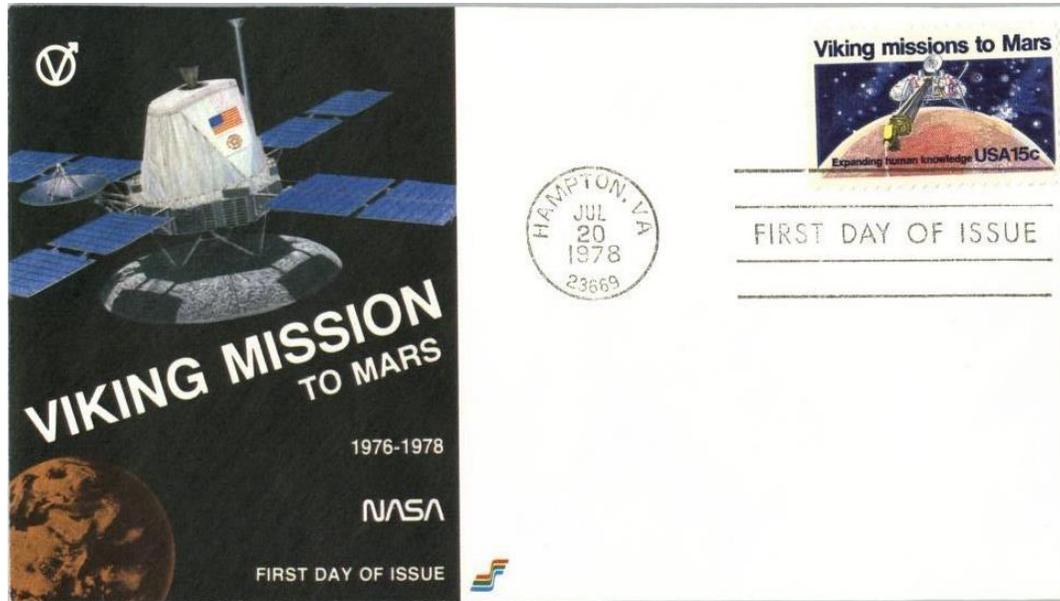


Soyuz 3-32 -25 Feb 1979 - Magadan club cachet



# Appropriate Material

## First Day Covers



Viking Mission to Mars – Hampton, VA – 20 July 1978

Intercosmos – Moscow – 12 April 1979

# Astrophilatelic Exhibiting Subjects

Precursors to rocket flight

Rocket mail, stratosphere balloons,  
rocket development

Unmanned space programmes

Interplanetary probes,  
Communication, Weather Satellites

Manned space programmes

One country or one programme

- USSR, USA, China, Europe
- Soyuz, Apollo, Shenzhou, Ariane

History of space exploration

Complete history of space travel  
Precursors to space stations

# Judging Astrophilately

## Criteria

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Treatment  | 20 |
| Philatelic Importance  | 10 |
| Philatelic & related knowledge,<br>personal study & research | 35 |
| Condition  | 10 |
| Rarity   | 20 |
| Presentation   | 5  |

# Judging Astrophilately

## Treatment

- Title Page shows plan, purpose & defines scope
- Content reflects Title, Purpose, Scope & Plan
- Balanced, logical , easy to follow , clear, concise write-up
- Completeness of material shown in relation to the scope
- Text at each item covers key aspects of event
- Primary focus on event covers
- Precursors where applicable
- Token showing of Common material
- Better material shown in depth

# Judging Astrophilately

## Importance

Significance of **actual exhibit** & **overall significance of that subject**

- How difficult area is to collect
- Significance of area relative to world astrophilately
- Significance of area relative to space exploration
- Significance of material relative to selected area
- How much key material is present

# Judging Astrophilately

## Philatelic & related knowledge, personal study & research

- Full & accurate understanding of subject
- Items chosen & their explanations
- Accuracy & appropriateness of write-up
- Knowledge of precursors, technical evolution & chronology
- Appropriate use of literature

# Judging Astrophilately

## Condition

- Material is in overall good condition
- Fine & clear cancellations
- Repaired or manipulated items described as such
- Condition of common material in perfect condition
- Only unique or very rare material is not in fine condition

# Judging Astrophilately

## Rarity

- Difficulty of acquisition
- Most appropriate rare items present
- Common material does not dominate
- How hard would it be to duplicate

# Judging Astrophilately

## Presentation

- Balance in frame
- Good use of page with not too much white space
- Careful mounting
- Write-up is clear, concise & relevant

# Changes in the new guidelines

- Paved way to eliminate old SREVs
- Removal: astronomers, authors
- Added: Military mail from launch sites in the Soviet Union & China, Roll-Out/-Back, Return to Base, important meetings
- Clarified the use of stamps, stationery & special cancellations
- Judging section now in line with other classes
- Awaiting ratification by the FIP Board

Any questions



<http://astrophilately.club/>

Charles Bromser - Astrophilately Commission Chairperson