

SYNOPSIS – How We Got Men to the Moon –Updated 1/9/18

(Complies with MOJ 3.5.3 & Appendix 2.2.3 – Astrophilately)

This exhibit was last updated to enlarge headers and build white space by eliminating covers, overlapping and by reducing text.

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AWARDS

This exhibit has been awarded 9WSP Golds, including a Reserve Grand and a Large Gold at CHICAGOPEX 17

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PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBIT

is to reflect the history leading up to, and subsequent to, the entry of the U.S. into a "Space Race" with the Soviet Union to land men on the moon through the entire Apollo program, and return them safely to the Earth. It includes many of the precursors that were steps leading to the culmination of this extraordinary effort.

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PERSONAL RESEARCH

Research into the US Space Program and of the philatelic items which are used within this exhibit, have included: 49 years of reading the "Astrophile", the journal of the Space Unit; attending up to 100 talks by astronauts and scientists, reading hundreds of articles on www.collectspace.com; interfacing with dozens of space cover collectors including Les Winick & Ben Ramkissoon; serving as VP and then President of the Space Unit; researching material for my two books (Primary Recovery Ship Covers [1992] and the US Space Cover Collecting Handbook [204 pgs./1,100 illustrations 2011]; along with reading dozens of books and researching articles that have been published in: the American Philatelist; Topical Time; LINNs Stamp News; The Texas Philatelist; Mekeels; among the US publications and in publications published in Belgium, Germany, Croatia and the UK. As such I was invited to write the Astrophilatelic section of the 7th Edition of the Manual of Philatelic Judging. More information is available but this highlights my background.

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THIS EXHIBIT

begins with a flown rocket cover on which is a cachet referring to the 1st attempt, in the 15th century, to fly to the moon and closing with the Return to Port of the Apollo 17 crew in 1972. Prequels include Wernher von Braun's quotation that, "*Jules Verne's book, From the Earth to the Moon, turned scientific minds to space at the turn of the century*" followed by proof that von Braun was influenced for the Apollo 8 mission by this same book. Following are sections on the Pioneers of Rocketry, all six of the earliest U.S. manned stratospheric balloon flights (the sealed gondola and oxygen tanks have been key to all U.S. manned spaceflight), U.S. Rocket Plane tests; German influences; the politics of manned spaceflight; Sputnik 1; the earliest U.S. accomplishments and failures in going from satellites to animals to men in space and multiple landings on the moon.

Included within this exhibit are my stand-alone Gold exhibits on Primary Recovery Ship covers and NASA VIP Cards. This contains the only known exhibit of postally used NASA VIP CARDS. Signatures of inventors, scientists and astronauts, which are seen as extensions of the cachets, are shown on appropriate covers.

When NASA stopped issuing VIP Cards due to reproductions being made and sold by German dealers, this collector determined that these reproductions started with Apollo 16 and discovered that anyone could tell official cards from the originals through the use of a UV light. NASA cards reflect bright white and the suspect cards glow yellow. This exhibit also includes a wide variety of FAKE covers to assist both viewers and judges in the identification of such. All of the Spaceflight Kennedy Space Center [KSC] Officials are shown herein as well. Beck Cachets for the Primary and Secondary Recovery Ships, created by the well-known Morris Beck, are shown for all Primary Recovery Ships and some Secondary ships as well. He created only 25 of each of the covers without his famous Beck numbers consisting of a "B", followed by 3 numerical digits. Five of these very hard to find "un-numbered Beck Cachets" are shown within.

Other very difficult to find covers include 1 of 9 covers flown on an early X-2 Rocket plane; 1 of about 20 crew covers posted aboard the Primary Recovery Ship (PRS) for our 1st astronaut –Alan Shepard; all of the U.S. monkey and chimp test flights are represented; Captain's covers, printed aboard the PRSs are shown for practically every mission for which they were created at the behest of various ship's Captains; the USS Arlington ship for Apollo 11 which was not a Primary or Secondary Recovery Ship but did transport President Nixon towards the PRS; the signatures of every astronaut who flew in the Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs are shown on launch or recovery dated covers; the only known Sputnik 1 properly dated cover, and signed by one of the launch crew; the only known insurance cover to be cancelled aboard the Apollo 15 PRS; an Apollo 15 FLOWN TO THE MOON cover; and other difficult to locate covers are located herein. There are 29 covers in this 8-frame exhibits with a Red Dot signifying that they are either very difficult to obtain.

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PREVIOUS JUDGES COMMENTS NEEDING EXHIBITOR INPUT

While the vast majority of judge's comments have been valid and have resulted in six iterations of this exhibit, there are some comments which are being listed below to avoid having them repeated in the future.

RED DOTS

Comments have ranged from "too large" to "too small" to "I don't like red dots" to I don't like boxing covers in color lines". The preponderance of judges have either liked the smaller dots or not commented on them. That is why they are shown here.

CACHETS & AUTOGRAPHS

In Astrophilately it does not matter whether either were applied before or after the events. The current edition of the MOJ shows that Astrophilatelists hold historical signatures in high regard as extensions of the cachets. In importance cachets are exceeded only by the postmark as most vital. In Astrophilately postally used covers are not integral to this aspect of philately. While important, VIP Cards mailed from the VIP site, are more acceptable than unaddressed ones. KSC Officials and Recovery Ship Rubber Stamped cachets are Route Markings – not commercial cachets and commercial cachets are highly desired.

NASA VIP CARDS

One judge questioned the relevance of these cards in this exhibit. These were created by NASA and 5 were given to each of the invited attendees at the VIP Site of Kennedy Space Center for each manned Apollo flight. Postally used covers were not available to collectors and locating postally used copies is a huge challenge. They are the very best of the Apollo era launch covers. This is the only known exhibit of them.

WHITE CARDSTOCK USE

This exhibitor found only one reference to the type of paper to be used and it is under Thematic, where it read, "*White or lightly tinted paper is recommended.*" White cardstock is used because many covers are toned or are toning and they stand out best against a white background.

FAKES

A judge asked why I show Fakes and Suspect covers. The answer is that showing these helps both viewers and judges learn how to assess Fakes so that they can either avoid buying them or can learn how to identify them in other exhibits.

WHY IS THE SOVIET SPUTNIK 1 COVER SHOWN?

Cause and effect! It is shown because this event finally motivated U.S. politicians to fund space exploration by the United States. It is also unique in that no other cover, is known to have been created for this event with the actual launch dated postmark. And this is the only one of those that is signed by a member of the Soviet launch team (American Philatelist Nov. 2016)

THE ATLAS MISSILE FROM 1957 IS NOT SHOWN

Actually there were 3 Atlas missiles flown in 1957 and are listed in the *McMahan Philatelic History of the Conquest of Space* where he endeavored to list every rocket launch. However, if he was unaware of any covers existing for any launch he showed a price of 0.00. All 3 Atlas Missile launches have a 0.00 price and probably do not exist. Also, there have been multiple thousands of "missile", aka weapon, firings. Collectors normally stick to rocket launches specifically tied to space exploration.

DELETE FRAME 1 AND START WITH SPUTNIK

All of the items shown in the first frame are in compliance with MOJ 7th Edition 3.5.3 & Appendix 2.2.3. These show steps that led up to the eventual manned flights to the moon and are highly valid for showing

DELETE THE LAST 2 FRAMES. THEY ARE REDUNDANT

Each of the manned flights was a stepping stone and resulted in new information or else NASA would not have flown them. These two frames of Apollo 12 through Apollo 17 missions also add to the completeness of elements of this exhibit, i.e. Primary Recovery Ship Covers and NASA VIP Cards. They also include the heroic story of the Apollo 13 near disaster, the use of new means of transporting moon rocks while on the moon, a flown-to-the-moon cover, a unique signed Wings Insurance cover cancelled aboard the Primary Recovery Ship (PRS) and possibly one of a kind, discovered CINCPAC covers from Admiral John McCain, Sr. and more. The exhibit does not indicate that MEN in the title of HOW WE GOT MEN TO THE MOON is limited to the first 2 men no more than the Project Mercury and Project Gemini flights should have been limited to only the first missions of each.

REFERENCES

U.S. Space Cover Collecting Handbook – Ray Cartier
American Astrophilately – The 1st 50 years – David Ball
Beck Handbook of Printed Cachets – Les Winick
McMahan Philatelic History of the Conquest of Space – Jack McMahan

Primary Recovery Ship Handbook – Ray Cartier

ARTICLES:

Covers that Have Flown – Topical Time Vol. 67 #1 Pg. 48-58

Up, Up and Away. Manned Stratospheric Balloon Flights –

American Philatelist – November 2016 Pg 1218-1223

The Real Story Behind Sputnik 1 Covers – American Philatelist July 2015 Pg642-645