

NOV. 11, 1983

DEAR SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY

ENCLOSED IS MY ORDER FOR SPACE LAB AND STS-9 COVERS. I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE COVERS THAT I HAVE PURCHASE I LIKE VERY MUCH.

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COMMENT TO YOU. I WAS LUCKY TO GET A FLOWN STS-8 COVER FROM THE USPS. ON YOUR AUGUST 1983 SPACE LOG YOU GIVE DETAILS ON THIS COVER. WHY DOESN'T SCCS RENT SPACE ON A FLIGHT AND PUT INTO THE CONTAINER SCCS COVERS. I HAVE NO IDEA ON HOW MANY COVER FIT IN THE SMALL ONE OF $1\frac{1}{2}$ CUBIC FEET HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF IT. I SURE OTHER PEOPLE WHO GET COVERS FROM YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IT GETTING ONE. I WOULD I LOOK FORWARD TO HEAR FROM YOU

THANK YOU

Roland J Mantorani

Dear Mr. Mantovani:

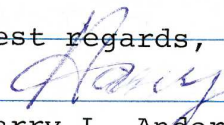
Thank you so much for your fine comments. Over the years we have put a lot of work into our covers and when we hear from someone like you, with such comments, then we feel that all that work was worth the effort.

As to our flying some of the covers for SCCS....we were one of the first two or three applicants to do just that about six years ago when NASA first announced leasing out space for a minimum of several thousand dollars. However, they write us and others that space would be allotted only to scientific or medical experiments. And that nothing would be carried that could be sold or given away in any commercial way. They held to that rule until the Postal Service approached them with their proposal. Guess that several million dollars and one governmental agency to another was just too much and they allowed the Postal Service to carry the covers.

Several of the astronauts are stamp/cover collectors and one of them was president several years ago of the LBJ Space Center Stamp Club. He asked several of us gathered at a "bull session" one time about four years ago what we thought of NASA flying covers and selling them to the public for \$1.00 each. It would have been a bargain, but my comment was that NASA had no reason for being involved in a commercial project. I still feel that way. Of course NASA says technically that they were not involved in the one with the Postal Service and that they only leased out space on the Shuttle for a part of the profits. Now, that is really a fine line!!!

Enclosed are the early Spacelab covers you ordered. The other order will be going out to you soon as our printer has not printed the cachet on the covers yet.

Best regards,


Harry L. Anderson
President SCCS