

## DOUBLE CANCELS FOR 51-L

The Space City Cover Society has been servicing double cancelled space covers for many years. And in the past few years, there has been tremendous growth in this specialized field of cover collecting.

Usually, we try to plan ahead. If we feel that such an event will be a "good prospect" for a future double cancel, we service a small number and do not print a cachet on those covers until after the second event.

But when something unexpected happens, such as the Challenger explosion, there are certain past events that should warrant a double cancel, but a small supply of older covers may present a problem...usually the problem is that there is a very small supply that could be used. That happened on some of the following 51-L double cancelled covers and some of these were done in a quantity of only 25 or so.

After the numbness of listening to the news of the Challenger explosion wore off, it was a task of beating the clock in getting out some of our older covers for a double cancel. We know it was appreciated though, as attested by the comments of many receiving these double cancelled covers on the original offering made by us.

Our listing of the double cancelled covers for 51-L are as follows:

### CREW MEMBERS DOUBLE CANCELS

From 1969 until January 1978, NASA had made no selection of new astronauts. But on January 16, 1978 NASA selected 35 new astronaut candidates for the Space Shuttle program. Of these 35, four would perish in the Challenger explosion on January 28, 1986. These were McNair, Onizuka, Resnik and Scobee.

There are three double cancelled covers pertaining to these four astronauts and their original selection.

STS-51-L-24 (Astronaut candidates selected Jan 16, 1978) (McNair, Onizuka, Resnik and Scobee perish in 51-L explosion on Jan 28, 1986).....\$15.00

STS-51-L-25 (35 candidates report to JSC Jul 10, 1978) (McNair, Onizuka, Resnik and Scobee perish in 51-L explosion on Jan 28, 1986).....\$15.00

STS-51-L-26 (35 named astronauts Aug 31, 1979) ((McNair, Onizuka, Resnik and Scobee perish in 51-L explosion on Jan 28, 1986).....\$17.50

On July 7, 1980 nineteen new astronaut candidates for the Space Shuttle program reported to the Johnson Space Center. Among these 19 was Michael J. Smith, who would be pilot on 51-L.

STS-51-L-27 (19 astronaut candidates report to JSC Jul 7, 1980) (Smith perishes in 51-L explosion on Jan 28, 1986).....\$15.00

All four of the double cancelled covers #24, 25, 26 and 27 are machine cancelled Houston on the first dated event and MPP hand cancelled Houston on the second dated event. On covers

#24, 25, and 26, each is rubber stamped in red ink with the wording "McNair, Onizuka, Resnik and Scobee perish in Challenger's explosion on Jan 28, 1986" On cover #27, the wording is rubber stamped in red ink on the cover reading "Michael Smith perishes in Challenger's explosion on Jan 28, 1986"

#### CREW SELECTION DOUBLE CANCELS

On January 29, 1985, Scobee, Smith, McNair, Onizuka and Resnik were named as original five crew members for 51-L. On October 4, 1985, Jarvis was added as a payload specialist for 51-L. On July 19, 1985, McAuliffe was selected as the first private citizen-astronaut to fly on a shuttle mission. And 51-L had been previously selected for that selectee.

The following three covers have an MPP hand cancel for both of the events. Covers #28 and #29 have the original cachet with additional rubber stamping in red ink reading "Challenger Explodes on Launch Jan 28, 1986" Cover #30 has a cachet pertaining to both events.

STS-51-L-28	First cancel Jan 29, 1985 and second cancel Jan 28, 1986.....	\$7.50
STS-51-L-29	First cancel Oct 4, 1985 and second cancel Jan 28, 1986.....	\$7.50
STS-51-L-30	First cancel Jul 19, 1985 and second cancel Jan 28, 1986.....	\$7.50

#### CHALLENGER'S FIRST AND FINAL MISSIONS

The first flight for Challenger was with the launch on April 4, 1983. It landed on April 9, 1983. We have two covers in the double cancelled set. Both are cacheted with the original STS-6 cachet. In addition, each is rubber stamped reading "Challenger Explodes on Launch Jan 28, 1986". Cover #31 has an MPP hand cancel on the first date (Apr 4, 1983) and an MPP hand cancel on explosion on date of Jan 28, 1986. The cover #32 has a Houston machine cancel on first date (Apr 9, 1983) and an MPP hand cancel on second cancel of Jan 28, 1986.

STS-51-L-31.....	\$10.00
STS-51-L-32.....	\$10.00

#### CHALLENGER'S 51-L CREW PERISHES

The seven crew members aboard Challenger perished when the craft exploded about 72 seconds after launch on January 28, 1986. President Reagan, Mrs. Reagan, and other members of his staff flew to Houston and the Johnson Space Center. President Reagan led a Memorial Service for the crew at JSC on January 31, 1986.

Our double cancelled cover for this historic space event has the first cancel Houston machine on January 28, 1986, the morning Challenger exploded. The second cancel is Houston MPP hand cancel on January 31, 1986 as President Reagan led the Memorial Service tribute to the "Challenger Seven" at the Johnson Space Center.

STS-51-L-33.....	\$10.00
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