

APOLLO 8 TENTH ANNIVERSARY

On December 24, 1968 astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders became the first humans to see the ancient, harsh surface of the Moon from a low altitude. They resembled three wise men from a different age come to witness a miracle of the 20th century.

Apollo 8 circled the Moon on that Christmas Eve and man's dream of interplanetary travel began to come true. Apollo 8 went into its first lunar orbit at 3:59 a.m. (Houston time) when the engine was fired for four minutes and 6 1/2 seconds to slow the spaceship to the velocity required to keep it in lunar orbit, 3400 miles an hour.

As historic an event as that was, the thing that most people watching television that Christmas Eve will remember was the three Apollo 8 astronauts invoking the blessing of God on the world in their greeting from 70 miles above the Moon. Concluding a 30-minute telecast of the lunar surface, commander Frank Borman said, "And from the crew of Apollo 8 we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas and God bless all of you--all of you on the good Earth."

The Christmas message began as the astronauts beamed back to Earth a television view of sunrise on the lunar surface in which both the light and dark sides of the Moon were visible. And then, each of the three took turns reading from the Bible in Genesis on how the Earth, Sun, Moon and Stars were created.

APOLLO TENTH ANNIVERSARY COVERS

With the coming of the 10th anniversary of Apollo 11 in July 1979, many philatelic events are being planned by different groups and we have been requested by many collectors to do a 10th anniversary set of Apollo covers as we did for the 5th anniversary. And we will.

We already have the 10th anniversary cover for Apollo 7. It is a single cover, postmarked October 11, 1978, anniversary of launch date and cancelled with the Mailer's Postmark in Houston. (The SCCS has Mailer's Postmark in Houston of #1). It was on that day that the first manned Apollo flight took off. The crew was Donn Eisele, Walter Cunningham and commanded by Capt. Walter M. Schirra Jr. The cover is priced at 80¢ and will be the first in this new SCCS series.

For the historic Apollo 8, we will have two different covers. One will be the Mailer's Postmark cancel of December 24, 1978, date of the first manned orbit around the Moon. It is priced at 80¢ and will be the second in the series of "Apollo Tenth Anniversary Covers." The second Apollo 8 cover will really be a special. It will be franked with one Apollo 8 six-cent commemorative and one 1974 Christmas stamp. That Christmas stamp is the now-famous 10¢ self-adhesive stamp and the design is "Peace On Earth." Due to the high cost we had to pay for the Apollo 8 commemoratives, this cover will have to be priced at \$1.25 each. It will be cancelled on December 24, 1978 with a Houston hand cancel, so that both stamps will get a nice, clear and clean cancel.

We are not going to do a lot of extra covers so get yours now and don't be disappointed when the Apollo 11 tenth anniversary rolls around in a few months. And we will keep you posted on the cover for Apollo 9 and 10 in the next month or so.

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ORBITAL FLIGHT TESTS The first six Shuttle flights planned for late 1979, will be the Orbital Test Flights. Four two-men crews were chosen in early 1978 and in July 1978 there was an important, unannounced series of four test flights made at NASA's Edwards, Calif. base. The series was called "TIFS" and stand for "Total-In-Flight-Simulators". It's an odd-looking plane and the series of four was performed to "simulate Orbiter OFT configuration testing, landing and approaches."

The first was July 7 with Fitz Fulton and astronaut Joe Engle; the second was made with two different crews... (1) with Einar Enevoldson and astronaut Hank Hartsfield... (2) with Fitz Fulton and astronaut Joe Engle and was flown on July 11; the third was on July 14 and also had two crews... (1) with Fitz Fulton and astronaut John Young and (2) with Einar Enevoldson and astronaut John Young; and the final one made on July 15 with Bill Dana and Einar Enevoldson. This last one was cancelled on Monday Jul 17 since the post office was closed when the flight was made.

This complete set of four is priced at \$3.75 and should be an important part of your OTF covers when the flights begin next year.

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TEXAS PICTORIAL SPACE CANCELS The first one was done on October 6, 1972 when SPACEPEX '77 was held on the premises of the Manned Spacecraft Center (now Johnson Space Center). There is quite a story to be told about that cancel since the exhibition was held at MSC. That is the ONE AND ONLY time that any mail has ever been cancelled at that NASA installation. This fact is just being realized by a lot of collectors and they are searching for one of those covers. They now command a premium and we recall that we sold ours in our cover program for about 50¢ each!

We have done one for each year since then but have never offered the ones for SPACEPEX '77 and SPACEPEX '78. Those covers were cancelled on the opening day of the show (September 23, 1977 and November 18, 1978). Either one can still be had at our original new issue price of 80¢ each. In the meantime we are going to see what we can put together on the other covers done by SCCS on the SPACEPEX cancels (from the first one on). We will try to have an illustrated listing ready by the time your order for the 1977 and 1978 covers get here and we will send that listing to all that order the 1977 and 1978 covers.

TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P. O. Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following covers:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Apollo 7 (10th anniv) cover (MP cancel) @ 80¢ . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apollo 8 (10th anniv) cover (MP cancel) @ 80¢ . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apollo 8 (10th anniv) spec cover w/ Apollo 8 stamp \$ \$1.25 . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (sets) of TIFS covers (set of four) @ \$3.75 set . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPACEPEX '77 and '78 covers (set of 2) @ \$1.60 set . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

Please include one addressed gummed, label with order. Thank you. Postage and Handling . . . . . .30  
 Total . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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