

APOLLO 13 -- THE UNLUCKY 13th

Apollo 11 had the whole world watching in anticipation at its historic Moonlanding. But it was so flawless that Apollo 12 lost much of its excitement and by the time Apollo 13 was launched on April 11, 1970, interest in space had become lackadaisical.

The original crew of Apollo 13 was scheduled to be James A. Lovell Jr., Thomas K. Mattingly II, and Fred W. Haise Jr. But Mattingly was exposed to measles just before the flight and John L. Swigert Jr. replaced him. Maybe this was an indication of things to come, especially since Friday the 13th was only two days off.

In the very late evening of April 13, Lovell contacted Mission Control in Houston and said calmly, "Houston, we've got a problem." A hole had been blown in the side of the Command Module and a problem it was. The next few hours were hectic and NASA engineer and Mission Control personnel worked furiously to see what could be done.

At 2:43 a.m. April 14, the Lunar Module descent rocket was successfully fired in a crucial maneuver to shape the trajectory of the spacecraft so that it would circle the Moon and head back to Earth. At 6:38 p.m. that same day, the Lunar Module guided the Apollo crew as they sailed around the back side of the moon. At 8:40 p.m. the rocket engine was fired to head the craft home to Earth. They made a safe splashdown on April 17.

The Space City Cover Society in its continuing series of Apollo Mission Tenth Anniversary covers, offers one for Apollo 12 and one for Apollo 13. The others (Apollo 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 anniversary covers) have been previously offered by us. These are cancelled with our Permit #1 (Houston Mailer's Postmark in black ink.) The Apollo 12 cover is cancelled on November 19, 1979, tenth anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moonlanding. The Apollo 13 cover is cancelled on April 13, 1980, tenth anniversary of the explosion in the craft's Command Module.

In addition, for those of you who are relatively new to collecting SCCS space covers, we are going to offer our original Apollo 12 and 13 mission covers AT A REDUCED PRICE. These prices are good only on this offering and the attached order blank should be used. These covers are:

Apollo 12 set of four cancelled Houston on November 4 (Launch), November 19 (Moonlanding), November 20 (Moon Liftoff), and November 24, 1969 (Splashdown). All four covers, in addition to U. S. stamp and cancel have a NASA Local Post and cancel. Price is \$6.50 per set but SPECIAL AT ONLY \$4.90 per set.

Apollo 12 cover cancelled Houston on December 14, 1969 plus it has a NASA Local Post and cancel. This was "Welcome Home Apollo 12 Crew." Price \$1.50 but SPECIAL AT ONLY \$1.10

Apollo 13 set of four cancelled Houston on April 11 (Launch), April 14 a.m. (Lunar Module Becomes Space Lifeboat), April 14 p.m. (LM Guides Crew Around Back Side of Moon), and April 17, 1970 (Splashdown.) In addition to U. S. stamp and cancel each cover has a NASA Local Post and cancel. Price is \$7.50 but SPECIAL AT ONLY \$5.25 per set.

Apollo 13 "Welcome Home Apollo 13" cover cancelled Houston May 16, 1970. It also has a special NASA Local Post and cancel. Price \$2.00 but SPECIAL AT ONLY \$1.25

Apollo 13 Double Cancelled Cover. A real gem! The first cancel is Kennedy Space Center, Fla. April 11, 1970 (Launch) and the other stamp and cancel on the cover is Houston April 17, 1970, (Successful end to the eventful mission). Price is \$4.00 but SPECIAL AT ONLY \$2.25

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(May 80 #4) Please include one addressed gummed label with order. Thank you.