

STS-7 SPECIAL EVENT COVERS

The STS-7 orbital mission of Challenger was filled with important events and one of the highlights was the use of SPAS-01. The Shuttle Pallet Satellite (SPAS) is a reusable platform built by the German aerospace firm Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm (MBB). This is Europe's first step toward commercial business with NASA's Space Transportation System. SPAS-01 is the first reusable satellite which Space Shuttle has deployed in space, retrieved after a free flight phase, and brought back to Earth.

On June 20, 1983, mission specialists John Fabian and Sally Ride began testing the RMS (a 50-foot-long device used to lift, move, release and recapture the SPAS-01). On June 22, Fabian and Ride used the arm to lift the SPAS-01 (with its 11 experiments) out of the payload bay area. The pallet was then released and later recaptured. Then it was released again and as Challenger moved about 1000 feet away, a camera aboard SPAS-01 began taking pictures of Challenger as SPAS-01 was in free flight. This was the first picture taken of Shuttle from another object in space. Then on June 23, the SPAS-01 was stowed away in the payload bay area of Challenger, as the craft was readied for its return home to Earth.

This activity was especially needed to be successful as it is the same type of maneuver that will be used as any future Shuttle approaches a damaged satellite, retrieves it, brings it inside the payload bay area, works on it, and then sends it back into space.

We have a set of three covers, one for each of the days of the activity of the SPAS-01. Both the June 20 and June 23 covers are cancelled on those dates with the MPP hand cancel (Houston) and the June 22 cover is machine cancelled Houston. We offer this important set of three for only \$3.75 per set

A SPECIAL SALLY RIDE COVER

Sally Ride, aboard STS-7, became the first female astronaut to fly in space. She was selected for the STS-7 mission on April 29, 1982 and on June 24, 1983, she and the other crew members concluded a successful schedule of six days in space. We have a double cancelled cover, with the cachet picturing Ride, with both of those dates. Both are MPP hand cancels and this special cover is priced at only \$2.50

ROBERT CRIPPEN...First to fly in Space Shuttle twice

Robert L. Crippen, mission commander of STS-7, became the first astronaut to fly in the Space Shuttle twice. He was the pilot of STS-1 when it was launched on April 12, 1981. We have a double cancelled cover for this event (and you won't find this one anywhere else); the first cancel of April 12, 1981 is Houston machine cancelled and the second cancel is the MPP hand cancel of June 24, 1983, landing date of STS-7. This cover is \$2.75

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

Please send me the following STS-7 covers:

_____ Set(s) of 3 SPAS-01 event covers (June 20, 22, & 23, 1983)	
@ \$3.75 per set of three	\$ _____
_____ Sally Ride double cancelled cover (Apr 29, 1982 & Jun 24, 1983)	
@ \$2.50	_____
_____ Crippen double cancelled cover (Apr 12, 1981 & Jun 24, 1983)	
@ \$2.75	_____
	Postage and handling
	_____ .35
	Total remittance
	\$ _____

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(#17B Aug 83) Please send one addressed, gummed label with order. Thank you.