

STS-8 MISSION EVENT COVERS

DOUBLE CANCELLED LAUNCH AND LANDING

Challenger, on its third operational mission (STS-8) was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 3:32 a.m. EDT August 30, 1983. The five-man crew was Richard H. Truly, commander; Daniel C. Brandenstein, pilot; and mission specialists Guion S. Bluford, Jr., Dale A. Gardner and William E. Thornton. Challenger landed at Edwards AFB, California at 12:40 a.m. PDT September 5, 1983. This was the first night launch and night landing of a space shuttle. Proper placement in geostationary orbit of the Indian Communications Satellite (INSAT-1B) dictated the night launch of Challenger.

We have a beautiful double cancelled cover for this event. The first cancel is a machine cancel on launch date at the Kennedy Space Center. The second cancel is a hand cancel applied to our covers at the Edwards post office at landing time. We offered a similar cover for STS-7 and it was a virtual sellout. We have a feeling this one will, too. It is priced at \$3.95 and this compares with a similar cover offered by a well-known New York dealer at \$7.95

GUION S. BLUFORD, JR.---FIRST BLACK ASTRONAUT IN SPACE

Bluford, mission specialist on the STS-8 flight holds a bachelor of science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Pennsylvania State University (1964), a master of science degree with distinction in Aerospace Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology (1974) and a doctor of philosophy in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Laser Physics from the Air Force Institute in 1978. He received his wings in 1965 and flew 144 combat missions. Dr. Bluford was selected as a crew member for STS-8 on April 29, 1982.

We have a double cancelled cover in honor of Dr. Bluford, appropriately cacheted with his picture. The first cancel is April 29, 1982 (date of his selection as a crew member for STS-8) and the second cancel is September 5, 1983, completion date of the STS-8 flight. Both cancels are the Houston MPP hand cancel. Price of this double cancelled cover is only \$2.75. A fitting commemorative for Dr. Bluford, his ability and his accomplishment.

INSAT-1B SATELLITE LAUNCHED FROM ORBITING CHALLENGER

INSAT-1B, a unique satellite designed to provide telecommunications, direct broadcast television and weather forecasting for India, was launched from the orbiting Challenger in the early hours of August 31. The satellite, made by Ford Aerospace & Communications Corp., was sent toward its final geostationary orbit by successful firing off an attached rocket about 3:30 a.m. CDT, 45 minutes after springs shoved the spinning satellite out of the orbiter's cargo bay.

This was the principal commercial activity of the astronauts aboard Challenger on its third flight. And to commemorate this event, the SCCS has a cacheted cover cancelled on August 31, 1983 (MPP hand cancel) and priced at \$1.25

INSAT-1A.....The Indian National Satellite INSAT-1A was the first of these two satellites launched. This first one was launched April 10, 1982 from the Cape Canaveral launch site by a Delta booster. But due to a failure of the reaction control system, it was later shut down. We have this cover cancelled (machine) April 10, 1982 from the Cape Canaveral post office and have not offered this item before. It will be the perfect companion for the INSAT-1B cover. This INSAT-1A is priced at only \$1.25

PAYLOAD FLIGHT TEST ARTICLE

The PFTA was originally scheduled to be flown on STS-11 but with the cancellation of the second TDRS satellite (originally scheduled for STS-8) the PFTA took its place. The PFTA is an aluminum, lead-ballasted test structure weighing about 7,460 pounds. It was carried into orbit in Challenger's cargo bay. The PFTA has a total of four different grapple fixtures but only two were used during the STS-8 activity. This was the first demonstration of a five point payload attachment system. The PFTA simulates a large-mass payload for flight testing the Remote Manipulator System (RMS). The purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in lifting heavy loads for when a 22,000 pound pallet of scientific experiments is deployed during NASA's 13th Shuttle mission in 1984.

These experiments were conducted on STS-8 on September 1 and 2 and we have a set of two appropriately cacheted covers for this event...one cover for each of the two days. They are cancelled on each day with the MPP hand cancel (Houston). Price of the set of two is \$2.50

GUION BLUFORD CONDUCTS MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS ON STS-8

On the first day of the STS-8 mission, the busy activity began. During this time, Bluford conducted several hours of a medical experiment. It is called the Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System (CFES) experiment. It is sponsored by McDonnell Douglas Aeronautics Co., of St. Louis, Missouri, in conjunction with Ortho Pharmaceuticals, an affiliate of Johnson and Johnson. CFES is a process of separating biological materials in solution according to their surface electrical charge by passing them through an electrical field. Results of similar tests on three other Shuttle flights show that the device has the ability to do more than 700 times the amount that can be done on Earth. Our cover is cancelled with the Houston MPP hand cancel and is priced at \$1.25