

THIS COULD BE THE TOP U.S. STAMP ISSUE FOR 1981

By now, you have had the chance to see this beautiful, colorful and well printed se-tenant block of eight U.S. space stamps. Before it was issued, many of us had doubts as to how these stamps would look. But, now, after collectors have had a few days to get a supply, those we have talked to in the Houston area are calling it "the top 1981 U.S. stamp issue."

There are two things that come to mind about this space block. (1) Be sure and get a sheet or two now from your local post office. The Houston area got only a partial supply and this issue could be elusive, especially if a lot are used on mail; and (2) be sure and get at <u>least</u> one set of these stamps on first day covers. They will make an excellent addition to your collection and a set you will be proud to show to your friends, even if they are not collectors.

We at the Space City Cover Society issued our initial first day cover for the Gemini twin stamps of September 29, 1967. And since that time we have issued first day covers for every U.S. space stamp. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. We at SCCS can offer you a beautiful set of covers, unaddressed, and sent to you under protective mailing so that they arrive in the best possible condition. We guarantee that.

This se-tenant block of eight 18¢ stamps had its first day of issue at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida on May 21, 1981. The issue was made to salute United States achievements in space and the central portion of the design features the U. S. Space Shuttle.

The format of the block of eight is unusual, the Postal Service pointed out. In the center of the design is a block of four stamps depicting the Space Shuttle taking off, being boosted into orbit, circling the earth and landing. On either side of the block of four is a vertically-oriented pair of smaller size stamps highlighting other U.S. space achievements.

The se-tenant block allows a nice assortment of covers...a miniature collection in itself. First, you have a cover with the se-tenant block of eight; then you have a block of four with the Space Shuttle, and then eight covers, with a single of each of the eight.

Within the sheet lay-out of 48 stamps, it also allows a block of four of the four smaller stamps and we will have that one on cover also, as we try to offer a combination that others don't. Prices are shown below and we will honor these prices until June 15, 1981. We will not cachet our covers until all are back from the first day city so we estimate delivery about the second or third week in July. But rest assured, if we have your order by June 15, we will guarantee delivery. So as to avoid a pileup at one time, it will be most helpful if you will order sooner than that...it will help us give better service to YOU.