

We thought you might like to know a bit about the background of the Space City Cover Society, as well as its aims and purposes. Because of the importance of Houston as a Space Center -- it's the Manned Spaceflight Control Center -- it was inevitable that philatelic space enthusiasts would get together and form a society. We were organized shortly before the untimely deaths of astronauts Grissom, White and Chaffee. We organized under the name of the Space City Philatelic Society but ultimately changed it to Space City Cover Society due to a chain of events.

When word was received of the tragic death of our first Apollo team, our Society wrestled with itself as to whether or not we should have some covers cancelled and we decided that in the interest of other and future space collectors that we do so. However, when we attempted to get a "NASA" station cancel we were informed that none was available as all mail in the Houston area -- and this includes NASA -- is cancelled at the main Houston Post Office.

It was at this point that our Society decided that the best and proper way to fill this philatelic void was to create a NASA Local Post and cancel, which is permissible under postal regulations, for space events with a Houston tie-in. We also decided to change our name to the more appropriate one of Space City Cover Society. From time to time, as the event has required, our organization has issued a NASA label and cancel. However, it is well to point out that we have no connection with NASA. We might add that these labels are not U. S. postage, but a local post issue.

Why collect SCCS covers? Other people doing space covers postmarked Houston do them for only selected events, such as manned flights. We do them for all space events such as SMEAT tests, visiting Russian cosmonauts and space officials, annual Lunar Science Conferences, selection of crews, retirement of astronauts, etc. We also use only rag bond envelopes and all of our cachets are lithgraphed (except for a few of the early ones). When we are unable to get covers to an event in time, we do use the small government watermarked stamped envelopes.

Since we have received requests for our covers and NASA Local Post labels and cancel from all over the world, and because we cancel a limited number of covers, we have asked those interested in Houston based space events to furnish our Society with four (4) large size (4 1/8 x 9 1/2") stamped, addressed envelopes. In this way, we can keep them on file and keep you posted on any events in which we will participate in. There are no dues to anyone. And we also send out our publication, The Space Log, free to all those with envelopes on file with us.

The Space Shuttle era is just really beginning and you can be in on this new age. Why not join the growing number of collectors who depend on the Space City Cover Society to keep them up to date on happenings and to take their "cover worries" off their mind. Send in your four envelopes and we will take care of the rest.

Best regards,

SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY