

SHARP EYED SPACE COVER COLLECTOR  
FINDS SPACE HALL OF FAME ERROR

Once again, a stamp collector has "caught the experts" in an error that has been viewed by nearly one million people in the last year at the National Space Hall of Fame in Houston, Texas.

Space Unit member Frederick J. Major of Watertown, N.Y. recently wrote the president of Space City Cover Society that the program he had received, which was issued for the initial honorees in the Space Hall of Fame, showed the date of John H. Glenn's Mercury space flight as February 24, 1962. As any space collector can readily tell you, the correct date is the 20th of February and not the 24th. Thinking that it was a typographical error in the printed program, the president of Space City Cover Society went to the Space Hall of Fame and found that the large plaque hanging there in honor of John Glenn's flight also showed the date as the 24th of February. This was almost unbelievable and a call upon the Executive Vice President of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, who is also Executive Vice President of the Space Hall of Fame verified that the information was supplied by NASA and it had been checked and double checked several times. When he was told that the correct date was the 20th of February, he was speechless. When the shock wore off, he stated that "the only thing we can do is to have the plaque remade."

What makes the story more interesting is that this plaque has been viewed by nearly one million Houstonians and visitors since it was installed. And if that is not enough, a miniature was given to John Glenn at the installation ceremony September 26, 1969 and it also shows the date as February 24th. Thanks are due to Fred Major for "catching the experts."

Further details on the printed program and the special cover done for the First Annual Honors Awards Dinner for the National Space Hall of Fame can be secured from the Space City Cover Society, PO Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052 for a large, stamped self-addressed envelope.

#####

Congratulations to Space Unit member Thomas Licavoli who won a first and a second trophy at OPEX-70 for his exhibit "NASA Local Posts, Seals, and Covers."

#####

Covers for Explorer 42 launched from the Italian platform, San Marco off the coast of Kenya on December 12th. The Kenyans named the satellite Uhuru, Swahili for freedom...what I meant to say before I got all messed up in grammar was that covers for this launch are likely to be scarce. If any one got one will they report it...or if you run into a source?

#####

ESRO launched on December 6 from the Italian range at Salto di Quirra in Sardinia, a Skylark sounding rocket carrying the S-69 sun-pointing payload. The payload was recovered...an Italian ship, an Italian aircraft and two German aircraft took part in the search and recovery.

#####

On Feb. 18, 1970 the HL-10 rocketed to 1.86 times the speed of sound, the fastest any of the lifting bodies have yet flown.

The X-24 made its first supersonic flight on Oct. 14, 1970 reaching 760 mph and the M2-F3 made its first glide flight in June.