

SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY
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RELEASE: AT WILL

SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY TO OBSERVE
10th YEAR OF NASA; P.O.D. IGNORES DATE

The 10th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, on October 1st, will be observed philatelically by the Space City Cover Society. Although the Post Office Department has elected to ignore the "decade of dynamic development in dimension", the Space City Cover Society will mark this milestone of the birth of NASA--as the Space Agency is more commonly known--with an anniversary cachet cover and a special NASA Local commemorative stamp.

The Space City Cover Society, comprised of an international group of philatelic Space enthusiasts, functions out of Houston, Texas, the Command Post for NASA. A "cover" is stamp talk for an envelope which generally is impressed with a cachet--a design--on the left side of the envelope identifying the purpose of the cover.

Under postal regulations there is no prohibition for an individual or group to charge for bringing mail from any given point to a post office. They may affix a stamp or impression--called a Local Post--on the left side of the envelope to show payment for this service.

Harry L. Anderson (7902 Marinette, Houston, Texas), Society President, has labeled the Post Office Department's "inaction" as a "let down to the entire Space personnel--Federal and private--and the Space Program". He said the Department "muffed an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to everyone involved in the Space program--scientists, technicians, and the other working people, as well as the Astronauts". M. Allen Banks, Society Vice-President, has campaigned for almost a year for the Post Office Department to issue a NASA commemorative stamp.

The United States Space program was galvanized into action after the Russians had successfully launched Sputnik I in 1957. The late President John F. Kennedy urged a Space program which would land a U. S. manned craft on the moon in 1970. To date \$30 Billion has been spent by NASA in its program. Although there has been a serious cutback in budget allotments for the Space Agency, NASA still spends about \$4 Billion annually. However, most of the post-Apollo moon exploration and industrial Space probes have been curtailed.

(more)

In his efforts to obtain a NASA commemorative stamp, Banks enlisted the assistance of Houston Postmaster Granville W. Elder. It was Elder who forwarded the letters to Ira Kapenstein, then Special Assistant to Postmaster General O'Brien, to whom the Postmaster voiced endorsement, saying he was "strongly in favor of the proposed stamp and recommend it wholeheartedly". Kapenstein's replies were that the proposal was on the "agenda for consideration by our Citizens' Advisory Committee", but nothing further was heard from him.

In one of his several letters of proposal Banks said: "Our country can be exceedingly proud of its achievements in its Space program. A NASA postage stamp, which would be circulated throughout the world, would be a subtle reminder to all peoples of our Space accomplishments.

"We had achieved this program philatelically, advertising the U. S. Space accomplishments, when in the latter part of September of last year (1967) the Post Office Department issued the "twin" Astronaut stamps, one depicting a Space Capsule and the other, Man's Walk in Space.

"Regrettably, however, the recent (January) change in postal rates made this stamp obsolete for practical use."

The Society will issue the special NASA Local in souvenir sheets of 12 stamps each. The stamps will be printed in bi-color, by offset process, perforated and with marginal inscriptions. The center of the Local will have the NASA symbol, and in three of the corners will be the symbols of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo flights. The fourth corner will show the 5¢ denomination, the charge for carrying the covers from the NASA area to the Houston post office, a distance of some 30 miles. For efficiency and economy, all mail in the Houston area--including NASA-- is cancelled at the Main post office. When applied, the NASA Local will be a diamond shaped stamp.

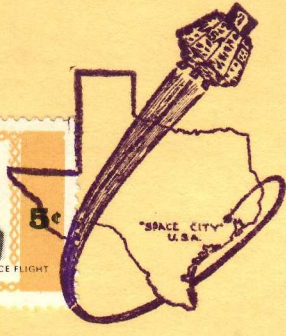
Information as to how to obtain the NASA 10th anniversary cachet cover and the special NASA Local commemorative souvenir sheet may be secured by sending a stamped, addressed, legal sized envelope to the Space City Cover Society, P. O. Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052.

A limited number of covers is being prepared for this NASA anniversary. The cover will have a NASA Local stamp as well as a colorful NASA Local cancel on the lower left side of the envelope. The covers also will be flanked with a U. S. commemorative in its customary position, and will bear an October 1st, Houston, Texas, cancel, Houston being the NASA Control Center headquarters.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77052
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