

The manned space flights: USA and Russia since 1958 to the I.S.S.

Since the 50's the two biggest Powers in the world compete for what represent today the new limits of human knowledge: the COSMOS. The Soviet Union and the United States of America chase each other to win the most important laps in this conquest: the former succeeds in sending into Space the first satellite, the first man and the first woman, the other succeeds in landing on the Moon.

The collection presents the most important events bearing witness for competition between the two Powers of the Earth for the conquest of the predominance in space adventure, up to the collaboration with the construction of the ISS; we can see the great American and Russian programs alternating in the display:

- Preparing the first human spaceflight: rockets and animals in space (1958-61)
- The American program Mercury (1959-63; 1 astronaut: 26 flights, 6 with human crew)
- The American program Gemini (1964-66; 2 astronauts: 12 flights, 2 without crew)
- The American program Saturn (1961-65; rocket's tests: 10 flights without crew)
- The American program Apollo (1966-72; 3 astronauts: 17 flights, 6 without crew)
- The Soviet-American program ASTP (1975; meeting in Space between Apollo 18 and Soyuz 19)
- The American program Space Shuttle (1981-2002; re-utilisable space ship: 112 flights)
- The Soviet program Vostok (1961-63; 1 cosmonaut: 6 flights)
- The Soviet program Soyuz (1967-81; 1 or 2 cosmonauts: 40 flights, 3 without crew)
- The Soviet program Soyuz T (1979-86; 2 or 3 cosmonauts: 15 flights, 1 without crew)
- The Soviet program Soyuz TM (1986-2002; 2 or 3 cosmonauts: 34 flights, 1 without crew)
- The Russian program Soyuz TMA (2002-2003; 3 cosmonauts: 3 flights)
- The Soviet/Russian program Progress (1978-2003; to re-supply the stations Salyut, MIR, ISS)

In the collection we can find covers with launch or recovery/landing cancels, from the locality where the event took place; then there are covers flown onto the Soviet space stations (Salyut 3, 5, 6, 7 and MIR), bear the cancels they have been equipped with, and those that cosmonauts often bring with them during their missions). Particularly the covers with correspondence to and from Space, true evidence of the "Spatial Philately".

**RUSSIA First Day of Issue
International Geophysical
Year Outer Space Vehicle
SPUTNIK 1 40 GREEN**



**RUSSIA First Day of Issue
International Geophysical
Year Outer Space Vehicle
SPUTNIK 1 40 BLUE**



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Begins the competition, before human flights, a satellite the Russians put in orbit the first artificial satellite on October 4th 1957: the Sputnik 1, a sphere of 184 pounds with a thermometer as sole instrument. On Nov 4th and Dec 28th 1957 URSS issued two stamps to commemorate the event; here never hinged and F.D.C.