

Space Stamps of the USA

A journey through the history of
space-themed postage stamps

By

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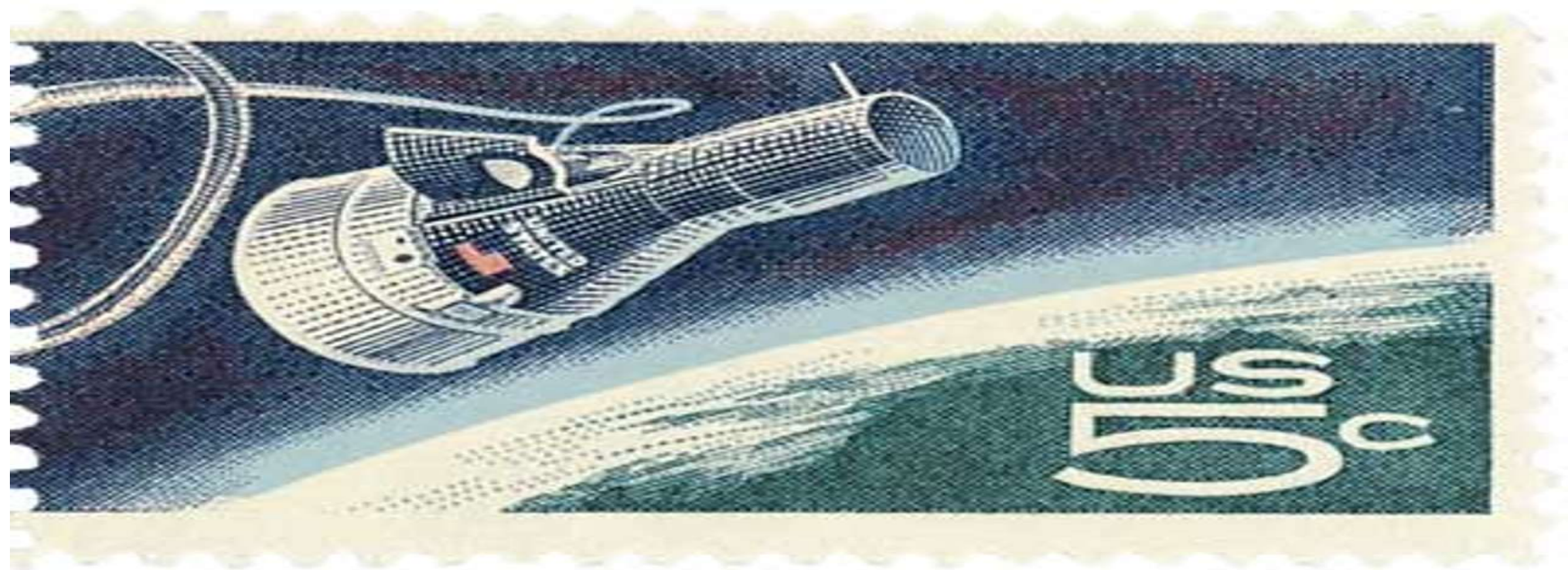
JPS Monthly Meeting

Introduction

- The United States Postal Service has celebrated the milestones of space exploration through stunning postage stamps.
- These stamps honor astronauts, spacecraft, and significant events in space history.

Early Space-Themed Stamps

- 1967: The first U.S. space-themed stamp honored the 'Accomplishments in Space.'
 - **U.S. #1331 and U.S. #1332**
 - **5¢ Astronaut and 5¢ Gemini 4 Capsule**
- **Issue Date:** September 29, 1967
- **City:** Kennedy Space Center, Florida



- 1969: A stamp commemorated the Apollo 11 Moon landing, featuring the famous 'First Man on the Moon' design.

U.S. #C76
1969 10 ¢ Moon Landing

Issue Date: September 9, 1969

City: Washington, DC



10^c
AIR MAIL

FIRST MAN ON THE MOON

UNITED STATES

Modern Space Stamps

- • 2011: 'Celebrate Space' series honored the Space Shuttle program.
- Marshall Islands Stamps Commemorates Last Mission of NASA's Space Shuttle
- The stamps honor each of the different Space Shuttles over the years: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour.

Farewell to America's Space Shuttle

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

IN MEMORIAM
CHALLENGER
1986
GREGORY J. JARVIS
CHRISTA McAULIFFE
RONALD MCNAIR
ELLISON ONIZUKA
JUDITH RESNIK
FRANCIS "Dick" SCOBEE
MICHAEL J. SMITH

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

MARSHALL ISLANDS

44



1981 • SPACE SHUTTLE • 2011

IN MEMORIAM
COLUMBIA
2003
MICHAEL P. ANDERSON
DAVID M. BROWN
KALPANA CHAWLA
LAUREL CLARK
RICK D. HUSBAND
WILLIAM C. MCCOOL
ILAN RAMON

1981

2011

COLUMBIA
FIRST: 4/12/1981 - 4/14/1981
LAST: 1/16/2003 - 2/1/2003

CHALLENGER
FIRST: 4/11/1983 - 4/9/1983
LAST: 1/28/1986

DISCOVERY
FIRST: 8/28/1984 - 9/5/1984
LAST: 2/24/2011 - 3/9/2011

ATLANTIS
FIRST: 10/3/1985 - 10/7/1985
LAST: 7/8/2011 - 7/21/2011

ENDEAVOUR
FIRST: 5/7/1992 - 5/16/1992
LAST: 5/16/2011 - 6/1/2011

C335 (7-1): Dean Ellis

C335 (7-2): Jack Fellows
C335 (7-6): Dennis Lyall

Original Paintings:
C335 (7-3) and Salvage:
David K. Stone

C335 (7-4): Mark Schuler
C335 (7-7): Chris Calle

C335 (7-5): Jim Butcher

Notable Astronauts and Spacecraft

- Stamps have celebrated:
- Astronauts like John Glenn and Sally Ride.
- Spacecraft such as Voyager, Hubble Space Telescope, and the International Space Station.



Space Exploration and Beyond

- The USPS continues to honor advancements in space exploration, inspiring new generations to look to the stars.

EXPLORING THE SOLAR SYSTEM



These stamps represent another first for the United States stamp program

The first pentagonal postage stamps. Special perforating dies were molded to give these five stamps their unique look.

The stamp selvage shows Earth's moon, Saturn, and a multitude of stars. Each stamp features a different representation of the sun.

Clockwise, from the top, the stamps show: the sun's corona at the peak of an eclipse; an artist's representation of the cross-section of the sun's interior; a computer-enhanced NASA photograph taken from space of a sunrise over Earth; image recorded from the Skylab space station of a solar eruption; and an Earth-based photograph of the sun shining through a cloud-dotted sky.

Examples of Space Stamps

- 1994: 'Space Fantasy' series celebrated science fiction with futuristic designs.
- **First Day City:** The First Day of Issue ceremony took place at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Former astronaut Alan Shepard spoke at the ceremony.
- **Unusual fact about this stamp:** Some of these stamps were sold before the official release date.
- Covers with these stamps are postmarked before the January 25th release date.

SPACE FANTASY SERIES

The set of five stamps were issued to appeal to younger customers. They were designed to look like comic books and science fiction from the 1930s. The idea was to portray past views of what the future would look like.



Examples of Space Stamps

- 2016: Pluto – Explored! stamp honored NASA's New Horizons mission.

Pluto—Explored!

Pluto



Forever
USA

2016

New Horizons



Forever
USA

2016

New Horizons



Forever
USA

2016

Pluto



Forever
USA

2016

What does Pluto have in common with the Grand Canyon, saguaro blossom and cactus wren?

Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at Flagstaff's [Lowell Observatory](#) in 1930.

**PLUTO IS THE OFFICIAL STATE PLANET
OF ARIZONA AS OF 2024**

Views of Our Planets

Mercury



Forever
USA

Venus



Forever
USA

Earth



Forever
USA

Mars



Forever
USA

Jupiter



Forever
USA

Saturn



Forever
USA

Uranus



Forever
USA

Neptune



Forever
USA

Mercury



Forever
USA

Venus



Forever
USA

Earth



Forever
USA

Mars



Forever
USA

Jupiter



Forever
USA

Saturn



Forever
USA

Uranus



Forever
USA

Neptune



Forever
USA

P11111

P11111

Examples of Space Stamps

- Hubble Telescope was launched into space aboard the *Discovery* on April 24, 1990.
- Hubble has proven the existence of black holes, captured a comet's collision with Jupiter, and taken the first images of Pluto and its satellite, Charon.

Images from the
Hubble Space Telescope
named in honor of
distinguished
American astronomer
EDWIN POWELL HUBBLE

Edwin Hubble



M A R S P A T H F I N D E R

J U L Y 4, 1 9 9 7

Mars Rover Sojourner

\$3⁰⁰
usa

USA



Examples of Space Stamps

- 2022: 'James Webb Space Telescope' stamp commemorated cutting-edge astronomy.
- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** is a [space telescope](#) designed to conduct [infrared astronomy](#). As the largest telescope in space, it is equipped with high-resolution and high-sensitivity instruments, allowing it to view objects too old, [distant](#), or faint for the [Hubble Space Telescope](#)



One of the first images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope pictures region NGC 3324 of the Carina Nebula. Many stars are born in this region.

♦ FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ♦

JAMES
WEBB
SPACE TELESCOPE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 ♦ WASHINGTON, DC 20066



IMPERFORATE

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE



X1111

X1111



2024 Cosmic Cliffs

About the stamp design: Pictures an image of deep space taken by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. According to the USPS, this stamp shows “a digitally colored depiction of the invisible bands of mid-infrared light emitted by the Cosmic Cliffs.

Red and yellow flares scattered throughout the cliffs show developing and newly born stars. The orange and brown clouds in the lower third of the image are swirls of dust and gas. Additional stars, in our Milky Way and in distant galaxies, appear in the blue and black regions above and beyond the nebula.”



2024 Pillars of Creation

The name “Pillars of Creation” came from the fact that the gas and dust that make up the structures are actively forming new stars. Without stars, life on any planet would be near-impossible (since space is otherwise freezing cold).

About the stamp design: Pictures an image of deep space taken by NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). According to the USPS, this stamp shows “a digitally colored depiction of the invisible bands of mid-infrared light emitted by the Pillars of Creation.

By assigning color to various wavelengths, the digitized image allows us to see a landscape otherwise invisible to the human eye.

Red areas toward the end of the pillars show burgeoning stars ejecting raw materials as they form, while the relatively small red orbs scattered throughout the image show newly born stars.



Star Wars-Themed Stamps

- • 2007: The USPS released a special series to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Star Wars.
- • Featured iconic characters like Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and Darth Vader.
- • The stamps showcased scenes from the original trilogy.

STAR WARS



STAR WARS YODA



S1111

S1111



S1111

PLATE
POSITION



.41 x 20 = \$8.20

S1111

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STAR WARS DROIDS



X1111

X1111

Star Trek-Themed Stamps

- • 2016: A stamp series celebrated the 50th anniversary of Star Trek.
- • Included iconic elements like the USS Enterprise, Starfleet emblem, and characters like Spock.
- • Highlighted the show's cultural impact and vision for the future.

STAR TREK



P11111111

P11111111

SPACE...THE FINAL FRONTIER

Cultural Significance of Space Stamps

- Space-themed stamps not only commemorate achievements in space exploration but also:
 - Highlight humanity's fascination with the cosmos.
 - Inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
 - Reflect pop culture's role in shaping our imagination of space.

Conclusion

- Space stamps provide a window into the history of U.S. space exploration. They celebrate the achievements of astronauts, scientists, and engineers, inspiring a sense of wonder and discovery.