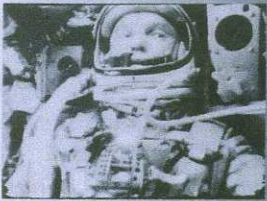
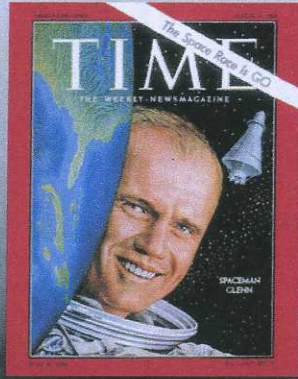


JOURNAL OF THE ASTRO SPACE STAMP SOCIETY

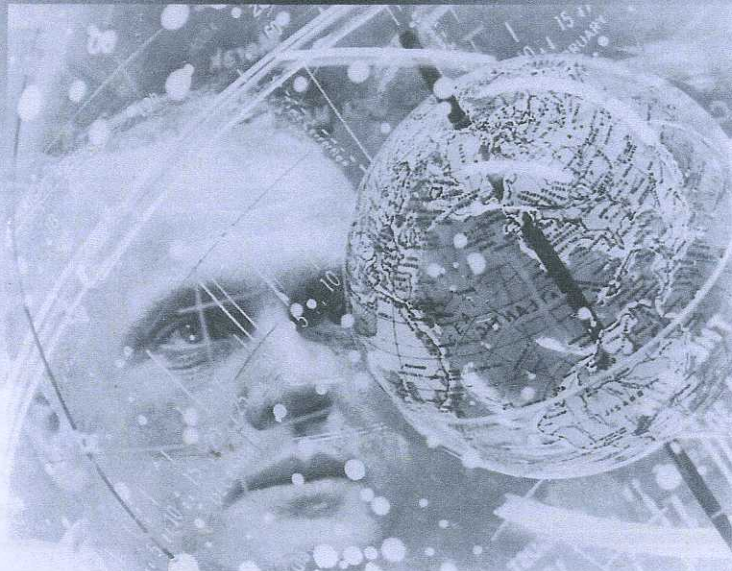
ORBIT



John Glenn
First American to Orbit Earth
20th February 1962



John



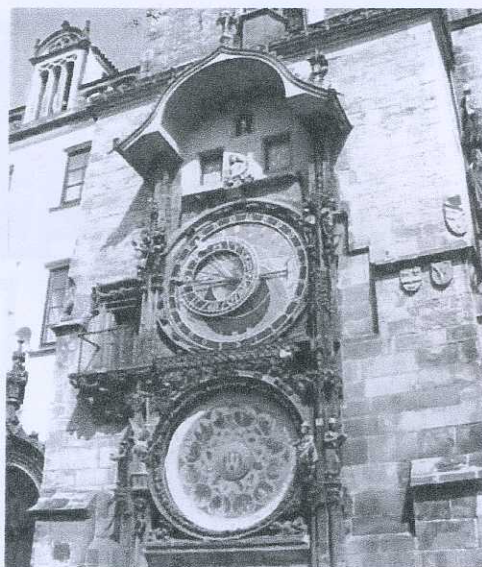
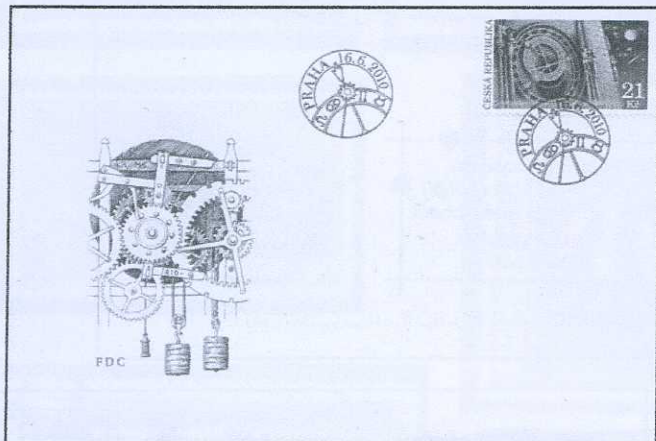
Glenn

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Prague's Astronomical Orloj—600 years old *by Umberto Cavallaro*

The Prague Astronomical Orloj, one of the most admired technical monuments in the world, celebrated its 600th anniversary in 2010. The Czech Post authority commemorated the event by issuing in June 2010 an attractive stamp of 21 Kč (Czech Crones).



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The pride of the Old Town Hall was designed by Mikuláš of Kadaň in 1410 and inaugurated on October 14th. In a multicultural city, which Prague was at that time, the new astronomical clock made it possible for everyone to read the time using alternate methods.

This is not the first time the Orloj has been featured on a stamp. In 1978 the Prague Clock was the subject chosen for an entire set of five stamps issued, together with one souvenir sheet, by the former Czechoslovakia to celebrate the International Philatelic Exhibition "Praga 1978".

Having encountered its fair share of hardships, the astronomical clock's most recent great misfortune came at the very end of the Second World War when the Old Town Hall was bombed out. It had been successfully repaired and improved several times throughout the centuries and, with about three quarters of the old original parts operational, it is still functional and is thus the most well preserved of its kind across the globe.

The clock's key component is its astrolabe, an ancient



In 1987 the astronomical-mathematical clock was chosen once again as a symbol to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Czech Mathematics and Physics Union.

astronomical instrument used by mariners since the Middle Ages to determine the positions of the stars, the Sun and the Moon. For centuries, before the sextant was invented, it was the main tool for orienting navigators and it served for determining local time through knowledge of the longitude, or vice versa.



The "multiple" clock consists of a stationary disk in the centre and two

