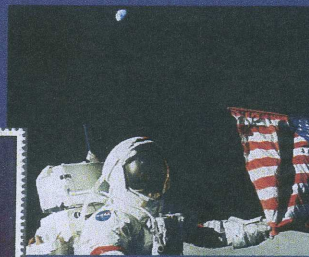
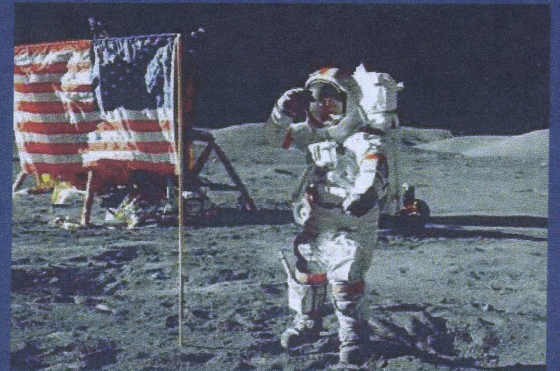
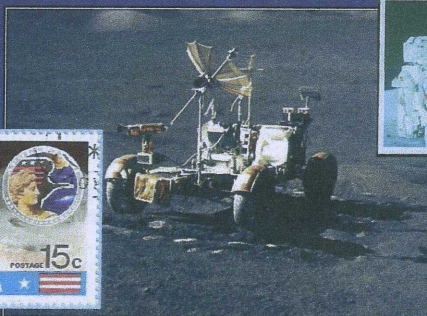


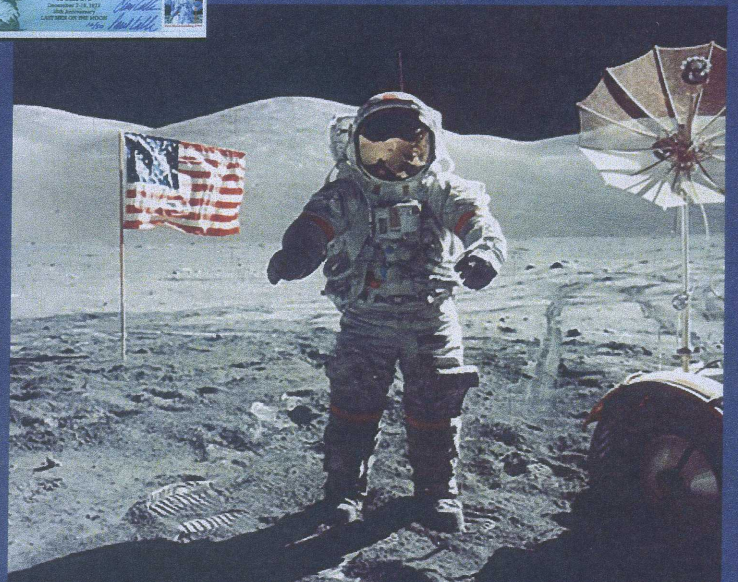
ORBIT



Eugene Cernan, commander of Apollo 17, still holds the distinction of being the last man to walk on the Moon, as no humans have visited the Moon since December 14, 1972.



The four-wheel, lightweight vehicle greatly extended the lunar area that could be explored by humans.



If I can call the Moon my home long before today's generation of young adults were even born, then I challenge them and their children to tell me what in their lifetime is impossible.



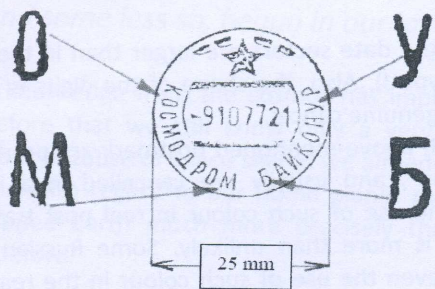
The First Official Baikonur Postmark *by Julius Cacka*

Five different cancelling devices were used in Baikonur between 1975 and 1996. Although at first sight their shape may recall the traditional cancelling devices, they were not true date stamps. Originally the idea was to use them only for special events which, in the cosmodrome, were mainly spacecraft launches. It was the pressure from both collectors and stamp dealers, together with the requirements of the State propaganda that brought about daily use of the date stamp.

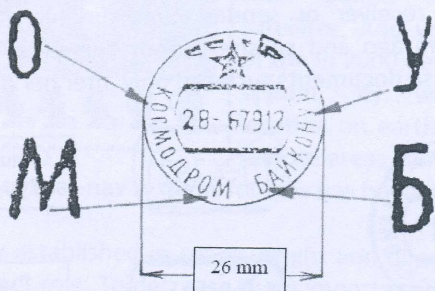
One must bear in mind that at that time there wasn't in the Baikonur Cosmodrome a building with the label "Baikonur Post Office" or similar. All the Baikonur post offices were named "Leninsk" ¹

Interest in the Baikonur covers not only prompted the duplication of date stamps in order to cope with the commercial requests coming from abroad (and, as today, Russian Authorities never clarified how many cancelling devices were actually in use) but also to the production of several forged cancels. In fact, since Russians officially admit the existence of one single duplicate, made available to satisfy requests from abroad, – to the detriment of the collectors – I must pragmatically consider as forged all the other existing cancelling devices.

First of all, two different versions are known of the first postmark „KOSMODROM BAIKONUR“ (КОСМОДРОМ БАЙКОНУР) which has a diameter of 25 mm and was used from 1975 to 1980. The size of the postmark is slightly different in the two types and, with the help of a magnifier, few peculiarities may be valued.

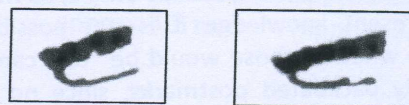


Type I above with Type II below



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The two postmarks mainly differ from each other in respect of the wording „СССР“ and „КОСМОДРОМ БАЙКОНУР“.



“СССР”

Type I (above left) : the second character "C" is approx 2.7 mm wide and 1,5 mm high.

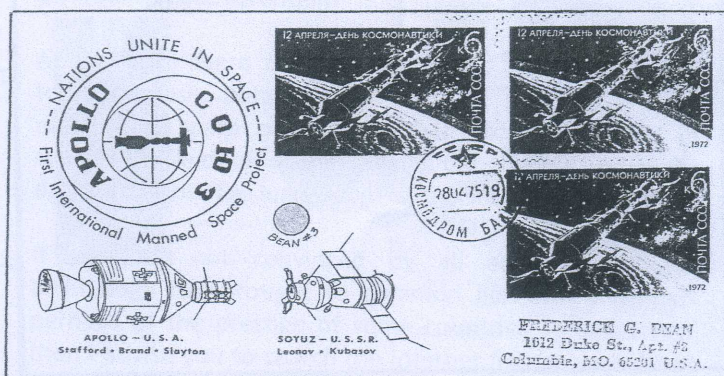
Type II: the second character "C" is approx 3.0 mm wide and 1,2 mm high

“КОСМОДРОМ БАЙКОНУР”,

The two types mainly differ re the shape of the letter „К“ and of the second letter „О“ in the word „КОСМОДРОМ“ and then for the shape of the letter „Б“ and „У“ in the word „БАЙКОНУР“. The letter "O" in type I has a distinct conical shape getting thinner toward the middle of the stamp

Type I cancels have been identified only on postal documents coming directly from Baikonur. The first known use of the Baikonur postmark Type I bears the date 27.4.1975

According to the available data, we know that this postmark was used for the first time at the temporary post office, in service at the Hotel "Kosmonaut" in Leninsk, where it was used to cancel registered mail. On April 27 and 28,1975 this postmark was mainly used to cancel mail directed to foreign countries. And this confirms the assumption that the main reason for this operation was on one hand the State propaganda for the ASTP mission and, on the other hand, the intention to draw the attention of the American partners, who would participate in the joint flight, towards cancelling postal documents at the launch location.

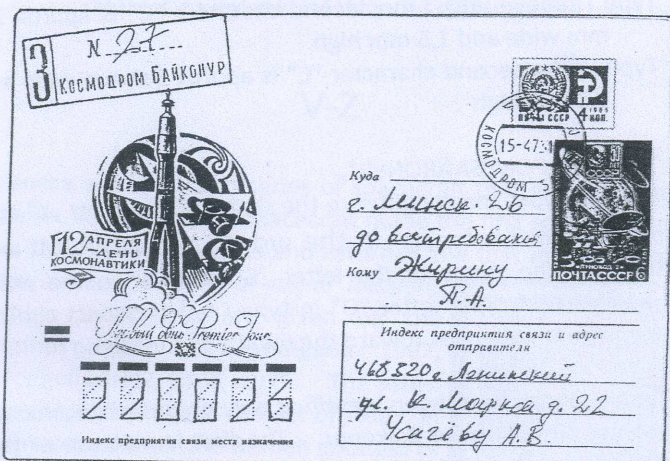


Cover with postmark 28.4.1975, addressed to USA

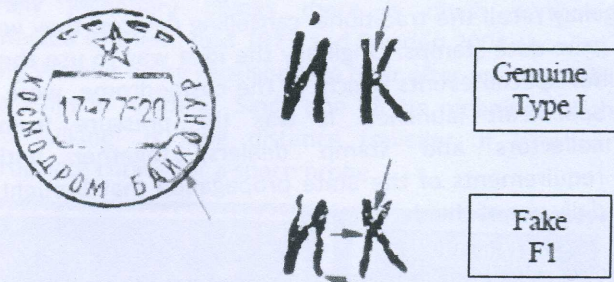
Very likely we can state that some twenty covers have been mailed altogether. According to the available data, this date stamp was officially used for the first time to postmark the Soviet cacheted covers Nr. 2127 (Space Conquerors), Nr. 8249 (15th Cosmonautics Day), Nr. 8642 (Nikolaus Kopernik),

Nr. 9414 (Intercosmos), Nr. 10208 (Cosmonaut Monument in Moscow) and Nr. 10280 (Statue of Gagarin).

As stated above the date stamp was officially used for the first time on April 27, 1975. However cancels of April 15, 1975 are also found (and perhaps others, as well). According to our present knowledge it is not possible for us to determine whether those would be "test cancellations" or deliberately backdated postmarks, since no methodology could help us in doing so.



1975. The basic characteristic feature of this forgery is the bent-vertical of the letter "K" in the word "БАЙКОНУР". Also, the letters used and the diameter of the stamp are smaller than the original.



The fake F1 mainly appears on items commemorating the ASTP mission

Type II postmarks are only found on postal documents issued for sale to foreign countries and for commercial purposes. It is practically impossible that such postmarks have been used for a true postal service. Yours truly has in his hands a cover bearing a Type II postmark dated 27/5/1980, i.e., more than one month after the Baikonur Cosmodrome had adopted a brand new, completely different cancel.

This means that the Type II cancel only was used to produce late documents the subsequent production of receipts



The Fake F2 only appeared in the philatelic market after 2000 and has not been described up to now, according to knowledge of the author. Characteristic of this fake are the following:



Cover bearing a Type II postmark dated 27/5/1980.

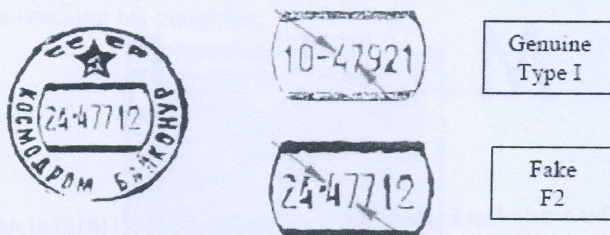
Since April 1980 in the Baikonur Post Office a new completely different cancelling device was put in service..

Unfortunately, the Baikonur postmark has been successfully counterfeited. Below is shown the forged cancel F2 which is mainly found on items produced for commemorating ASTP. Such faked cancelling devices probably appeared after July

The digits of the date sectors are larger than in the original (i.e., in Type I). Also, the shape of the digits is different from the genuine cancel.

The items with above-mentioned postmark are presented as "really run", and usually are cancelled in a light red colour. The use of such colour in real post traffic from Baikonur is more than unlikely. Some Russian experts consider even the use of such colour in the real service from Baikonur as absolutely impossible

The whole row of items offered with this postmark bears the address of the well-known Russian collector Nikolayeva, either as receiver or sender. Unfortunately she died some years ago and so she cannot comment on such items. These documents surfaced only after her death.



Summary of findings on postmark varieties.

Parameter	Type I	Type II	Fake F1 (Type III.)	Fake F2 (Type IV.)
Diameter	approx 25 mm	approx 26 mm	approx 25 mm	approx 25,7 mm
Digit height	approx 3,0 mm	approx 3,0 mm	approx 3,2 mm	approx 3,5 mm
Deviations from the letters or numbers of Type I.	-	yes	yes	yes

All conclusions and assumptions written above are not unchallengeable. This work reflects only the evidence and facts that I have in my hands to date.

¹The author explains this complex matter in his book **Julius Cacka**, "*Kosmodrom Bajkonur – poznámky k poštovní historii (Cosmodrom Bajkonur) – Remarks on the postal history*", Prague 2006, 104 pp.

²Different conflicting versions exist on how the date April 27, 1975 was set on the date bridge of the cancelling device.

According to a publication by Gurewich and Scherbakow "Kosmická Filatelie", (Moscow 1979) issued by VOF (Society of Russian Philatelic Experts), one can gather that the date stamp was set as "27-47515". Some Soviet journalists indicate however that the date bridge was initially set as "27047515" and that the items bearing in the month the hyphen instead if a "0" were produced

later by backdating the device. I believe that this question only could be clarified by the Russian experts who have access to the archives of Ministries and Organizations of the former USSR.

On the basis of the postal documents which I directly received from the collector Nikolayewa and of the documents sent to the States on April 27, 1975 I'm inclined to believe that originally the device was set as 27047515, i.e. with no hyphen (but *errare humanum est*).

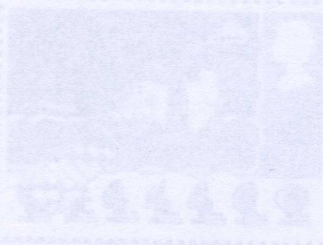
Our Prague based member **Julius Cacka** is the President of the Czech Astrophilately Society and author of "*Typy a Padělky Ruských Razítek Tématu Kosmos*" ("Russian space postmarks and fakes" – in Czech, Prague 1996), from which comes this article, based on the second updated edition (Prague 2006, 115 pp).



Swim suits, golf clubs and cordless tools

John Beenen concludes his survey of the various spin-offs, some of great importance to modern living and some less so, begun in our last edition.

And our knowledge from the cosmos has improved a lot. I wrote before that we still know only a very little of our cosmos, but because of space search we already know much more. And with regard to our home planet radar satellites have mapped Earth much more precisely than was ever possible before.



(Illustration CB, 1985, W8 7)
At sea it has become a lot safer thanks to maritime satellites. And what to think of the in 2000 developed GPS system, by which every location on earth even in far remote areas can be reached.

From this our sat. nav systems for cars has been developed.

As already established in space weight and distribution are an important role. To decrease them important research has to be made regarding these items. Further developments are

magic word. Hence, today all sorts of apparatuses, from hearing aids, personal computers and gadgets like mobile phones become much smaller.

(Illustration USA, 2001, S8 49428)

Did you know that even our bar codes originally are a spin-off from a space invention?

At first they were developed to distinguish between the millions of spare parts and spacecraft. And of course they were designed to run the lunar base.

If you are not convinced that technology has brought us perhaps of the prestige of the astronauts, space scientist Ray Bradbury has written a story which will make you

I might also like to mention that the first satellite was launched in 1957 and it was the Soviet Union's Sputnik 1. It was the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth.