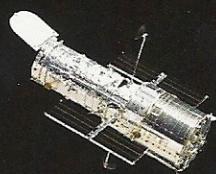


1 ORBIT

6



"Tin Can In Space"

2015
JUN

ASTRO SPACE STAMP SOCIETY

Cacka's Cancel Commentaries

Our Czech member Julius Cacka writes regularly on postmark anomalies and forgeries in our Italian sister paper Ad Astra. Here is a selection of some of his recent contributions.

20th Anniversary of the first spacewalk. Moscow, March 18th 1985.

This special pictorial postmark was used to cancel the 4-kopek card issued on January 26th 1985. Two versions for this postmark exist and they differ from each other both regarding the form of the letters and some graphical details in the cosmonaut floating in space. All these differences are evident at first glance.



Type I.

Type II.

The main differences are the following:

1. The size of letters and numbers in the wording PREMIER JOUR (on the right) is about 1,8 millimeters high in Type I, and approx 2,0 millimeters in Type II. The size of letters used is different also in other parts of the text. It could be generally stated that in Type I letters are smaller than in Type II.

2. the drawing of the cosmonaut

The two versions of the cosmonaut differ from each other in a whole range of details. Only the main ones are listed, as they can be easily seen with the naked eye.

a) The right glove

Type I: short fingers and extended thumb

Type II: long fingers, shortened thumb

b) The left glove

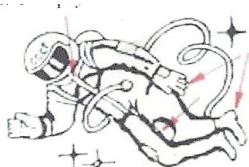
Type I: long and slender fingers, small patches

Type II: thick and short fingers, large patches

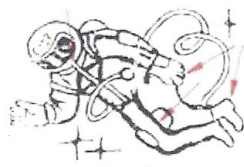
c) The heel of the left leg

Type I: rounded heel

Type II: sharply moulded heel



Type I.



Type II.



Postcard with special postmark of Type 1 shipped from the Central Post-Office of Moscow.

The Type I pictorial postmark was in use at the Main Post Office in Moscow and was really used in actual mail services, as the picture above shows. As for the Type II version, I have identified so far only machine stamps that were not really run through mail, but were purchased at philatelic kiosks throughout the USSR or sold abroad by Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga.

The Type 2 pictorial postmark, in other words, was most likely used solely for commercial purposes and never in the real postal traffic. (Ex AdAstra #24 March 2015)

Baikonur Postmarks : 15th anniversary of the Gagarin space flight.

This special postmark has been officially used only with black ink. Russian authors in journal articles and also in the publication

"Специальные почтовые штемпеля СССР 1973-1976",

(Special postage stamp USSR 1973-1976), Moscow 1979, warn about counterfeit postmarks in black and in other colours. However, as far as I know, none of these fake postmarks have never been published or not even concretely described so far.



On the other hand, no Russian source as for now has officially admitted the existence of more than one version of this special postmark. This is why one must consider as forgeries every cancels that show significant deviations.

In the above figure the genuine postmark is shown together

Julius Cacka is president of the Czech Astrophilately Society and Member of the FIP Astrophilately Commission. This article is reproduced from his book "Typy a Padelky Ruských Razítek Tématu Kosmos" ("Russian space-related Postmarks and Fakes" - Prag 1996) pp. 98-99 (Translated from German by Umberto Cavallaro)

Main differences can be summarized as follows:

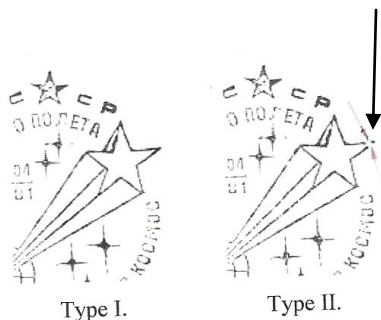
	Original	Fake
Color of the cancellation	black	brown, and possible other colour
Postmark contour	clear and clean	fuzzy and blurred
Wording "летие"	exactly below the digit "15"	Slightly shifted to the right
Shape of the letters	-	different from the original

with a cancellation with significant differences. According to our working hypothesis, this second postmark must be considered as a fake.

Main differences can be summarized in the chart above:

20th anniversary of the Gagarin space flight.

This special postmark is currently known in two types, but only Type 1 has been used at the Baikonur Cosmodrome.



The main differences between the two types may be seen on the star: in the upper right part of the Type II postmark the star is damaged.

This difference is so clear that one cannot miss it.

The cancel with unbroken star (Type I.) was used in Baikonur. Type 2 cancels have been seen to date only on covers that were serviced for commercial purposes. We can exclude without any doubt that they were used on items really run.

20th anniversary of the Cosmic Era.

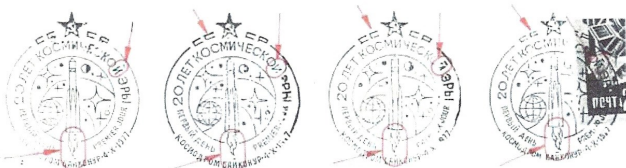
According to Russian sources four types of this special postmark exist. Only the cancel Type 1 was in use at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, No reliable and accurate information of the usage of the other three types is available. Likely they were used by the Russian Foreign Trade Organization for commercial purposes.

The individual types differentiate mainly for the following details:

1. The bar above the letter "Й" in the word "КОСМИЧЕСКОЙ":
 Type I: the mark is above the letter
 Type II: the mark is inside the letter
 Type III: the mark is above the letter
 Type IV: the mark is above the letter

2. The planet representation in the lower right part of the stamp:

Type I: the planet is represented by a ring
 Type II: the planet is represented by a black point
 Type III: the planet is represented by a ring
 Type IV: the planet is represented by a ring



Type I. Type II. Type III. Type IV.

represented by a ring Type IV: the planet is represented by a ring

3. Termination of the rocket flame over the letters of the word "БАЙКОНУР":

Type I: on the letter "Й" Type II: on the letter "АЙ"

Type III: on the letter "АЙ" Type IV: over the letter "К"

(Ex AdAstra #23 December 2014)

Baikonur daily postmark - "Rocket on the carriage".

The daily postmark "rocket on the carriage" was in use at Baikonur from September 1989 until August 1996. It has been therefore in use even when the USSR didn't exist anymore! According to the information we have, five types of this postmark exist, three of which are fakes.

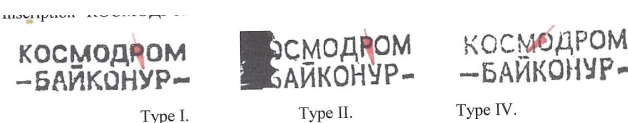


Type I. Type II. Type IV.

Basic differences of the types are as follows:

- width of the postmark
 Type 1 about 24mm Type 2 approx 23.5mm Type IV approx. 23.3mm

2 Inscription



As it is evident, individual types differ by the shape of letters in the given words. For significant differences, I especially refer to the letters

	Type I.	Type II.	Type IV.
"К" in the word КОСМОДРОМ	≈ 1.2	≈ 2.0	≈ 1.4
"Й" in the word БАЙКОНУР	≈ 1.7	≈ 1.6	≈ 1.4
"У" in the word БАЙКОНУР	≈ 1.5	≈ 1.8	≈ 1.6

More imperceptible differences can be found in other letters of the text.

(Ex AdAstra #22 October 2014)