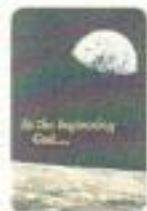
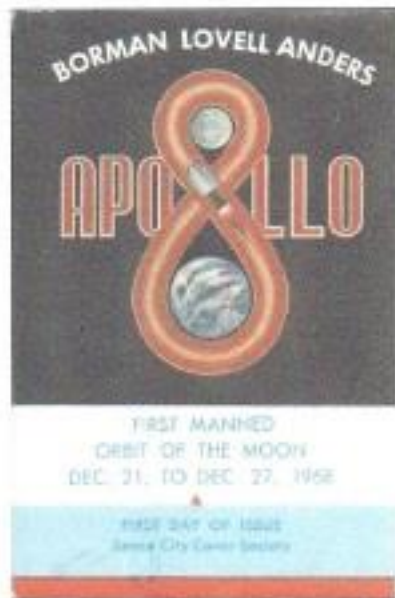




In the beginning...



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



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James Lovell
Frank Borman

December 21-27, 1968 - Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders flew Apollo 8 into moon orbit - the first manned lunar journey. The trip lasts 147 hours and includes 10 revolutions of the moon. Recovery ship the USS Yorktown.

New Astrophilatelic Association founded in Italy

Another blank space in the European landscape of organized astrophilately has been filled: 15 Italian astrophilatelists have established AS.IT.AF, the Italian Astrophilately Association.

Aimed as a reference point for space stamp and cover collectors in Italy, it was founded by a group of collectors with a solid experience in astrophilately and related aspects. "It aims at disseminating information on collecting, exchanging materials and sharing knowledge on how to participate to national and international exhibitions", says former ASSS member **Umberto Cavallaro**, the President of AS.IT.AF. and one of the founding members.

ASITAF will be affiliated with the Federation of the Italian Philatelic Societies. A quarterly newsletter is planned, covering information on astrophilatelic and space events, with a particular focus on Italy.

"We are currently 15 members and we expect to grow a little more in the next few months", Cavallaro adds. Paolo d'Angelo has been elected Vice President, and the Steering Committee consists of Luigi Bussolino, Giovanni Martina and Annibale Rega. ASSS member **Pietro della Maddalena** serves as auditor. The annual fee is 30 Euro, and a membership application is available in Italian and English.

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