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## Un-manned Satellites on Postage Stamps



# Space Mail from Shenzhou 4 Unmanned Mission

By Lin Da An

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The Shenzhou 4 unmanned spacecraft was launched by the LM-2F rocket at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on 30 December 2002 AM 12:40, and landed at Si-zi-wang-qi of Inner Mongolia on 5 January 2003 PM 19:16. The spacecraft orbit ranged from 343-343 km, with an inclined angle of 42.393, and an orbit time of 5390 seconds.

The rocket was launched at a freezing temperature of -28 degrees Celsius, 8 degrees Celsius lower than the minimum launch temperature of -20 degrees Celsius stipulated in the Rocket Launch Guidelines, breaking China's record for a low-temperature launch.

The technical state of the unmanned spacecraft is exactly the same as that of the manned spacecraft. During the flight, earth observation, material science, life science experiments, space astronomy and space environment exploration were carried out successively.

Below are some of the space items flown aboard the Shenzhou 4 spacecraft.

Each item is accompanied by a notary certificate (Figure 1) from the Beijing Notary Public Office. What's more, on each flown space item, there is a steel seal of the Beijing Notary Public Office.

## Space mail letter

Only 5 flown BITTT postcards exist (numbered from 2002 665 to 2002 669), (Figure 2) tied with the "flown-proof" postmark of "China Jiuquan

Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27<sup>th</sup> Branch post office, 2002. 11. 29. 10 (29 Nov. 2002 10:00 AM), loaded in the cabin of spacecraft" and the postmark of "China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre Military Post Office, 2002. 11. 29. 10, loaded in the cabin of space mail letter (exclusively use)", closed with the seal of the Beijing Public Notary Office.

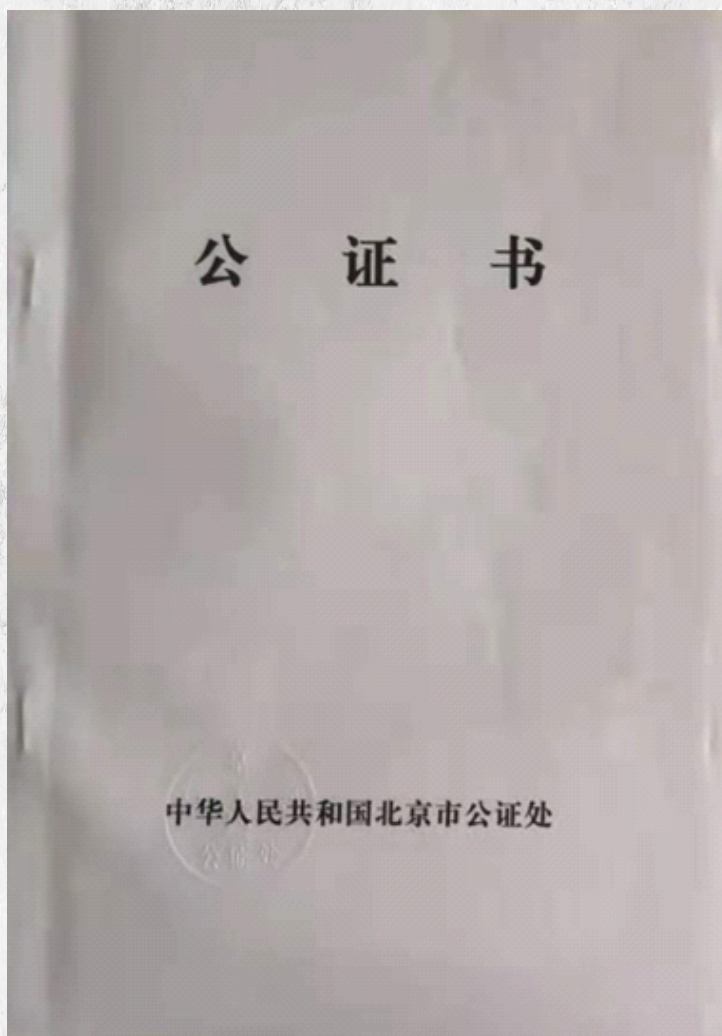


Figure 1 - Notary certificate from the Beijing Notary Public Office.



Figure 2 - Flown BITTT postcard of Shenzhou 4.



The front side of the card was also cancelled with the capsule recovery opening cabin date red postmark of “Beijing 2003. 01. 08 (8 Jan. 2003), recovery of space mail letter (exclusively use)” issued by Beijing Xibeiwang post office. The reverse side of the card was tied with the postmark of “Beijing 2003. 1. 8. 11 (8 Jan. 2003 AM 11:00) Space City 1”.



Figure 3 - Flown BITTT design proof cover.

Only 6 flown proof covers exist (numbered from 010 to 014, and 022). All proofs were signed by the stamp designer Wang Huming and Ren Guo'en (Figure 3). Also tied with the “flown-proof” postmark of “China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27<sup>th</sup> Branch post office, 2002. 11. 29. 10, loaded in the cabin of spacecraft” and the postmark of “China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre Military Post Office, 2002. 11. 29. 10, loaded in the cabin of space mail letter (exclusively use)”, closed with the seal of the Beijing Public Notary Office.

The front side of the proof cover was also cancelled with the capsule recovery opening cabin date red postmark of “Beijing 2003. 01. 08 (8 Jan. 2003), recovery of space mail letter (exclusively use)” issued by Beijing Xibeiwang post office. The reverse side of the proof cover was tied with the postmark of “Beijing 2003. 1. 8. 11 (8 Jan. 2003 AM 11:00) Space City 1”.



Figure 4 - BITTT Flown cover of Shenzhou 4.

5 flown covers of this kind exist (numbered from 00001 to 00055). The reverse side of the cover was tied with the postmark of “Beijing 2003. 1. 8. 11 Space City 1” (Figure 4).



Figure 5 - CISME flown cover of Shenzhou 4.



100 flown covers issued by the China Institute of Space Medical Engineering exist (numbered from 00001 to 00100). All 100 flown covers were signed by China's first batch of 14 taikonauts (Figure 5). They are Yang Liwei, Nie Haisheng, Jing Haipeng, Fei Juanlong, Zhai Zhigang, Liu Boming, Liu Wang, Zhang Xiaoguang, Wu Jie, Li Qinglong, Deng Qingming, Zhao Chuandong, Pan Zhanchun, Chen Quan. On the reverse side of the cover is the postmark with the date of the opening of the capsule recovery cabin "Beijing 2003. 1. 8. 11 Space City 1".

100 flown covers issued by China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre exist (numbered from 0001 to 0100), tied with the "flown-proof" postmark of "China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27<sup>th</sup> Branch post office, 2002. 11. 29. 10 (29 Nov. 2002 10:00 AM), loaded in the cabin of spacecraft" and the postmark of "China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre Military Post Office, 2002. 11. 29. 10, loaded in the cabin of space mail letter (for exclusive use)".

A "JSLC M.P.O." green warranty label attesting it is genuine was applied, and the cover was closed with the Beijing Public Notary Office seal (Figure 6).



Figure 6 - JSLC flown cover of Shenzhou 4.

The front side of the cover was also cancelled with the capsule recovery opening cabin date red postmark of "Beijing 2003. 01. 08 (8 Jan. 2003), recovery of space mail letter (exclusively use)" and red cachet "The fourth Shenzhou flight test - Flown to commemorate" issued by Beijing Xibeiwang post office. The reverse side of the card was tied with the postmark of "Beijing 2003. 1. 8. 11 (8 Jan. 2003 AM 11:00) Space City 1".



A total of 400 similar flown covers, issued by CALT - China Academy of Launching Technology (numbered from HYDZ 00001 to HYDZ 00400) exist (Figure 7). They are signed by the launch commander of the LM-2F rocket: Huang Chunping, and the chief designer: Liu Zhusheng. On the reverse side of the cover is the postmark with the date of the opening of cabin capsule recovery of "Beijing 2003.01.08.11 Space City 1".

Figure 7 - CALT flown cover of Shenzhou 4.

A total of 400 flown covers issued by CAST - China Academy of Space Technology (numbered from 0212001 to 0212400) exist (Figure 8). On the reverse side of the cover is a postmark with the date of the opening of the capsule recovery cabin "Beijing 2003.01.08.11 Space City 1".



Figure 8 - CAST flown cover of Shenzhou 4.

200 sheets of stamps issued to celebrate the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China embarked on the Shenzhou 4 spacecraft on behalf of the Office of China Manned Space Engineering (CMSE). They are numbered from 03001 to 03200 (Figure 9).

On the lower right corner of the back of the sheet stamp, there is a numbered identification mark (from 001 to 200). The identification is divided into two parts. One part is pasted on the back of the sheet stamp, and the other part is kept in the notary office. The whole identification logo forms "CMSE", the abbreviation for Chinese Manned Space Engineering Office.



*Figure 9 - Flown stamp sheet issued for the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.*



A total of 800 sheets of special Shenzhou 4 stamps issued by the Office of China Manned Space Engineering (CMSE) were embarked on the cabin (Figure 10). They are numbered from 00001 to 00800). On the lower right corner of the back of each stamp sheet, there is a numbered identification mark (from 00001 to 00800). The identification also is divided into two parts. One part is pasted on the back of the sheet stamp, and the other part is kept in the notary office. The whole identification logo is the abbreviation CMSE (for Chinese Manned Space Engineering Office) printed in white letters on a blue background.

*Figure 10 - The flown CSME personalized stamps sheet.*

