

ORBIT

Astro Space Stamp Society



Competition
Win 10 random covers



Link in this issue
Catalogue
of
Astronomy and Space Stamps
Countries C



In this issue
Which Moon
is that



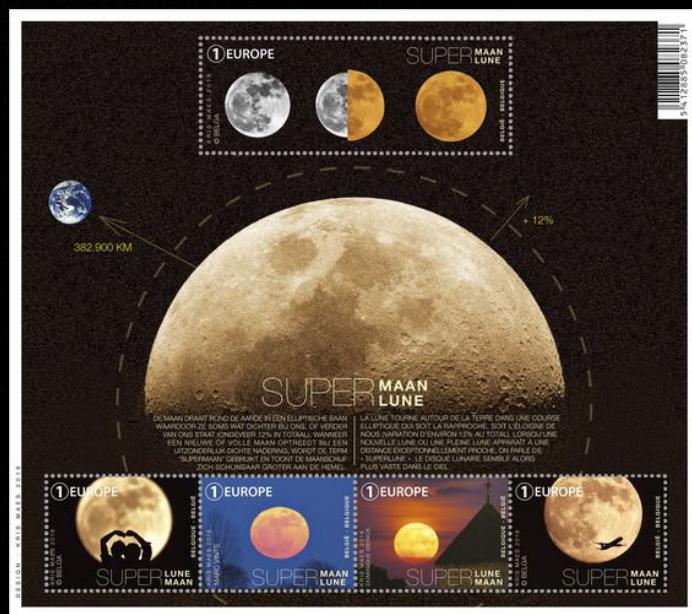
Also in this issue

Inappropriate or bogus depictions of space events

Exploration of the Outer Planets

The ASITAF covers - ExoMars

Space Mail from Chinese Shenzhou 6 Manned Spacecraft



Space Mail from Chinese Shenzhou 6 Manned Spacecraft

by Lin Da An

This article first appeared in AD-ASTRA and is reprinted with permission

The Shenzhou 6 manned spacecraft was launched by the LM-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on 12 October 2005 at 9:00 am, with Fei Junlong and Nie Haishen on board, and landed safely at 4:33 am on 17 October 2005 at the A-Mu-Gu-Lang Prairie ("A-Mu-Gu-Lang" means "peace" in Mongolian) near Si-zi-wang-qi in Inner Mongolia. It landed just 1km from the theoretical landing site. The landing of Shenzhou 5 was also very precise, only 6 km from the theoretical landing site.

The Shenzhou 6 spacecraft has a total length of 8 m. and a total weight of 8079 kg. It orbited at 350-350 km. with an inclination of 42° and a cycle time of 90 minutes. The taikonauts had 5.5 cubic metres of space to manoeuvre in.

The rocket that launched the Shenzhou 6 spacecraft had three outstanding new improvements: first, it was equipped with a real-time video camera, which allowed the ground crew to monitor the key steps of the separation of the booster, the separation of the first and second stages, the ejection of the fairing, etc.; second, the escape system was improved to increase the safety of the astronauts. Thirdly, the vibration problem was solved.

This mission was the first "real human spaceflight test". The crew thoroughly tested the equipment and technologies to be used for space rendezvous, paving the way for future mastery of docking with space stations and performing extra-vehicular activities. This mission was the prelude to the second step of the "three-step" strategy of China's manned space programme.

Compared to the Shenzhou 5 spacecraft, the Shenzhou 6 spacecraft incorporated 110 additional technological improvements.

The Shenzhou 6 spacecraft carried space mail. Each piece of space mail flown was accompanied by a notarised certificate (right) from the Beijing Notary Public Office and bears the steel seal or seal of the Beijing Notary Public Office.



10 postcards were flown on behalf of BITTT. They are numbered from N0. 001 of 010 to N0. 010 of 010. The front side of the postcard was tied with the “flown-proof” postmark “China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, 2005. 9. 9. 9 (Sep. 9th 2005, 9 AM), loaded in the cabin of spacecraft”; the cards were also sealed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”.



On the reverse side of the few postcards was tied the special recovery postmark with the date of the capsule opening: “To commemorate the opening of the cabin of Shenzhou 6 manned spacecraft, 2005. 10. 19. 16 (Oct. 19th 2005, 4 PM) China Beijing Space City”.



10 postcards were flown on behalf of CISME. They are numbered from N° 001 of 010 to N° 010 of 010. The front side of the postcard was cancelled with the “flown-proof” postmark Jiuquan M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th p.o., loaded in the cabin of the spacecraft”, also sealed with the steel seal of “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The 10 flown cards were signed by the two Shenzhou 6 taikonauts (Fei Junlong, Nie Haishen) and the four backup taikonauts (Zhai Zhigang, Wu Jie, Jing Haipeng, Liu Boming). There is no postmark on the reverse side of the 10 cards.

12 additional small postcards were flown for CISME onboard Shenzhou 6. They are numbered from N0. 001 to N0. 012 and are signed by the two Shenzhou 6 taikonauts (Fei Junlong, Nie Haishen) and the four backup taikonauts (Zhai Zhigang, Wu Jie, Jing Haipeng, Liu Boming). The front side of the postcard was cancelled with the “flown-proof” postmark of Lanzhou 27th Branch p.o. and sealed with the steel seal of “Beijing Public Notary Office”. There is no postmark on the reverse side.



Additional 20 covers (numbered from 001 to 020) were flown on behalf of BITTT. They bear on the front side the “flown-proof” postmark of Jiuquan M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, and the steel seal of “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The special recovery postmark of the capsule opening cabin date was applied on the reverse side of the covers: “To commemorate the opening cabin of Shenzhou 6 manned spacecraft, 2005. 10. 19. 16 (Oct. 19th, 2005 4 PM) China Beijing Space City”. Only 12 of such flown covers (numbered from 001 to 002, 011 to 020) were signed by the two Shenzhou 6 taikonauts (Fei Junlong, Nie Haishen) and the four backup taikonauts (Zhai Zhigang, Wu Jie, Jing Haipeng, Liu Boming).



16 of these BITTT covers were loaded onboard Soyuz TMA-8 on April 1st, 2006, and transported to the ISS, where they stayed for 183 days until Pavel Vinogradov and Jeffrey Willams. They returned to Earth on September 29th, 2006.



BITTT also prepared 22 cards (numbered from 001 to 022) loaded in the cabin of the spacecraft. The front side of the postcard was tied with Jiuquan's "flown-proof" postmark and cancelled on the day of the cabin opening with the postmark of the recovery date: "Beijing Space City 1, 2005. 10. 19. 20 (Oct. 19th, 2005 8 PM)". The steel seal of the "Beijing Public Notary Office" was applied. There is no postmark on the reverse side.

Additional 25 BITTT flown covers (numbered from 0001 to 0025) exist. The front side of the cover was tied with the Jiuquan's "flown-proof" postmark. Also the steel seal of the "Beijing Public Notary Office" was applied. These covers are signed by Shang Zhi, the chief commander of the manned spacecraft system, China Academy of Space Technology.



The China Academy of Space Technology loaded in the spacecraft cabin 50 covers (numbered from 000001 to 000050). The front side of each cover is cancelled with the usual "flown-proof" of M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, and sealed with the Notary steel seal. The reverse side of the cover was cancelled at the Beijing Space City with the recovery postmark of the capsule opening date. The covers were signed with felt-tip pen by the Shenzhou 6 taikonauts: Fei Junlong, and Nie Haishen.



50 similar CAST covers (numbered from 000001 to 000050) were signed by Fei Junlong and Nie Haishen with a fine-tipped pen. Recovery postmark of the Beijing Space City 1 on the reverse side.



77 flown covers (numbered from 001 to 077) were embarked by the China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center M.P.O. The front side of each cover was tied with the “flown-proof” postmark of the China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, and with the cachet “The flown cover of the



Shenzhou 6 spacecraft manned spaceflight--2005.10 China Jiuquan”. Each cover was sealed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The reverse side of the cover was cancelled with the recovery postmark with the date of the capsule opening of the spacecraft cabin: “Beijing 2005. 10. 19. 20 (Oct. 19th, 2005 PM 8) Space City 2”.



60 flown covers (numbered from 001 to 060) were prepared by PAH (Philatelic Association of Hei-long-jiang Province). The covers are signed by the Shenzhou 6 taikonauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haishen. The front side of the cover bears the usual “flown-proof” postmark and Notary seal.

On the reverse side is the special recovery postmark.



Some of the 60 covers prepared by the Philatelic Association of Hei-long-jiang Province have different cachets.



Also, 12 PAH-flown postcards exist, numbered from 061 to 072. The front side of the cover was tied with the “flown-proof” postmark “China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, 2005. 9. 9. 9 (Sep.9th, 2005 AM: 9), loaded in the cabin of the spacecraft”, also sealed with the

steel seal of “Beijing Public Notary Office”.



100 out of the flown covers carried in the cabin was designed and produced by the China Astronaut Research and Training Center (formerly known as the China Institut of Space Medico-Engineering). They are numbered 0050232 to 0050299, 0056366, 0056369, 0059962 to 0059991). This was the first time the name of the China Astronaut Research and Training Center appeared on the flown covers.

Each cover was cancelled on the front side with the “flown-proof” postmark of “China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O., Lanzhou 27th Branch post office and was sealed with the steel seal of “Beijing Public Notary Office”. There is no postmark on the reverse side of these 100 covers. Each cover was also signed by the two Shenzhou 6 taikonauts Fei Junlong, and Nie Haishen,” and by the four backup taikonauts Zhai Zhigang, Wu Jie, Jing Haipeng, and Liu Boming.



BITTT also managed to embark on the Shenzhou 6 cabin a total of 200 covers (numbered from 00001 to 00200). The front side of the cover was tied with the “flown-proof” postmark of Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, M.P.O and with the



special pictorial rubber stamp “cover flown on the Shenzhou-6 manned spaceflight, 2005.10--China Jiuquan”. The reverse side of the cover was tied with the recovery postmark with the date of the opening of the capsule cabin.



A total of 101 postcards (numbered from 0101 to 0201) were flown by BITTT.

The front side of the cover was tied with the “flown-proof” Jiuquan postmark and the launch day special pictorial postmark: “To commemorate the launch of Shenzhou 6 manned space flight, 2005.10.12.09 (Oct. 12th, 2005 AM 9), Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, China Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center Military Post Office”. The landing day postmark was also added: “Siziwangqi, Inner Mongolia 2005.10.17.8 (Oct. 17th, 2005 AM 8), Hong Ge’er 1”. The postcard was also sealed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”. Each postcard is signed by Shenzhou 6 taikonauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haishen.



A total of 160 flown covers were prepared by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST). They are numbered from 00001 to 00160. The front side of the cover was tied with the usual “flown-proof”



postmark at Jiuquan Lanzhou 27th Branch post office, and was sealed with the steel seal of “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The reverse side of the cover was tied with the recovery postmark of the capsule opening cabin date: “Beijing 2005. 10. 19. 20 (Oct. 19th, 2005 PM 8) Space City 2”.



9 flown cover proofs exist, designed and produced by the Shanghai Academy of Aerospace Technology. They are numbered from 00015 to 00023. The front side of the proof was tied with the “flown-proof” postmark and the recovery special postmark of the capsule opening cabin date.



Also, the proofs are sealed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”.
A total of 200 flown covers (numbered from 000001 to 000200) were produced by the Beijing DAWN Aerospace Bio-tech Co. LTD. Total. The front side of the cover was tied with the Jiuquan “flown-proof” postmark and was impressed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The reverse side of the cover was tied with the recovery postmark of the capsule opening cabin date: “Beijing 2005. 10. 19. 20 (Oct. 19th, 2005 PM 8) Space City 1”.



300 flown covers were produced by the Program Office and the Beijing Tianxing Space Breeding Technology Development Center of CAST. They are numbered from 00001 to 000300. The front side of the cover was tied with the Jiuquan “flown-proof” postmark and sealed with the



steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”. On the reverse side of the covers was tied with the recovery special postmark of the capsule opening cabin date: “Beijing 2005. 10. 19. 20 (Oct. 19th, 2005 PM 8) Space City 1”.



729 flown covers exist (numbered from 0001 to 0729) produced by the China Academy of Space Technology. The front side of the covers was cancelled with the Jiuquan “flown-proof” postmark and sealed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The reverse side of the cover was tied with Beijing’s recovery postmark of the capsule opening cabin date.

1500 flown silk covers (numbered from 0001 to 1500) were produced by the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO). The front side of the cover was tied with the Jiuquan “flown-proof” postmark and sealed with the steel seal of the “Beijing Public Notary Office”. The reverse side of the cover was cancelled with the recovery postmark of the capsule opening cabin date: “Beijing 2005. 10. 19. 20 (Oct. 19th, 2005 PM 8) Space City 1”.



To The Stars Women Spacefarers' Legacy

This book is the second edition of *Women Spacefarers* and tells the fascinating stories of the valiant women who broke down barriers to join the space program. Beginning with the orbital flight of USSR cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova in 1963 and continuing to the present day, it covers the many female players who have had a central role in the greatest adventure of our time.

The book includes the biographies of and in some cases interviews with, the brave women who have flown in space. For each entry, the author contextualizes the spacefarer's accomplishments in light of the political and cultural climate of the time. The second edition features fifteen additional profiles on figures such as Jessica Meir and Wally Funk; new interview material; a new thematic structure based on each woman's science specialty and role; an expanded glossary; and more.

The result is a gallery of pioneering women who reached for the stars: women who, with exceptional skill, hard work, and dedication, reached impressive careers as accomplished pilots, researchers, engineers, and managers, and left a legacy of strength for all aspiring spacefarers.



TO THE STARS
Women Spacefarers' Legacy
 Umberto Cavallaro



To find out more about member Umberto Cavallaro's book [Click Here](#)