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*This is the twenty-ninth in a series of articles about un-manned satellites on postage stamps.*

*This article features the French FR-1 satellite which was successfully launched on December 6, 1965.*

The FR-1 satellite was developed by CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) but was launched at Vandenberg AFB into a near-circular orbit at 750 km. The spacecraft carried two experiments. One was involved with VLF (very low frequency) signals, and the other was to measure the electron density concentration in the magnetosphere and ionosphere.

The FR-1 spacecraft consisted of two truncated octagonal pyramids, joined at their bases to an octagonal body about 68 centimeters across and covered with solar cells. A magnetic field antenna extended from the top of the spacecraft on top of a supporting tube, and an electron density probe extended downward from the base. Four relatively short telemetry antennas extended diagonally

upward from near the top of the spacecraft. Four 2 meter long electric field antenna booms extended radially outward from the body.

Nearly all the postage stamps showing the FR-1 satellite do a nice job of depicting the spacecraft and its features. Apparently the design was well-publicized, since various stamp designers all drew very similar images of FR-1. As with the A-1 satellite featured in the previous installment in this series of articles, the stamps showing the FR-1 satellite were issued mostly by France and its former colonies. Most of the stamps were issued in 1966 and 1967, with a few more in 1971 through 1973. The last items known to show the FR-1 satellite are a stamp and a miniature sheet (Scott 587 and 588a) issued by Burundi in 1981. 🌐



A checklist of postal items showing FR-1-series satellites is on page 88 and can also be found on the internet at <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/hillger/FR-1.htm> as part of a very informative website developed by the authors for a large variety of un-manned satellites featured in this series of articles at <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/hillger/satellites.htm> E-mail correspondence is welcome and encouraged. Don Hillger can be reached at [hillger@cira.colostate.edu](mailto:hillger@cira.colostate.edu) and Garry Toth at [garry\\_toth@hotmail.com](mailto:garry_toth@hotmail.com). Drop them a line!



Checklist of A-1 satellite postal items (stamps, souvenir sheets, covers, etc.). The A-1 satellite was also known as Asterix. If readers know of additional information or images, contact the authors at the e-mail addresses at the bottom of page 86.

Country	Catalog No.*	Type of Item	Year Issued
Andorra (French)	171 (Mi197)	Stamp	1966
Andorra (French)	171 FDC	Stamp and cachet on FDC	1966
Burundi	587 (Mi1581)	Stamp	1981
Burundi	588a (BL117C)	1 of 3 on minisheet (586-588)	1981
Dhufar	Not listed	1 of 8 on minisheet, also imperforate	1972
Dhufar	Not listed	1 of 8 on minisheet overprinted "Apollo-17"	1973
Ecuador	756B (Mi1285)	Stamp	1966
Ecuador	756c (BL29)	1 of 3 on minisheet	1966
Ecuador	i756c (BL30)	1 of 3 on imperforate minisheet, changed colors	1966
Gabon	C44 (Mi245)	Air Mail Stamp	1966
Mauritania	C46 (Mi268)	Stamp	1966
Mauritania	iC46	Air Mail Stamp	1966
Mauritania	C46 proof	Deluxe proof	1966
Niger	C60 (Mi126)	Air Mail Stamp	1966
Niger	C60 FDC	Stamp and cachet on FDC	1966
Panama	474B (Mi945)	Stamp, Also on selvage	1966
Poland	1470 (Mi1734)	Stamp	1966
Poland	1469-1471 FDC	One of three stamps on FDC	1966
Romania	1846 (Mi2510)	Stamp	1966
Senegal	C45 (Mi326)	Stamp	1966
Senegal	C45 FDC	Stamp and cachet on FDC	1966
Togo	595 (Mi561)	Stamp	1967
Togo	C66 (Mi566)	Stamp	1967
Togo	C66a (BL27)	1 of 2 on imperforate minisheet (C65-C66)	1967
Togo	C145 (Mi848)	Stamp	1971
Togo	C145a (BL53)	1 of 4 on imperforate minisheet (769-770, C144-C145)	1971
Upper Volta	C29 (Mi187)	Stamp	1966
Upper Volta	C29 FDC	Stamp and cachet on FDC	1966
Upper Volta	C37 (Mi215)	Stamp	1967

\*Scott catalog number, unless prefixed with Mi or BL for Michel; "i" prefix denotes imperforate version.

