

Un-manned Satellites on Postage Stamps

34 – The Nadezhda series

Don Hillger SU-5200 and Garry Toth

This is the thirty-fourth in a series of articles about un-manned satellites on postage stamps. This article features the satellites in the Russian Nadezhda civil navigation series. The first Nadezhda was launched in 1989 and the series includes seven numbered satellites launched as of 2009.

The Nadezhda satellites are included in this series of articles because they carry transponders for the COSPAS (Cosmicheskaya Sistyema Poiska Avariynich Sudov [Space System for the Search of Vessels in Distress]) system, the Russian counterpart of the SARSAT (Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking) system on NOAA's polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites. (See reference at end of article) Appropriately, Nadezhda means "hope" in Russian. These two programs are an interesting example of Russian-American cooperation.

The Nadezhda satellites are cylindrical, 2 m in diameter and 2.1 m long, with an extended boom on one end and one or two much smaller striped conical omni-directional antennas on the other end. Although the series began officially with Nadezhda-1 in 1989, three Nadezhda prototypes were

launched as part of the Kosmos series in 1982, 1983, and 1984, as Kosmos-1383, 1447, and 1574 respectively.

Nadezhda is featured on a limited number of postal items, a couple of which show the Nadezhda-like satellites, Kosmos-318 and 381. These two (also named Ionosfernaya-1 and 2 respectively) lacked the omni-directional antennas of the Nadezhda series necessary for the COSPAS/SARSAT program. Images of those antennas are generally not included in the various postal items depicting Nadezhda, but are clearly seen in the Cambodian souvenir sheet (Scott 875) and Canadian souvenir sheet (Scott 2111). For the purposes of comparison, the interested reader will find a close-up view of such a conical, barber-pole-striped antenna on a stamp from Togo (Scott C344) as a detail of the Venera-1 satellite featured on that stamp. 

Checklist of Nadezhda (Russia/USSR) Series Satellite Postal Stamps and First Day Covers

Country	Catalog No.	Type of Item	Issued	Notes
Cambodia	782 (Mi160)		1987	Also COSPAS/SARSAT ³
Cambodia	875 (BL196)	SS1	1988	Two conical antennas ² ; also COSPAS/SARSAT ³
Canada	2111a (Mi2280)	Two stamps and in (upper-right) margin of MS8 [2111 (2x 2111a-d)]	2005	Two conical antennas ² ; also COSPAS/SARSAT ³
Canada	2111a-d FDC (Mi2280-2283 FDC)	One stamp of strip of 4 on FDC	2005	Two conical antennas ² ; also COSPAS/SARSAT ³
Czechoslovakia	1875 (Mi2133)		1973	Kosmos-318/381 ¹
Romania	None	Cancel on cover	1988	Kosmos-318/381 ¹
Russia (USSR)	5603 (BL196)	On stamp and on right margin of SS1	1987	Also COSPAS/SARSAT ³
Russia (USSR)	None	Stamped envelope	1987	Tiny depiction; also COSPAS/SARSAT ³

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

SS# = souvenir sheet, MS# = miniature sheet, where # = stamps in sheet, and numbers in parentheses are the catalog numbers of the stamps.

1 Kosmos-318/381 (Ionosfernaya-1/2) were similar to Nadezhda, but lacked the omni-directional antenna for COSPAS/SARSAT.

2 A depiction of a Nadezhda conical/omni-directional antenna is seen as a detail of a Venera satellite on a 1978 Togo stamp [Scott C344].

3 COSPAS/SARSAT = Search And Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking.

A checklist of postal items showing Nadezhda-series satellites can also be found at <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/hillger/NOAA.htm>, a website developed by the authors for un-manned satellites at <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/hillger/satellites.htm>
E-mail is welcome. Don Hillger can be reached at hillger@cira.colostate.edu and Garry Toth at garry_toth@hotmail.com.

