

# Un-manned Satellites on Postage Stamps : 39 \*

By Guest Contributors Don Hillger and Garry Toth

## Sputnik-3

This is the thirty-ninth\* in a series of articles about un-manned satellites on postage stamps. This article features the **Sputnik-3** satellite launched on 15 May 1958 as the third in the Russian Sputnik series, as an upper-atmospheric, ionospheric satellite.

Question: Why are we covering Sputnik-3 when we have not yet covered either Sputnik-1 or 2? Sputnik-1, being the first of earth's artificial satellites, has been featured on probably more postal items than any other un-manned space item. To cover that satellite, would be a tremendous task, one which the authors choose not to confront at this time. Also, Sputnik-2 was a biological spacecraft, which holds less interest for the authors than Sputnik-3, a physics/research satellite, more in line with the theme of most of the articles in this series.

Sputnik-3 was the last in a series of four satellites launched as part of the Sputnik programme of the Soviet Union and as a planned contribution to the International Geophysical Year (IGY, 1957-1958). The three satellites that reached orbit were Sputnik-1, 2, and 3. The fourth satellite was a failed first launch of Sputnik-3 that took place on 27 April 1958, not long before the successful launch of Sputnik-3.

As a scientific satellite, Sputnik-3 contained 12 instruments providing data on pressure and composition of the upper atmosphere, concentration of charged particles, measurements of cosmic rays and magnetic and electrostatic fields, as well as meteoric particles. Sputnik-3 also detected the outer radiation belts and remained in orbit for about 2 years.

Sputnik-3 is shaped like a cone, and about 3.5 m long. Distinguishing features include paper-clip-like antennas on its sides, as well as extending from its base. Most of the postal items showing Sputnik-3 show these features. This early Soviet spacecraft was not held in secrecy, like some of the other early missions, where the look of the satellite was not known and purposely disguised by a propaganda image that can be found on several postal items.

A checklist of postal items identified as showing the Sputnik-3 satellite (<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/hillger/Sputnik-3.htm>) is available on the Website developed by the authors for the un-manned satellites featured in this series of articles (<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/hillger/satellites.htm>). The Website includes images of the Sputnik-

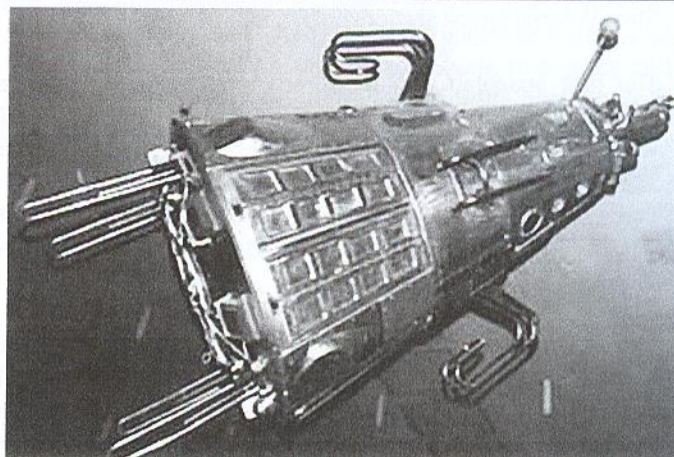
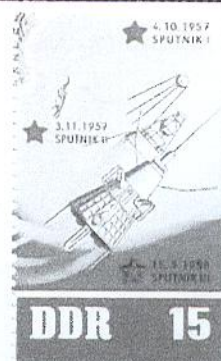
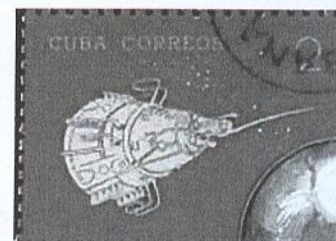
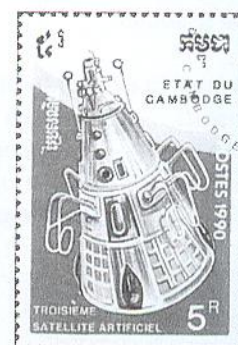
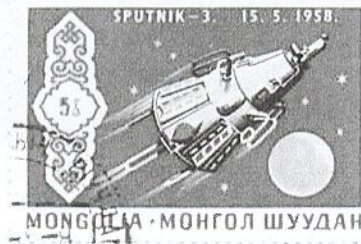
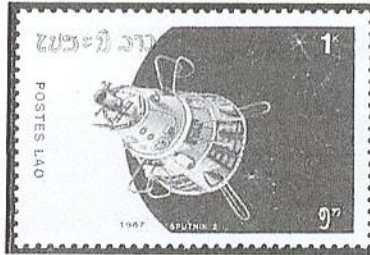


Photo ex <http://space.skyrocket.de>

3 satellite, as well as images of launch covers and other postal items that feature this satellite. E-mail correspondence with the authors is welcome. 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).



\* You haven't missed anything: Parts 37 and 38 still await publication in *The Astrophile*, hence the out of sequence number



The first of ten pages on Don and Gary's website listing philatelic media for Sputnik 3, providing colour images of all material

Country	Catalog Number	Type of Item	Year of Issue	Notes on Content
<b>Sputnik-3 (Russia/USSR)</b>				
Albania	622 (Mi662)		1962	Sputnik-3 (not Sputnik-2) 1
Albania	624a (BL9) 624b (BL10)	SS1 Changed colors on imperforate		Sputnik-3 (not Sputnik-2) 1
Altai Republic	Local	Image of unknown source <sup>4</sup> overprinted on 4x Russia 5723	1996?	
Altai Republic	Local	Image of unknown source <sup>4</sup> overprinted on 4x Russia 6069		
Austria	None	Cancel	1962	
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Serb Admin.)	100 (Mi151-156)	On (lower) selvedge of booklet pane of 6	1999	Possible Sputnik-3
Bulgaria	C76 (Mi1094A) iC76 (Mi1094B)		1958	
Cambodia	1101 (Mi1179)		1990	
Cambodia	1147 (Mi1225)	1101 overprinted	1991	
Chad	Unknown (Mi?) Unknown imperf	On label3 of MS3 (a-c + 3 labels)	2010	
China (People's Republic)	380 (Mi408)		1958	
China (People's Republic)	381 (Mi409)		1958	Symbolic Sputnik-1 (round), 2 (pointed cylinder), and 3 (pointed cylinder) in orbit
Cuba	None	Cancel on cover	1960	
Cuba	864 (Mi923)	One of block of 5 (867a (863-867 + label)) (923-927); or four of MS20 (867b (4x 863-867))	1964	
Cuba	971 (Mi1033)		1965	
Cuba	None	Cancel on cover	1965	
Cuba	1177 (Mi1247)		1966	
Cuba	1178a (BL29)	On one of imperforate MS3 (1176-1178), also detail	1966	
Czechoslovakia	1032 (Mi1253)		1961	
Fujeira	Mi624A Mi624B		1971	Possibly Spunik-3 (not "Soyuz-8", as in text)
Fujeira	Mi744	Mi624 overprinted in red	1971	Possibly Spunik-3 (not "Soyuz-8", as in text)
Fujeira	Mi742-744 fdc	One of three stamps on FDC		
Gabon	937h (Mi?)	One of MS12 (937 (a-l))	1999	
Gagouzia	Local	Cambodia 1101 overprinted on 4x Russia 4517	1996?	
Gagouzia	Local	Cambodia 1101 overprinted on 4x Russia 4520		
Gagouzia	Local	Cambodia 1101 overprinted on 4x Russia 5726		
Gagouzia	Local	Cambodia 1101 overprinted on 4x Russia 5984		
Gagouzia	Local	Cambodia 1101 overprinted on 4x Russia 6061		
Germany (East)	634c (Mi928)	One of MS8 (634 (a-h))	1962	Sputnik-1, 2, and 3
Hungary	1218 (Mi1577)		1959	1st anniv. launch
Hungary	C239 (Mi1910)	Stamp-on-stamp: China (PR) 380	1963	
Hungary	C241 (Mi1912)	Stamp-on-stamp: Poland 875	1963	
Laos	782 (Mi989)		1987	Sputnik-3 (not "Sputnik-2", as in text)
Lithuania	None	(New Year) cachet	1963	possible Sputnik-3