



FROM MISSION CONTROL
TO THE MOON
FIRST DAY OF MOON LANDING
ISLE OF MAN • DOUGLAS • 21.07.2019



205 OF 500

One Small Step
50 Years of Lunar Exploration



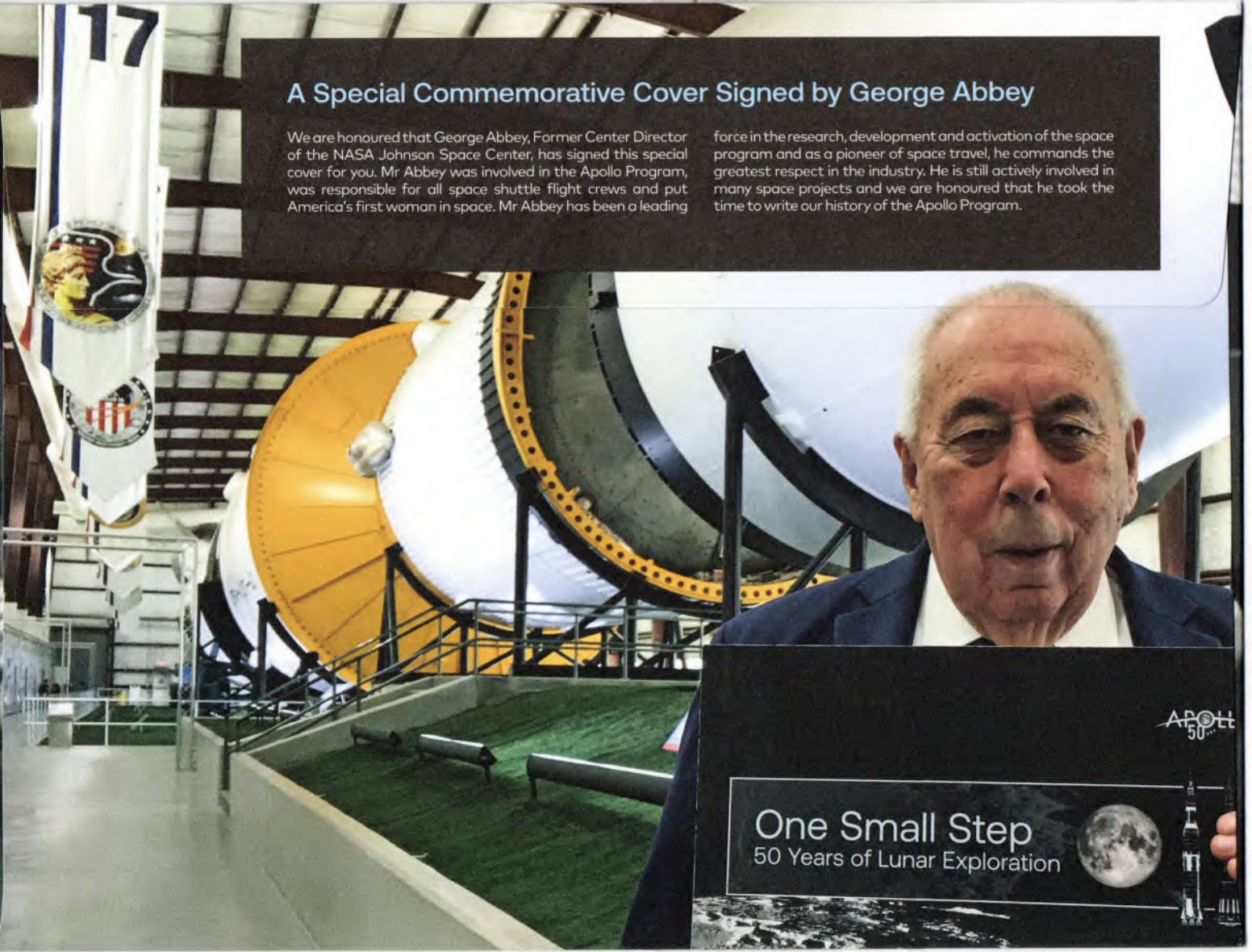
George W. S. Abbey

George Abbey • Former Center Director
NASA Johnson Space Center

A Special Commemorative Cover Signed by George Abbey

We are honoured that George Abbey, Former Center Director of the NASA Johnson Space Center, has signed this special cover for you. Mr Abbey was involved in the Apollo Program, was responsible for all space shuttle flight crews and put America's first woman in space. Mr Abbey has been a leading

force in the research, development and activation of the space program and as a pioneer of space travel, he commands the greatest respect in the industry. He is still actively involved in many space projects and we are honoured that he took the time to write our history of the Apollo Program.



APOLL 50
One Small Step
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to all those who have helped us, especially Mr George Abbey who worked with NASA during the Apollo missions and was director of the Johnson Space Center during the NASA Shuttle - Mir Program. We also thank planetary scientist David R. Williams, acting head of the NASA Space Science Data Coordinated Archive at Goddard Space Flight Center for his input on Moon location references and all the team at NASA for their help with images and information.

We dedicate this issue to Alan Bean, fourth man to walk on the Moon, whose paintings were to grace the stamps. We spoke to him at length, but he sadly passed away before the issue could be laid out. The issue was conceived, planned and designed by Glazier Design. Owner Ben Glazier was born during the Apollo 11 mission; his sister Elizabeth was born during the Apollo 15 mission. Advance planning indeed.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Text: George Abbey, Benedict Glazier

Design: Glazier Design • Printer: Lowe Martin

Process: Offset Lithography • Colours: 4 colour plus varnish

Paper: 110 gms PVA gummed • Perforations: 14 per 2cms

Stamp Size: 40 x 40 mm • No. of Stamps: 8

Format: 24 stamps per sheet (12 x 2 designs) • Date of Issue: 29.04.2019



glazierdesign

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One Small Step

50 Years of Lunar Exploration



George Abbey, who has signed this commemorative cover for you, is perhaps one of the most influential people in the history of space flight. Throughout the Apollo Missions and on into Skylab and the Space Shuttle eras, he selected the crew and was a key figure in mission planning. We are honoured that he became so involved in this stamp issue. This is an extract from the full text he wrote for the prestige booklet.

"In 1957 the USSR startled the world by launching a manmade satellite, Sputnik, starting the Great Space Race. In 1958 President Eisenhower and the Congress established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to further America's exploration of space. NASA soon announced the Mercury Program with the intent to send a human into space.

On May 5, 1961, four months after John F. Kennedy became president, Alan Shepard became the first American in space, however this was three weeks after cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth. Kennedy needed to be bold and in a speech to Congress stated "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth." The Apollo Program was born and the "Great Adventure" began.

In January 1967, tragedy struck the Apollo Program when three astronauts, Grissom, White and Chafee died during a count-down test. The next manned flight, Apollo 7 was a great success; Apollo 8

took a live TV camera into space and as the astronauts orbited the Moon on Christmas Eve 1968, the world saw a close-up view of the Moon as the three astronauts read from the Bible. Apollo 9 was the first mission to include both the command and lunar modules and Apollo 10 was the dress rehearsal for the Moon landing. Both were a complete success.

Two months later, on July 16 1969, Apollo 11 lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center with a crew consisting of Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. Four days later, on July 20, 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin successfully landed on the Moon - the rest is history. The United States had achieved Kennedy's goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth before the end of the decade. Apollo 12 in November 1969 was planned to prove the capability to perform precision landings on the surface of the Moon and our beloved Alan Bean, who passed away recently, was the fourth man to walk on the Moon's surface."

Our stamp issue commemorates the anniversary of the Moon landing, but also all the missions that led up to that one small step. In our stamps we have sought to show you the beauty of space, the Moon and the vehicles that took humanity to the Moon. Through subtle references and codes on the stamps (and within NASA guidelines) we have included those incredible NASA staff in Mission Control, the astronauts, the programs directors and those who gave their lives.