



Apollo-Soyuz Test Project: US Cancels

In 1972, the United States and Soviet Union agreed to launch a joint mission to meet in space. Named after the two nations respective spacecraft, the mission was titled the *Apollo-Soyuz Test Project* which took place in July 1975. At the height of the Cold War, the two nations meeting in space for a historic handshake and joint science experiments was celebrated throughout the US and internationally.

This page will explore the cancelations and other postal markings applied to US mail before, during, and after the events in space.

Launch – July 15th

Two stamps depicting the Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft (Scott 1569-70) were issued on launch day, a joint issue between the Soviet Union and the United States

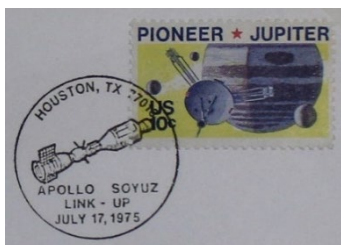


Scott 1569-70 with a first day of issue cancel, shown at 59%

Linkup in Space – July 17th



KSC Link-up cancel, shown at 69%



Scott 1556 with Houston link-up cancel, shown at 69%

The post offices at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and in Houston, Texas (where Johnson Space Flight Center is located) applied a cancel depicting the Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft docking

Splashdown – July 24th

The Apollo capsule splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24th. With the prime recovery ship's post office closed that day, much of the philatelic mail from collectors were forwarded to the shore in San Francisco and applied a "US Navy recovery-force - pacific" cancel.



Scott 1570 with a Navy Recovery cancel, shown at 71%

Post Splashdown

Beginning July 15th through October 1975, mail from Greenbelt, MD, the location of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, used a slogan cancel referencing the title of the agreement that established the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project

Scott 1557 with a slogan cancel, shown at 62%

