

# *Philatelic Literature:* **Moon Landing Revisited**

by Dr. Everett L. Parker

If you are old enough, you will remember the time when the U.S. landed a man on the moon. It caused quite a stir, and the accomplishment was lauded as one of man's great achievements.

There was a philatelic side to this story as well. The American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) has published an updated version of Monte Eiserman and Harry L. Anderson's monograph on the 1969 U.S. Moon Landing stamp.

Titled ***Moon Landing Scott C76 Cachet Catalog***, the newest edition offers considerable new material for those interested in this attractive stamp. The 2014 revised edition is the work of David S. Zubatsky.

In the Introduction, Zubatsky noted that considerable new information has come to light since the previous edition, and thus the reason for the 132 page update.

Primary among the new information now available is research that corrects original cachet identifications as well as additions to the total number of cachets available for the issue. In fact, beyond the informative section dealing with how the stamp came to be, the bulk of the monograph—88 pages—is a listing of the various cachets used on first day covers.

The original version of the monograph was published in 1975, and included not only 205 illustrations of known cachets for the stamp issue, but also an informative introduction by Belmont Faries. This introduction provided the history of designing and production of the stamp (identified by the ***Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*** as #C76), the first day activities and plate number information.

In addition, the late AFDCS president, Richard H. Thompson, described in detail the three first day ceremonies for C76 as well as providing illustrations of the various official and unofficial cachets available at the time.



The next version, minus the introductory material, was incorporated into volume three of Michael Mellone's ***Specialized Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1960s***, which was published in 1988. This section used the Eiserman/Anderson numbering system and increased the number of illustrated cachets to 262.

Some time after publication of the Mellone catalogue, a final edition was compiled by the authors. However, a record of the exact printing date no longer existed, according to Eiserman. This edition included the original introductory material and increased the total number of known C76 cachets to 372. A two-page corrections sheet completed the final work.

The current revised edition reprints all of the introductory materials of the final Eiserman/Anderson edition, as well as identifying some previously unknown cachets and producers (locations are those in 1969); adds first cachet information certified by the Mellone Catalog First Cachets Group of the AFDCS; lists additional unofficial cachets for individual cachets when known; completes descriptions that were left off because of publishing space limitations; and provides an index to the cachets section.

There are several chapters of informative material about this stamp issue. Original rough pencil sketches of proposed designs are particularly evocative, as are the refined designs that resulted in the approved model for the stamp. The plate information is comprehensive and definitive, with much material provided in charts. First day ceremonies and cancels are covered in detail (although some of the images could have been larger and in more detail), and there is a detailed review of the question often asked at the time: just who is depicted on the stamp, stepping off the ladder onto the moon's surface?

The actual catalogue portion of the monograph contains a black and white illustration of each cachet as well as information about the producer, colors, and type of envelope it was used on.

The monograph is available for \$16 (\$14 to members) at AFDCS Sales, P.O. Box 44, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0044. It is also available online at [www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org).

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