



# ASSOCIATION ASTROPHILATELIQUE DE FRANCE

Siège social : 23, rue de Mercantour 78310 MAUREPAS

February 2 2015

## “ASTROPHILATELIC ACTIVITIES 2014 IN FRANCE”

### 1 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

#### 1- Bulletin “The Cosmophil”

The French Astrophilatic Society (AAF) publishes the “Cosmophil” (8 pages size 21x29,7 cm) for our members quarterly. The papers develop a part of the space history illustrated with space covers and space stamps and also give information on our society and on space events. Since 2012, this bulletin is printed in full color.

#### 2- Publications

We publish papers on Astrophilately in the bulletin of the French Federation of Philately.

#### 3- European space covers catalogue

Ten years ago, we started an important work, a catalogue of the European space covers issued by the European Astrophilatic societies excluding the covers issued by commercial companies because they publish their own catalogues.

As a printed catalogue was too expensive, we choosed to record this catalogue on a CD. Specific software was developed and we dispatched to our members the first part “1930-1975” in 2011. The second CD “1976-1980” was dispatched at the beginning of 2014 and the third CD “1981-1990” is planned for the first quarter of 2015.

#### 4- Space covers

##### 4.1- Flown covers

The philatelic society of EADS Astrium: “La Marianne” located at Saint Médard en Jalles near Bordeaux prepared covers that were carried out to ISS by 5 « Automated Transfer Vehicles », ATV-001 “Jules Verne” launched on 9 March 2008, ATV-002 “ Johannes Kepler” launched on 16 February 2011, ATV-003 “Edoardo Amaldi” launched on 23 March 2012, ATV-004 “Albert Einstein” launched on 5 June 2013 and ATV-005 “Georges Lemaître »..

The flown covers from ATV-003, ATV-004 and ATV-005 were dispatched two years ago and last year. Some of them received the Russian ISS board cachet.

##### 4.2- Launches from Kourou

The philatelic society “La Marianne”, the CNES (French Space Agency) philatelic society and the ARIANESPACE philatelic society make covers cancelled at Kourou for their members.

It is to mention that ARIANESPACE philatelic society stopped the production of space covers on December,31 2014.

#### 5- Meetings

AAF organizes twice a year a meeting to explain to our members how to prepare astrophilatic participation. We also gave lectures on space history and Astrophilately.

6- Cooperation with other French Astrophilatelic societies.

There exist in France four astrophilatelic societies belonging to space companies and one independent: the "French Astrophilatelic Society" (AAF):

- "La Marianne " which belongs to EADS Astrium and located at Saint Médard en Jalles, near Bordeaux
- The philatelic society of SAFRAN Solid Propulsion : "Astrophil" located at Le Haillan near Bordeaux
- AAF has a good cooperation with them and I advise them for the preparation of French flown covers. I also help their members to prepare astrophilatelic exhibits.
- ARIANESPACE philatelic society only involves in the preparation and the sale of Kourou space covers to their members but closed since the end of 2014.
- the CNES (French Space Agency) philatelic society only involves in the preparation and the sale of Kourou space covers to their members.

7- Participation in exhibitions.

- Competitive exhibitions.  
Two new astro exhibits were exhibited on October 13 and 14, 2014 at Aubonne. They got a large silver medal and a silver medal.  
Our aim is to increase the number of astro exhibits within the French philatelic exhibitions
- Promotional exhibition  
We participated in a national exhibition from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, at Poitiers within the frame of "Timbres Passions". We had a very large cell and 8 astro exhibits were presented in "Cours d'Honneur".
- In 2014, I was juror for the Astrophilatelic class at department level.



Jean-Louis LAFON  
AAF President