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Introducing a Special issue to mark the 50th anniversary of the first British satellite.

Space Science

Issue date: Tuesday 16 October 2012

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Sun Particles ejected from the solar surface seen by the SOHO satellite



Venus Clouds in the southern hemisphere viewed by Venus Express



Mars Ice within a 35km wide impact crater photographed by Mars Express



Lutetia The asteroid's cratered surface seen during Rosetta probe's fly-by



Saturn The gas giant and its sunlit rings seen by the Cassini satellite



Titan Largest moon of Saturn, on which the Huygens probe landed in 2005

Issue  
Space Science

Design  
Osborne Ross Design

Stamp format/size  
Landscape  
30mm x 41mm

Printer  
Cartor Security Printing

Print process  
Lithography

Perforation  
14.5 x 14.5

Phosphor  
All over

Gum  
PVA

Number per sheet  
25/50

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Sun – courtesy of SOHO/  
EIT consortium; SOHO is  
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2007 MPS/DLR-PF/  
IDA; Mars – ESA/DLR/  
FU Berlin (G. Neukum);  
Lutetia – ESA 2010 MPS  
for OSIRIS Team MPS/  
UPD/LAM/IAA/RSSD/  
INTA/JPM/DASP/IDA;  
Saturn – NASA/JPL/  
Space Science Institute/  
Science Photo Library;  
Titan – NASA/Science  
Photo Library

# From Ariel 1 to the surface of the sun

In 1962, Ariel 1, the first ever British satellite, was launched from Cape Canaveral: making Britain the third nation in history to have its own satellite, after the USA and USSR. In the 50 years since, British scientists, universities and companies have played a major role in the exploration of space, making this an anniversary that fully deserves to be celebrated.

While previous astronomical Stamp issues have looked at galaxies far, far away, Space Science explores Britain's contribution to the work of the European Space Agency's investigation of our own solar system.

This work has enabled missions such as the Mars Express and the Cassini-Huygens probe to capture these stunning pictures of fiery particles, passing asteroids, alien clouds and remarkably earth-like landscapes. Each image has also been carefully cropped and captioned to highlight the advanced science behind each mission, as well as the wonders of the astronomical bodies themselves.

The result is a Special issue of exceptional beauty and scientific interest, which includes a First Day Cover and fascinating Presentation Pack.

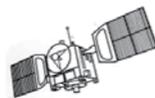
## SOHO Investigate the sun

The ESA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SoHO) sits midway between the Earth and the Sun, collecting stunningly detailed images of fiery particles being ejected from the solar surface.



## VENUS EXPRESS Understand Atmosphere

The ESA's Venus Express probe has flown millions of miles across our solar system to send back images, including the clouds in the southern hemisphere of the second planet from the sun.



## MARS EXPRESS Investigate Climate

The ESA's Mars Express probe has captured astonishingly clear pictures of the 'red planet', including images that clearly show ice, and therefore water, in a colossal, 35km wide impact crater.



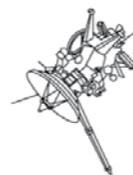
## ROSETTA Encounter minor bodies

En route to a meeting with the comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko, the ESA probe Rosetta had a close encounter with the Lutetia asteroid in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.



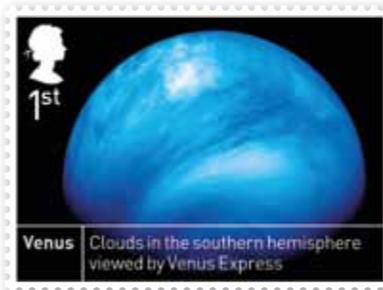
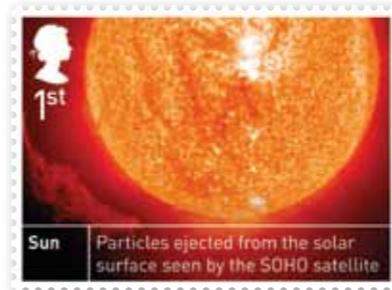
## CASSINI Study of Saturn

The ESA's Cassini probe has crossed more than 800 million miles of space to reveal the strange beauty of the icy rings of Saturn, which have been illuminated in the chosen image by light from the sun.



## HUYGENS First landing

In 2005, the ESA's Huygens probe parachuted through the atmosphere of Saturn's largest moon to land on Titan's surface. The featured image was captured on the way to this historic encounter.

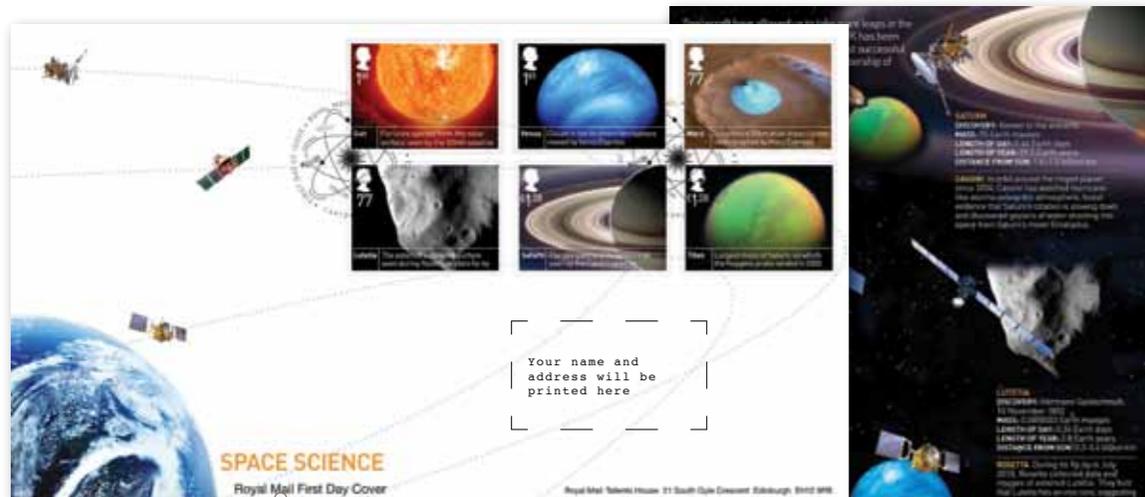


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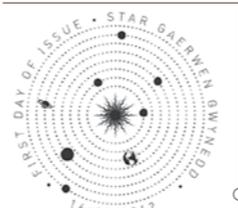
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