

THE COVER WITH A... SPACE VALUE

FLOWN TO 170,000 EURO

APOLLO 16

(230 times the Gronchi rosa)

At Vaccari public auction of postage stamps, postal history and philatelic literature, Saturday 12 April 2008, there were 1455 lots.

Several valuable and rare items for the delight of collectors, but also of those who wish to invest safely.

Among the offers relevant to space, the cover no.14 of 25 of Apollo 16 Mission, which, following several bids in the auction room and by telephone, **from its base of 15,000 euro flew to 170,000 euro.**



During NASA space mission of Apollo 16, whose launch took place on 16 April 1972, only 25 covers (space letters) travelled to the Moon and back to the Earth. The one above, signed by the astronaut Charles M. Duke, is no.14. It bears the postmark dated 27 April 1972, day of the landing.



VACCARI s.r.l. 
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Right from the first mission to the Moon, all the astronauts on the Apollo missions were authorised by Nasa to take with them, for personal use, some souvenirs, including space letters, both around and on the Moon, and these represent one of greatest testimonies of Space Conquest and the “gems” of Astro-philately.

The “mail load” occurred for Apollo flights 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16. The space letters of Apollo 12, which due to technical hitches were not loaded, were then embarked on Apollo 15.

The practice of the “mail load” was stopped due to the suspected abuse made of it by the Apollo 15 astronauts and it was not authorised anymore on the eve of the Apollo 17 launch (7 December 1972). So on the last Mission to the Moon there are no postal testimonies.

With Apollo 16, the Apollo flight “postal missions” come to a close and the 25 space letters transported from 16 to 27 April 1972 by Young, Mattingly and Duke are the last ones to reach the Moon and are considered the rarest lunar space letters.



One moment at the auction
Valeria, Paolo, Renata Vaccari and the auctioneer Antonello Cerruti
during the offers for Apollo 16.

More information about SPACE MAIL

<http://www.spacediary.info>

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**We are available for further information
and for high resolution images on demand.**



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