



by Silvia Vaccari

211 DAYS IN SPACE ANATOLI N. BEREZOVOY

THE DIARY, MAIL AND HISTORY

13 May - 10 December 1982
Orbital Space Station SALYUT-7

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FREE the commemorative stamp of the mission

The adventures of Man's flight and the Conquest of Space have always aroused great fascination in Men's minds. Through his creative stories with winged myths and later with Science and the invention of "flying machines", Man has chased after his "dream of flying" and there have been many stages along the development of the Man-Space relationship.

Even today, forty years after the first steps on the Moon and despite the conquest of Space, Men still have an intense bond with Earth.

The letters, cancellations and postage stamps discussed in this [brief overview on space mail relevant to the commander of Elbrus mission, Anatoli Berezovoy, author of the first Space to Earth letters](#), prove this.

Anatoli Nikolaievich Berezovoy, 51st pilot and Soviet cosmonaut, commander of Elbrus mission on board the Orbital Space Station Salyut-7 from 13 May to 10 December 1982, spends 211 days in Space, at the time the record of stay.

During the mission he writes a diary, an intimate and fascinating account of his experience, account that shows the real human side of "living in Space". Anatoli describes the sadness of the solitude and the distance from one's family, the weight of daily tasks and the worry over health problems. It also traces a bitter description of the difficulties of surviving the breakdown of equipment on board and the misunderstandings with his flight companion and with those responsible for links between the Earth and the station.

From the description given of radio and TV links, of the biological, geographical and astrophysical experiments and medical tests, it is possible to perceive the cosmonaut's strong desire for the mission to succeed and the importance it holds for the development of Soviet and worldwide cosmonautics.

Even mail has its part, and in several pages Anatoli expresses the joy he feels upon the arrival of the supply ships and the subsequent opening of the bags containing newspapers, magazines and mail, "a glass of cold water in the scorching steppe". Moreover, he lingers on the preparation of the philatelic material, letters, postcards and documents to be carried back to Earth, "space mail" which tells us about the uniqueness of living in Space.



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Monograph published on the occasion of the exhibition to the public of the diary at "Italia 2009"
(Rome - Palazzo dei Congressi) from 21 to 25 October 2009.

THE DIARY BY ANATOLI NIKOLAIEVICH BEREZOVYOY

211 DAYS IN SPACE
13 MAY - 10 DECEMBER 1982
ORBITAL SPACE STATION SALYUT-7

DIRECT NEGOTIATION SALE

www.spacediary.info



THE UNIQUE AND ORIGINAL DIARY written from 22 June to 29 November 1982
by the Commander of Elbrus expedition, 51st Pilot, cosmonaut and hero of the Soviet
Union.



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22 June - For a long time I've been trying to write about everything that has moved me during these days passed in flight, but I haven't managed to. There is a lot of work to be done. Only now do I begin to write and it is just past midnight. Now everything is quieter and it seems to be the quiet before the storm.

This is how the Diary of Anatoli N. Berezovoy, 51st Pilot and Soviet Cosmonaut, begins. Written between the 22 June and the 29 November 1982, it is an intimate and fascinating account of his experience as Commander of the Elbrus expedition during the 211 days (13 May-10 December 1982) on board the Orbital Space Station Salyut-7.

In 92 pages of dialogue written “in the first person”, Berezovoy, speaking directly to his wife Lidia, talks frankly and humbly about his life, his values, his dreams and his problems during his long stay on board, with which he, the Commander, and his onboard engineer, Valentin Lebedev, set the record for the longest space flight achieved at the time.

The diary captures the uniqueness of living in Space, the sadness of the solitude and the distance from one's family, the weight of daily tasks and the worry over health problems. It also traces a bitter account of the difficulties of surviving the breakdown of equipment on board and the misunderstandings with his flight companion and with those responsible for links between the Earth and the station.

From the description given of radio and TV links, of the biological, geographical and astrophysical experiments and medical tests, it is possible to perceive the cosmonaut's strong desire for the mission to succeed and the importance it holds for the development of Soviet and worldwide cosmonautics.

A story that shares the feelings of pride and anxiety felt when hearing the communication on board that the flight would be extended, from 172 to 211 days, an absolute record in 1982, and at the same time the hope in the asking for the comprehension of his beloved Lidok (as he lovingly calls his wife Lidia).

It is precisely with her that Berezovoy “speaks” in his pages, “talking” of his daily life, of his dreams upon returning, of their future together, of his love for their children, little Tania (Taniusha), 8 on the 15 of July, and his almost thirteen year old son, Sergei (Seriozha), of his passion for photography and for the *fantastic daytime and night-time pastime* that is observing the Earth from the porthole of the space station, of the anxiety and the joy, *a glass of cold water in the scorching steppe*, felt upon the arrival of the re-supply ship and the subsequent opening of the bags containing newspapers, magazines and mail. In the history of space mail, with all probability, the first written correspondence between Space and Earth can indeed be traced back to Berezovoy.



29 November - In such a trying moment we have to make contact with you on Earth, so I have to put on a smile and not show what happened on-board the station. [...]

I'm sure that the supervisors on Earth will scold me for that unfortunate event.

I can't handle anything else!

I have been biting my tongue and putting up with this harassment for way too long.

The Diary of Anatoli N. Berezovoy is an intense and emotional account that shows the real human side of "living in Space".



Anatoli N. Berezovoy

At www.spacediary.info

there are some sections with the introductory description of the diary and its author, Anatoli N. Berezovoy, an introduction to the history of flights, to space mail, with some examples of space mail items which have excited and fascinated the collectors' world for almost half a century.

