The First Man and Woman in Space

On April 12, 1961, aboard spacecraft Voatok 1, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to travel into space. During the flight, the 27 year old test pilot also became the first man to orbit the planet. The spacecraft was guided entirely by automatic control systems because of concerns of adverse reactions to weightlessness by Gagarin.

Commemorative stamp issued 4/13/61 by the Soviet Union. One in the series " Launch of the First Manned Spaceflight".

There are over 70 stamps featuring Gagarin making him one of the most pictured persons on Soviet stamps.

1976 Russia 4 kopek prepaid card celebrating the 15th anniversary of the world's first space flight. The portrait is of Y. A. Gagarin.

The first woman to travel in space was Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. On June 16, 1963, Tereshkova was launched on a solo mission aboard the spacecraft Vostok 6. She completed 48 orbits over 70 hours - longer than all solo male American astronauts had spent in space combined.

Tereshkova remains the only woman to have flown solo in space.

East German (DDR) commemorative stamp issued 10/17/63 depicting "Tereshkova in the capsule". The cancel shows both Tereshkova and Gagarin "leading the way into space".