The First to Walk in Space

On March 18, 1965, Alexey Leonov stepped outside the shell of Voskhod 2 to become the first man to walk in space. To achieve this, the Soviets developed the first pressurised spacesuit and the first multi-person spacecraft.

This first day cancelled pre-paid card was issued in USSR in 1985 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first space walk.

"You just can't comprehend it. Only out there can you feel the greatness - the huge size of all that surrounds us."
- Alexey Leonov from 495 km above the earth.

The mission was not without problems. Leonov's pressurized suit became bloated and stiff during the spacewalk making it impossible for him to re-enter the capsule. Thinking quickly, he bled-off some of his suit's oxygen deflating it so that he could squeeze back through the 3 foot wide air-lock.

Leonov's walk would not have been possible without the assistance of his co-pilot, Paval Belyayev. Belyayev was the first Commander of the Cosmonaut Corps and a prominent figure in the early Soviet Space Program.

Soviet space exploration history is well documented on Soviet stamps with this May 1965 two stamp set, "Space Flight of "Voskhod 2", depicting Belyayev in dark pink and silver and Leonov in lilac and silver.