



## ROCKET POSTS



BY-ARMAND E. CARROLL-BOX 738-BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIF.

THE MOST FASCINATING AND LEAST KNOWN BRANCH OF AEROPHILATELY IS THAT OF ROCKET POSTS AND ITS RELATED MATERIAL. WHY MORE ATTENTION AND STUDY HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN TO THIS METHOD OF AERIAL TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL IS A QUESTION HARD TO ANSWER.

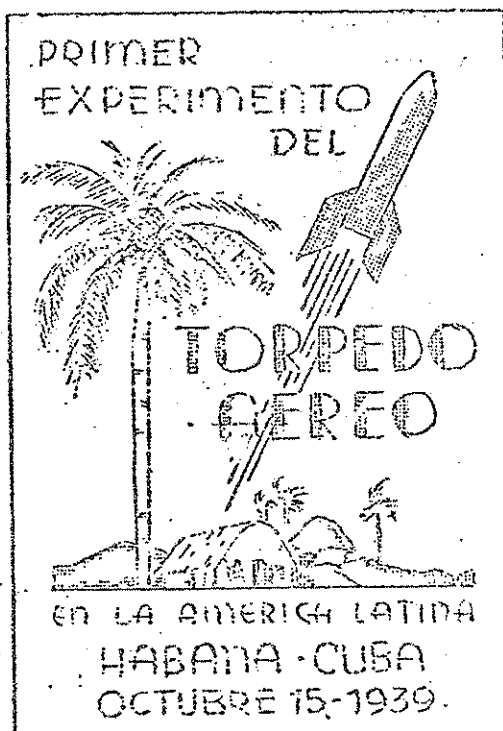
THE PRACTICE OF ROCKETRY IS FAR FROM BEING A NEW "FAD." AMONG THE ANCIENT CHINESE THE USE OF ROCKETS IN WARFARE DATES BACK AS EARLY AS 360 B. C. AND IN THE MIDDLE AGES THEY WERE USED TO REPULSE THE TARTAR HORDES. FROM THIS TIME FORWARD THEY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND IMPROVED AS WEAPONS OF WAR. IN LOOKING BACK AT THE PAST DECADE IT IS NOT HARD TO REMEMBER THE PART PLAYED BY ROCKETS IN WORLD WAR II. IN ITS DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY THE ROCKET HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO A SURPRISING AND AWE-INSPIRING DEGREE. ITS USE AS PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTING AGENT WAS EMPLOYED BY THE GERMANS AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN AND DENMARK. THE SPANIARDS ALSO USED PROPAGANDA ROCKETS IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR. THESE VARIOUS PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS ARE HISTORIC RARITIES IN THE FIELD OF PHILATELIC ROCKETRY.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCKET ALONG CONSTRUCTIVE LINES HAS ALSO BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE FORMS OF SIGNAL ROCKETS AND LIFE-SAVING ROCKET DEVICES. THEIR USES AND ADVANCEMENT IN THESE FIELDS HAVE NOT BEEN NEARLY AS RAPID OR SPECTACULAR. LIFE-SAVING ROCKETS WERE SOMETIMES USED FOR THE DISPATCH OF MAIL, FROM SHIP-TO-SHORE, OVER ROUGH SEAS AND TO UNAPPROACHABLE ISLANDS, SUCH AS THE EARLIER DISPATCHES FROM THE SAMOA-FIJI BOATS TO THE TONGAN ISLAND OF NIUA FO'OU. SINCE THE VARIOUS LETTERS SO DELIVERED HAVE NO SPECIAL MARKINGS TO DISTINGUISH THEM FROM ANY OTHERS THESE ITEMS WILL NEVER FIND A PLACE IN THE DOCUMENTARY COLLECTIONS OF PHILATELIC ROCKETRY.

FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL RELATING TO THE USES OF ROCKETS IN WARFARE, SIGNAL PURPOSES AND LIFE-SAVING DEVICES THE STUDENT HAS BUT TO TURN TO ANY GOOD ENCYCLOPEDIA TO FIND PAGE AFTER PAGE OF DATA. ASIDE FROM THIS THE SHELVES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE CRAMMED WITH VARIOUS TEXT BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT.

IN THE FIELD OF ROCKETS AS A MEANS OF INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL WE FIND MANY SOCIETIES ENGAGED IN RESEARCH, BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. THE LARGEST AND BEST KNOWN OF THESE GROUPS IS THE AMERICAN ROCKET SOCIETY IN THE U. S. AND THE BRITISH INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN. A FEW OF THESE ROCKET RESEARCH GROUPS DO DEVOTE SOME SMALL PART OF THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD MAIL ROCKETS. THESE EXPERIMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT IN MOST PART WITH THE PURPOSE OF SECURING FUNDS FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THEIR OWN MEMBERSHIP. THE ROCKET STAMPS AND COVERS CREATED BY THESE EXPERIMENTS ALL FORM A LEGITIMATE PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND HISTORY OF PHILATELIC ROCKETRY. IN A FEW ISOLATED CASES WE MAY FIND ROCKET ITEMS CREATED PURELY FOR PROFIT, BUT THIS IS NOT UNIQUE IN THE ANNALS OF PHILATELY. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE SOCIETIES BEING THE STUDY OF THE MECHANICS OF THE ROCKET AND ITS FEASIBILITY FOR SPACE TRAVEL. IN THIS BRANCH OF ROCKETRY HANDBOOKS AND ARTICLES ARE ALSO PLENTIFUL, BUT NOT AS PROFUSE AS IN THE FORMER BRANCHES MENTIONED.

WE, AS PHILATELISTS, ARE NOT ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THESE VARIOUS GROUPS OF ROCKETRY. THEY HAVE BEEN MENTIONED MERELY TO SHOW HOW EXTENSIVE INFORMATION IS IN THESE



FIELDS. IN CONTRAST, WHEN WE TURN TO OUR OWN BRANCH OF ROCKETRY - PHILATELIC ROCKETRY - WE FIND VERY LITTLE REAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN BUT THREE BOOKS ISSUED ON THE SUBJECT, AND ONLY ONE OF THIS TRIO WAS PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE REMAINING TWO WERE PUBLISHED IN INDIA. THEY ARE:

1. ROCKET AIRMAIL STAMPS CATALOGUE BY F. W. KESSLER (ISSUED 1935).
2. ROCKET MAIL CATALOGUE OF THE IMPERIAL STAMP CO., ALLAHABAD, INDIA, (ISSUED 1943).
3. INDIAN ROCKET MAILS BY JAL COOPER, BOMBAY, INDIA (ISSUED ABOUT 1936).

THESE BOOKS ARE ALL OBSOLETE AND PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE IN THE UNITED STATES. I HAD TO IMPORT MY COPIES FROM ABROAD AT MORE THAN FANCY PRICES. IN MAKING THE STATEMENT THAT THERE WERE BUT THREE BOOKS ON ROCKET POSTS, I AM MINDFUL THAT GERMANY AND AUSTRIA DID ISSUE A FEW HANDBOOKS ON THE SUBJECT, BUT THEIR LANGUAGE AND SCARCITY MAKES THEM USELESS TO THE AMERICAN COLLECTOR.

WITHOUT A DOUBT THIS FORM OF MAIL CONVEYANCE IS IN THE PATTERN OF THINGS TO COME. THIS OPINION IS EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS MEN OF PROMINENCE IN AEROPHILATELY. IN THAT DAY THE ROCKET MAIL SOUVENIRS OF HERR FRIEDRICH SCHMIEDL, KARL ROBERTI, GERHARD ZUCKER, MR. STEPHEN H. SMITH, AND OTHERS, WILL BE AMONG THE PRICELESS PIONEER ITEMS OF PHILATELIC ROCKETRY. MEANWHILE, MANY COLLECTORS ARE IGNORING THIS HISTORIC MATERIAL. THEIR MAIN ARGUMENTS ARE THAT ROCKET STAMPS, COVERS, ETC., ARE OF PRIVATE ORIGIN, OR THAT THESE ITEMS WERE ISSUED TO MULCT A PROFIT FROM COLLECTORS. IT IS TRUE THAT ALL OF THE PHILATELIC ROCKET EXPERIMENTS TO DATE, EXCEPT THAT OF CUBA, WERE OF PRIVATE ORIGIN, BUT IN MOST CASES THESE EXPERIMENTS HAD THE BLESSING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENTS, IF NOT ITS OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP. ALL OF THE PIONEER ROCKET EXPERIMENTERS WERE MEN OF MODEST, AND OFTEN MEAGER, MEANS AND THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD FIND TO CARRY ON THEIR WORK WAS THROUGH THE SALE OF STAMPS AND COVERS. IF WE WILL TAKE THE TROUBLE TO EXAMINE THE RECORDS WE WILL FIND THAT IN NO CASE WERE MORE THAN ENOUGH STAMPS OR COVERS ISSUED TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE EXPERIMENTS INVOLVED. THESE MEN DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO AN IDEAL WITHOUT THOUGHT OF PROFIT. HERR REINHOLD TILING GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THIS IDEAL AND OTHER EXPERIMENTERS SACRIFICED EVERYTHING WITHOUT THOUGHT OF RECOMPENSE. SHOULD TIME PROVE US WRONG IN THE BELIEF THAT MAIL ROCKETS ARE IN THE PATTERN OF THINGS TO COME, WE WOULD STILL BE RIGHT IN REGARDING THE EXISTING PIONEER MATERIAL AS THE DOCUMENTS OF A NOBLE EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED AND NONE-THE-LESS VALUABLE AS A RESULT.

THIS WRITER HONESTLY BELIEVES THAT THE LACK OF INFORMATION ON ROCKET POST MATERIAL HAS BEEN THE GREATEST BARRIER IN ITS POPULARITY. BY AN ACTUAL COUNT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE LARGEST AND FINEST AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES, IT WAS FOUND THAT ONLY 33-1/3% OF EACH 1,000 MEMBERS EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST IN ROCKET POST MATERIAL.

TO HELP BRING THESE ORPHANS OF AEROPHILATELY INTO THEIR RIGHTFUL HERITAGE, I HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE AMBITIOUS TASK OF COMPILING AN UP-TO-DATE LISTING OF ROCKET STAMPS, SPECIMAN STAMPS, PROOFS AND ESSAYS, ROCKET COVERS, AND ALL RELATED MATERIAL SUCH AS CACHETS, VIGNETTES, ETIQUETTES, SPECIAL ROCKET POSTMARKS, ETC., OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. ON ITS COMPLETION, I HOPE TO FIND SOME WAY OF MAKING THIS LISTING AVAILABLE TO ALL INTERESTED COLLECTORS (EDITOR'S NOTE: THE JACK KNIGHT AIRMAIL SOCIETY IS CONTEMPLATING THE PUBLISHING OF THIS AUTHORITATIVE WORK BY MR. CARROLL - THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE ISSUES).

TO SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT AN UNDERTAKING SUCH AS THIS, THE COOPERATION OF ALL SERIOUS AEROPHILATELISTS IS NEEDED. ANY LITERATURE, OLD PHILATELIC MAGAZINES, CLIPPINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC., PERTAINING TO PHILATELIC ROCKET EXPERIMENTS IS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES. ANY CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. IN THE MEANTIME, IF ANY OF THE DATA I HAVE ON HAND WOULD BE OF HELP TO MY READERS PLEASE DROP ME A LINE REQUESTING THE INFORMATION WANTED AND I WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS MATTER. IN FUTURE ARTICLES IN THE AIR LOG, I WILL ALSO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS - PRO AND CON - IN REGARDS TO ROCKET POSTS, SO SEND THEM IN!

Oct. 6th 1958.

Dear Mr. Carroll:

Just have returned from Europa  
for 5 months vacation, and have your letter of  
march 23rd with remittance for balance to date; tha  
ks.

Enclosed the list of rocket mater  
and only have one or two each, and no more availab  
in any place, ROCKET is OUT. Yours sincerely,

**CUMA; Rocket Flight special offer:**

FF Cover 1st proff Oct 1st 1939 ~~1.50~~ 1.50

Re: Cover 3rd proof Oct. 3th 1939

FF Cover official flight Oct. 15th-59- 0.75

IP Card      22      22      22      22      1.00

FF Card	do with rocket private stamp	1.00
---------	------------------------------	------

mint card without stamps beautiful --- 0.50

Souvenir miniature sheet mint ----- 0.50

do used but no flight ----- 0.50

Rocket private stamp ..... 0.50

do used 0.50

do pair one without surcharge-----1.00

pocket propaganda label small size --40,75

no large size ..... 0.25

Socket literature review ..... 0.50

Souvenir Miniature sheet proof in black-- 2.00

11 In colors -- 2.00

First Anniversary Miniature sheet-----	C.40
----------------------------------------	------

do small size 0.40

5th Anniversary special card with R.stamp 1.00

15th Anniversary special cover 1.25

Cuban stamps, postage, airmails, mint, used  
First Day Covers, Flight covers, signature  
sheets etc. etc.

Want-List solicited.

RAFAEL R. GARCIA

APARTADO 129

HABANA, CUBA

**CUBAN Rocket Flight Specialties:**

\*\*\*\*\*

Cover first proof Oc.1st 1939 with

special private stamp ----- 1,25

Cover 2nd proof Oc. 3rd 1939 ----- 2,00

Cover 3rd proof Oc. 8th 1939 ----- 2,00

Cover Official Flight Oct. 15th 1939-- 0,50

Mint cover issued by Club Filatelico

do la Nepe de Cuba ----- 0,20

Souvenir Card official flight ----- 0,40

do with special private stamp ----- 0,75

do mint card ----- 0,20

Special souvenir miniature sheet----- 0,25

do used Oct. 15th 1939 ----- 0,40

souvenir sheet first Anywhere flight 0,25

do small size ----- 0,25

Rocket official mint stamp 80c used -- 0,10

Rocket private stamps mint ----- 0,30

do pair one without surcharge --- 0,75

Rocket propaganda labels

small size four diff colors each-- 0,20

do large size each ----- 0,20

**Rocket literatures**

Actividades Filatelas Review each-- 0,25

\*\*\*\*\*

**RAFAEL R. GARCIA**

APARTADO 129

HABANA, CUBA