

Bibliography of the Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment
Bibliografía del Experimento del Cohete Postal Cubano
by/por Ernesto Cuesta

<AF5511a24> Actividades Filatélicas

"El Cohete Postal" "The Postal Rocket"

AF, "CUPEX" Special Issue, Nov 1955, pp.71-72, ill., Span. & Eng.

<AF6309> Actividades Filatélicas

"Vigésimo Quinto Aniversario del Experimento del Cohete Postal"

("25th Anniversary of the Postal Mail Rocket")

AF, Yr.XXVI, Nos.125-126, Sep-Oct 1964, Span.

<ALME5901> Almeyda, Eduardo R.

"El Cohete Postal en los Sellos de Correos" ("The Postal Rocket in Postage Stamps")

BMI, Yr.3, No.1, Jan 1959, p.8, Span.

<BELL5209> Bello Hernández, Ernesto

"Un Aniversario Más del Cohete Postal Cubano" ("Another Anniversary of the Cuban Postal Rocket")

BFC, Sep 1952 (date deduced from bulletin contents), p.3 (unnumbered), Span.

A one page recount of the planning, preparation, and launching of the Cuban postal rocket.

<CARRO5204> Carroll, Armand E.

"Rocket Posts"

JKAL, Apr-May-Jun 1952, pp.23-24, ill.

<CP7210> The Cuban Philatelist (CPC)

"El Cohete Postal" "The Postal Rocket"

CP, Vol.II, No.2, October 1972, pp.12-13, ill., Span. & Eng.

<DOBA4002b> Dobarganes, Ernesto L.

"Cohete Postal" ("Postal Rocket")

UFPI, Yr.I, Nos.8-9, 15 February 1940, p.7, Span.

<ECHE0400> Echenagusía García, Carlos

Catálogo de Emisiones y Cancelaciones dedicadas al Cohete Postal Cubano

(Catalog of the Issue and Cancellations Commemorating the Cuban Postal Rocket)

Madrid, Spain: 2004. Published by the author, 17 pp., ill. in color, Span.

The catalog is divided in three sections: the first section covers the trial launches, the second section covers officially issued stamps and FDCs commemorating the actual launch of 15 October 1939, the third section includes covers and labels issued in subsequent years to commemorate anniversaries of the 15 October 1939 launch. The catalog is profusely illustrated in color. Items are priced in Euros both unused and used as applicable. The catalog is all in Spanish. Errata: Catalog numbering is incorrect starting with the 1963 issue which should have been TE25. All subsequent numbers should be adjusted accordingly. This error was subsequently corrected in <ECHE0410> which is basically a reprint of this item.

<ECHE0409> Echenagusía García, Carlos

"A 65 años de su lanzamiento, el Cohete Postal Cubano pide su jubilación"

("After 65 of Its Launching, the Cuban Postal Rocket Asks for Its Retirement")

RF, Yr.XXXVIII, No.408, Sep 2004, pp.488-490 (3), ill., Span.

<ECHE0410> Echenagusía García, Carlos

"Catálogo Especial del Experimento del Cohete Postal Cubano 1939-2000"

("Specialized Catalog of the Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment 1939-2000")

RF, Yr.XXXVIII, No.409, Oct 2004, pp.xx-yy, ill., Span. (Missing)

RF, Yr.XXXVIII, No.410, Nov 2004, pp.641-642 and 675-676 (4), ill., Span.

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RF, Yr.XXXVIII, No.411, Dec 2004, pp.717-718 and 7511-752 (4), ill., Span.

RF, Yr.XXXIX, No.412, Jan 2005, pp.21-22 and 55 (3), ill., Span.

This is a reprint of <ECHE0400> with the catalog numbering problem in the latter corrected, except for item **TE35A** which should have just been **TE35** on p.12. Total number of pages in this reprint is 15; two less than in the original which had a title page as p.1 and a blank page as p.2.

<ECHE0500> Echenagusía García, Carlos

Catálogo de Hojitas de Recuerdo, 1939-1977

(Catalog of Souvenir Sheets, 1939-1977)

Madrid, Spain: Published by the author, 2005, 11 pp., ill., Span.

The catalog contains unofficial souvenir sheets issued by the Philatelic Club of the Republic of Cuba, the Philatelic Club of La Habana, and the Philatelic Circle *Plaza de la Revolución*. Many of the souvenir sheets commemorated the famous 1939 Postal Rocket Experiment on various anniversaries.

<ECHE0502> Echenagusía García, Carlos

“40.º Aniversario del Museo Postal Cubano”

(“40th Anniversary of the Cuban Postal Museum”)

RF, Yr.XXXIX, No.413, Feb 2005, p.96, ill., Span.

<ELLI6700> Ellington, Jesse T. (editor)

Ellington-Zwisler Rocket Mail Catalog

Co-editor: Perry F. Zwisler (see entry <ZWIS6700>).

New York: The editors. First edition, 1967, 245 pp. Cuba on pp.36-39.

<GARC5810> García, Rafael R.

Letter to Armand E. Carroll dated Oct. 6th, 1958

Copy in my personal library, two typewritten pages, in English.

Letter to a client offering for sale a list of Cuban rocket mail material with items individually priced. Highlights are covers of the three trial flights of Oct. 1, 3, and 8 at \$1.50, \$2.00, and \$2.50 (on p.1) or \$2.00 (on p.2).

<GARCF7910a> García-Frutos, Silvia

"Sobres de Primer Día--Experimento del Cohete Postal" "First Day Cover--Postal Rocket Experiment"

BM, No.1, October 1979, p.2, ill., Span. & Eng.

On the existence of FDCs of the Postal Rocket Experiment postmarked 14 October 1939, one day ahead of the official date of issuance.

<GARCF7910c> García-Frutos, Silvia

"Cohete Postal Cubano--15 de octubre de 1939" "Cuban Rocket Mail--October 15, 1939"

BM, No.1, October 1979, p.5, ill., Span. & Eng.

Short note on the Cuban rocket mail experiment on its 40th anniversary. Photos of Scott C31 and its overprint.

<GARCF7911c> García-Frutos, Silvia

"Hojitas del Cohete--Souvenir Sheet" "Cuban Rocket Mail Souvenir Sheet"

BM, No.2, November 1979, p.6, ill., Span. & Eng.

Announcement of the issuance by the Cuban Philatelic Society of America, Inc. of a souvenir sheet to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the "Rocket Mail Experiment". The sheet is illustrated.

<GOME3911> Gómez III, Máximo

"Nuevas Emisiones Cubanas" ("New Cuban Issues")

AF, Yr.5, No.21, November 1939, p.9, not ill., Span.

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Notes on some of the current stamp issues: the tobacco stamps (Scott 356358), **the postal rocket stamp (Scott C31)**, and the Calixto García stamps (Scott 359-360). **The postal rocket issue is addressed in more detail than the others, but not in great depth.** The article ends with news that the 1940 Scott catalog finally lists the Matanzas imperforate issue (Scott 324-331 etal) and also refers briefly to the "Artists and Writers" issue (Scott 340-354 etal) which to the author brings hope that they might finally be listed in the 1941 edition of the catalog.

<HORO6507> Horowics, Kay

"Cuban Postal Rocket Experiments"

The Stamp Magazine, July 1965, starting on p.445, ill. See <HORO6606> for a Spanish translation.

<HORO6606> Horowics, Kay

"Experimentos del Cohete Postal Aéreo" ("Postal Rocket Experiments")

FCb, Yr.2, No.2, Apr-Jun 1966, pp.5-7 (3), ill., Span. Translation into Spanish of <HORO6507>.

<KRON5510> Kronstein, Max

"XV Anniversary Of World's First Official Rocket Post"

APJ, Vol.27, No.1, Issue 306, October 1955, pp.30-32.

<KRON5803> Kronstein, Max

"Stephen H. Smith's Rocket Mail Catalog, 1958 Supplement"

Supplement to <SMITS5500>, dated 17 Mar 1958, prepared for the Rocket Mail Society of the United States, and published within Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Vol.27, 1959, pp.80-81.

Also published as an 8 page stapled pamphlet by the Rocket Association of the Southeast; size 6"x9", undated, with the title Supplement to Rocket Mail Catalogue (By Stephen H. Smith) (As Published by Fritz Billig).

Clarification of the listings for the Cuban rocketpost experiments. Provides details on the following:

I. 1st October 1939: First Experimental Start.

II. 3rd October 1939: Second Trial Start

III. 8th October 1939: Third Trial Start

IV. 15th October 1939: The Official Start of the World's First Postal Rocket

V. Commemorative Covers: 15 Oct 1940 (1st anniversary), 15 Oct 1944 (5th anniversary), 15 Oct 1954 (15th anniversary), 18 Jan 1957 (issue of an airletter commemorating the rocket flight).

<ORTIB7110> Ortiz-Bello, Ignacio A.

"Primer Experimento del Torpedo Aéreo en la América Latina—Habana-Cuba, Octubre 15-1939"

("First Postal Rocket Experiment in Latin America—Habana-Cuba, October 15-1939")

Miami, Florida: Magazine La Fabulosa, Oct 1971, p.15?, ill., Span.

Brief account on the 32nd anniversary of the first official postal rocket experiment conducted in Cuba on 15 October 1939 under the sponsorship of the Cuban Philatelic Club that was successful in getting the Cuban Government to issue a special stamp at the time to commemorate the event. Also notification that the Cuban Philatelic Circle of Miami will hold a special meeting and program on October 13 to commemorate the event.

<ORTIB86mm> Ortiz-Bello, Ignacio A.

"El Cohete Postal" ("The Postal Rocket")

Revista CE.FI.PU.DE., Centro Filatélico Puerto Deseado, Santa Cruz, Argentina, 1986, 1 unnumbered page, ill., Span. Brief historical overview of the rocket mail experiment.

<PALE1100d> Palencia Norcisa, Leonardo

"La historia del Cohete Postal Cubano. I, 1939-1959"

("History of the Cuban Postal Rocket. I, 1939-1959")

FF, No.2, 2011, 72 pp., ill., Span. The "I" in the title indicates that this is part I of an intended two volume set with Vol. II covering the period 1959 to date.

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This work is a comprehensive historical account of the Cuban postal rocket experiment profusely illustrated with photos, news items, and correspondence of the period, followed by various subsequent commemorative covers, labels, and cancellations up to 1959, including the 1957 issue of Cuba's first aerogram with an image of a rocket superimposed on the aerogram's indicia (printed stamp).

<PINO3909> Pino y Méndez, Dolores del

"El Experimento del Cohete Postal en Cuba. Exito Filatélico."

"The Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment. A Philatelic Triumph."

BC, Vol. XXXVIII, No.18, 30 Sep 1939, pp.609-618 (10), ill., Span.

Detailed history of the Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment from the point of view of the postal service, explaining the importance of the experiment in the context of other foreign attempts of the time and detailing the role of the different players that brought about the experiment to fruition with the full cooperation of the Cuban Postal Service, including the commemorative airmail stamp and cancellations that were produced for the occasion.

<SMITS5500> Smith, Stephen H.

Rocket Mail Catalog

2nd Edition, 1955. No other publication information available; obtained reference from <KRON5803>.

<SPOO8811> Spooner, Robert B.

"Covers from Cuba's 1939 Rocket Trials"

APJ, Vol.16, Nov 1988, p.50, ill.

Historical account of the three experimental launches that preceded the official October 1939 Cuban rocket trial and report of the commemorative covers flown on those experimental launches.

<SPOO9309> Spooner, Robert B.

Cuban Air Mail Service 1914-35, '39

Ambler, Pa.: Photocopy courtesy of Mr. Spooner of the philatelic exhibit he presented at the BALPEX 93 Philatelic Exhibition held September 4-6, 1993 in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The exhibit consisted of 128 unnumbered pages (8 frames of 16 pages each). The photocopy of the collection provided by Mr. Spooner also included additional pages from his collection that were not included in the BALPEX 93 Philatelic Exhibition because of the limit of 8 frames. The 8 frames that were exhibited were awarded a silver medal at the exhibition.

Quoting from the introductory page of the exhibit: "The collection uses mostly flown covers to portray developments during 1914-1935, when pioneers, international airlines, and Cuba's national airline attempted and then inaugurated air mail service to most of Cuba. It also focuses on two special projects, supported by the Cuban post office in 1935 and 1939, to fly mail by gliders and postal rockets." The exhibit consisted of two frames covering the National air mail service within Cuba, two frames each covering the International air mail service to and from Cuba, and two frames on the glider and **rocket service special projects**.

<SPOO9904> Spooner, Robert B.

"Official Flight of the Cuban Postal Rocket"

APJ, Vol.70, No.4, April 1999, front cover plus pp.157-162 (7), ill.

<TERR3911> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Informe que rinde a la Junta Directiva del Club Filatélico de la República de Cuba el Dr. Tomás A. Terry, Presidente de la Comisión ProTorpedo Postal Aéreo"

("Report by Dr. Terry, President of the Postal Rocket Committee, to the Directors of the Cuban Philatelic Club")

AF, Yr.IV, No.21, Nov 1939, pp.21-23 (3).

This is a detailed account of the Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment by the man who is considered to be the "father" of the experiment for his concerted efforts to carry it through completion. It describes how the project was conceived and embraced by the Philatelic Club of the Republic of Cuba, how financial support was obtained, how

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support from the Cuban Postal Administration was arranged to include the issuing of a special commemorative stamp for the occasion (Scott C39), and describes the three trial launches, and the final launch of the postal rocket carrying a small amount of mail.

<TERR4011> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Ha Pasado un Año. Primer Aniversario del Experimento del Cohete Postal, 1939"
("A Year Has Passed. First Anniversary of the Postal Rocket, 1939")
AF, Yr.V, No.22, Nov 1940, pp.19-20 (2).

<TERR5910> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"El Experimento del Cohete Postal en su Vigésimo Aniversario"
("20th Anniversary of the Postal Rocket Experiment")
BMI, Yr.III, No.10, October 1959, pp.2-14 (13), ill., Span.

<TERR6008a> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Los cohetes y aparatos de exploración cósmica en los sellos postales. Contribución para un catálogo de colección temática." ("Rockets and cosmic exploration equipment in postal stamps. Contribution to a catalog of topical collections.")

AF, Yr. XXXII, Nos. 76-78, Aug-Oct 1960, pp.7-11 (5), Span.

The only reference to Cuban items is found in a paragraph at the bottom of page 10 discussing the designs of some official Cuban handstamps used on covers carried by the 1939 Cuban postal rocket experiment, on the FDC of the 18 January 1957 aerogram, and in the Sputnik III handstamp applied to covers in Havana on the first day of the Soviet Exhibition held on February 1960.

<TERR6307> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"La Revancha de un Cohete" ("The Revenge of a Rocket")

AF, Yr.XXV, Nos.111-112, Jul-Aug 1963, pp.10-17 (8), Part I;

AF, Yr.XXV, Nos.113-116, Sep-Dec 1963, pp.19-29 (11), Part II;

AF, Yr.XXV, Nos.117-118, Jan-Feb 1964, pp.13-20 (8), Part III;

AF, Yr.XXV, Nos.119-120, Mar-Apr 1964, pp.15-27 (13), Part IV; all in Spanish.

Analysis of catalog price changes of the rocket stamp issue of 1939; including covers and other memorabilia.

<TERR6401> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Inicio y desarrollo en Cuba del experimento del cohete postal - Año de 1939"

("Start and Development of the Cuban Experimental Rocket - 1939")

RCFCa, Yr.3, No.15, Jan-Feb 1964, pp.62-65 (4), ill., Span.

<TERR6612># Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Background and Development of the Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment of October 1939"

LINN, Vol.39, No.42, WNo.1988, December 1966, pp.18,49 (2). Translation into English of <TERR6401>.

<TERR6911> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

Letters of Nov 15 and Dec 4 to Héctor Juárez Figueredo

Unpublished, in my library, courtesy of Mark Piper, 2 pp., Span.

Two one-page letters from Terry to Juárez Figueredo on the subject of four unofficial commemorative overprints. The first one is only identified as "los sellos del Cardenal" (the Cardinal's stamps) and was applied on Cuban stamps identified as Guerra catalog #548-549. The second overprint mentioned commemorated the withdrawal of the Russian missiles during the October 1963 missile crisis. The third overprints mentioned are some 1956 unofficial overprints from an expedition by some university students trying to reclaim Cayo Sal for Cuba. Finally, the letters refer to an **overprint on Guerra catalog stamp #776 commemorating the 30th anniversary of the**

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Cuban postal rocket experiment of 1939. [Note that the letters refer to these overprints as “sobrecargas” or surcharges since the term is frequently indistinctively applied to both overprints and surcharges in Spanish.]

<TERR7102> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

El Correo Aéreo en Cuba--Contribución a la Historia de la Aeronáutica y el Correo Aéreo en Cuba
(The Airmail Service in Cuba--Contribution to the History of Aeronautics and the Airmail Service in Cuba)
La Habana, Cuba: Ministerio de Comunicaciones (Department of Communications), Museo Postal Cubano (Cuban Postal Museum), Feb 1971, 292 pp., sparsely illustrated, in Spanish.

The most complete history available of the development of aeronautics and the airmail service in Cuba by the foremost student and researcher of the subject. The book starts with a general history of the development of world aeronautics and the history of Cuban interest and participation in these developments, initially consisting of balloon flights and later the initial steps of aviation with experimental or test flights and later the establishment of regular national and international air routes, many prompted by the interest of postal authorities to make use of airplanes for the transportation mail. The sections on Cuban aerophilately start with the use of pigeon mail during the wars of independence, continue with accounts of Cuban experimental flights, and finish with the history of the establishment and expansion of national and international airmail. The sections of the book with aerophilatelic content are the following:

Un correo aéreo en la manigua libertadora (An air mail service in the countryside during the independence wars)
Tres precursores de la aviación cubana (Three pioneers of Cuban aviation)
Primeros vuelos y correos aéreos nacionales (First flights and national air posts)
Primer correo aéreo Cienfuegos—Habana (First air mail service: Cienfuegos—Habana)
Primeros vuelos y correos transoceánicos (First transoceanic flights and air mail services)
Primeros años de la aviación cubana (First years of Cuban aviation)
Primera demostración de aviación de alta escuela (First demonstration of high-level aviation training)
Primeras compañías de transporte aéreo (First air transport companies)
Compañías aéreas extranjeras (Foreign air mail companies)
El correo aéreo (The air mail service)
En camino del primer servicio aéreo postal oficial (On the road to the first official air mail service)
Primer correo aéreo oficial, 28 de octubre de 1927 (First official air mail service, 28 October 1927)
El correo aéreo nacional (The national air mail service)
Primeros sellos aéreos de Cuba (The first Cuban air mail stamps)
Vuelos y correos transatlánticos (Transatlantic flights and air mail services)
Correos aéreos por vuelos especiales (Air mail services via special flights)
Los Dirigibles (The zeppelins)
Otros medios de transporte aéreo (Other means of air transport)
Las exposiciones aeronáuticas (The aeronautical exhibitions)
El correo por aviones a retropropulsión (The air mail service via jet airplanes)
El cohete postal cubano (The Cuban postal rocket)

<TERR7501> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Los Cohetes Postales como Precursores de la Temática Cosmonáutica"
("The Postal Rockets as Precursors of Cosmonautic Themes")
FCb, Yr.10, No.1, Jan-Apr 1975, pp.10-14 (5), ill, Span.

<TERR7609> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

"Los Correos Desconocidos en los Preensayos del Cohete Postal Cubano"
("Unknown Covers of the Test Runs of the Cuban Postal Rocket")
FCb, Yr.11, No.3, Sep-Dec 1976, pp.40-45 (6), ill, Span. See <TERR8811> for reprint and English translation.

<TERR7610> Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.

“Breves Notas con Relación al Cohete Postal Cubano” (“Brief Notes on the Cuban Postal Rocket”)

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IFN, Yr.XI, No.69, Oct 1976, two unnumbered pages, ill., Span.

Reprinted from Gaceta Aerofilatélica, published by the "Sociedad Aerofilatélica Española" (Spanish Aerophilatelic Society); publication date unknown.

<[TERR7801b](#)> **Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.**

"El Cohete Postal Cubano Fue el Primero"

("The Cuban Postal Rocket Was the First One")

FCb, Yr.13, No.1, Jan-Apr 1978, pp.46-53 (8), ill, Span.

Article provides factual proof that the Cuban Postal Rocket experiment was the first in the world.

<[TERR7907](#)># **Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.**

"Cuban collector disputes United States claim to first official rocket mail flight"

LINN, 16 Jul 1979, pp.66-67, ill.

<[TERR8811](#)> **Terry y García Montes, Tomás A.**

"The Unknown Preliminary Experiment With the Cuban Postal Rocket"

"Los correos desconocidos en los preensayos del cohete postal cubano"

BM, Vol.IX, No.33, Nov-Dec 1988, pp.82-87 (6), ill., Span. & Eng.

Reprint of <[TERR7610](#)> and English translation by William McP. Jones. However, a better translation of the title would have been "Unknown Covers of the Test Runs of the Cuban Postal Rocket".

<[VARO8408](#)> **Varona, Bernabé de**

"Mi Primo Tomasito" ("My Cousin Tomasito")

BNJ, No.11, Aug 1984, pp.10-12 (3), ill., Span. with English

summary on p.23 (paraphrased below).

Article of a biographical nature in which the author tells us of the influence that his recently deceased cousin, Dr. Tomás Terry, had in his philatelic interests. **The article provides some information on the 1939 Cuban rocket mail experiment for which the author was requested by Dr. Terry to be the official photographer.**

<[WINI6706](#)> **Winick, Les. E.**

"The Cuban Postal Rocket Experiment"

The Space Craft Explorer, Vol.6, No.3, 15 Jun 1967, pp.13-17 (5).

<[WINI9309](#)> **Winick, Les. E.**

"Taking Up Space"

AP, Vol.107, No.9, WNo.1112, Sep 1993, pp.846-849, ill.; Cuba on p.847 with picture of a trial flight cover of Oct. 8, 1939.

Brief mention of the first official postal recognition of rocket mail on October 15, 1939, when the Cuban postal administration issued the world's first rocket mail stamp. Reference is made to three trial flights that took place on October 1, 3, and 8, and a picture of an Oct. 8 cover is shown. The article states that some covers were flown and others are simply commemorative covers, but provides no clues on how to differentiate them, and does not indicate whether the cover shown was flown. Additionally, the caption on the picture of the cover shown reads "Cuba was the first nation to issue a postage stamp for rocket mail"; however, the stamp on the illustrated cover is not the officially issued stamp but a privately printed label used on the trial flight covers--the official stamp was not issued until October 15. See <[KRON5510](#)> and <[KRON5803](#)> for more details on the illustrated cover.

<[ZWIS6700](#)> **Perry F. Zwisler (editor)**

Ellington-Zwisler Rocket Mail Catalog

Co-editor: Ellington, Jesse T. (also listed as <[ELLI6700](#)>).

New York: The editors. First edition, 1967, 245 pp. Cuba listed on pages 36-39.