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Stephen H. Smith's

ROCKET MAIL CATALOGUE

1958 SUPPLEMENT

By Dr. Max Kronstein

INTRODUCTION

The publication of the second edition of the S. H. Smith Rocket Mail Catalogue in 1955 has brought new interest in the collecting of rocket mails in many parts of the world.

In the meantime we have entered, what headlines call the "Rocket-and-Missile Age" or even the rocket-propelled "Space Age" and magazines refer to long distance rocket mail, even to interplanetary mail as being in the realm of coming developments.

The collectors of rocket mail are not single individuals anymore. There is a Rocket Mail Society in the USA as a Chapter of the American Philatelic Society and of the American Air Mail Society, P. O. Box 8155, Tampa 4, Fla.

This greater group-interest in the field of rocket mails and the resulting interchange between collectors have resulted in the discovery of additional facts about rocketposts, which had not been listed in the Catalogue.

To communicate such additional data as they came up, the Rocket Mail Society has twice already issued intermediate supplements for the aid of the collectors.

As still more facts have become known, which are to be included, the time has come to prepare one supplement for facilitating the work of the collectors. We appreciate to have the opportunity of including in this 1958 Supplement data also which had been part of the earlier Society listings, and thank all those who assisted in this work.

The present supplement has been prepared for the information of interested collectors. Another specialized listing of the "Postal Stationery for Rocketmail" by this same author has been published in England recently.

March 17, 1958

Dr. Max Kronstein

AUSTRALIA

Addition to page 8:

Add to No. IV: The covers contained a thin print in blue on blue paper of the Brisbane "King's Silver Jubilee The Telegraph Souvenir Number" showing the picture of the King and of the Queen with special imprint for the Zodiac rocket and with the red rocket cachet.

Add to No. V: The covers contained a similar print, but printed in red on yellow paper with "Orion" imprint and with the blue rocket cachet. To all Australian rocket stamps is to be added, that they are all imperforated.

AUSTRIA

ON PAGE 10: Change in (a) the number of stamps from 100 each to 150 each. From the second type 25 stamps exist with a small rocket above the balloon. These were printed for use on special covers to be flown by small high altitude rockets which were to be started from the car of the balloon when in high altitude. The acceptance of such covers was abandoned because of the very limited possibilities for their recovery after the start. These stamps therefore exist mint only.

This stamp with the imprinted rocket might be described as the world's first stamp prepared especially for rocketmail, but it has not been used on covers. One such high altitude rocket has been started at the June 10, 1928 high altitude balloon start. This rocket has not been recovered. The balloon was found in Hungary.

ADD ON PAGE 10 BEFORE I.

Especially interesting is the inscription of the V-5 rocket-letter of May 14, 1930: "It is theoretically possible to send mail from Europe to America in about 40 minutes by Rockets. It is theoretically possible to reach, by means of the Rocket, any part of the surface of the earth in less than 1 hour. It is theoretically possible that we can leave earth, by means of the rocket: Space Flight"

ON PAGE 11 in II: April 21, 1931 Line 3:

Change the words "79 cards" to "79 cards and covers" and in line 16 add to

(1) after "Flugpostkarte" the words: "or on covers: Raketenpost Schmiedl"

ON PAGE 12: Insert after VI- (d): The rocketpost registration labels (c) and (d) have been used at the starts VII ("V-10"), VIII ("V-12") and IX ("V-13") also.

ON PAGE 12 in the last line of the page:

Change the words "192 cards" to "192 numbered cards and covers".

ON PAGE 15: Change in line 5/6 the wording to:

(c) Flown covers with tete-beche pair of the triangular rocket stamp on Government envelope with imprinted postage stamp (3g or 5g) on white and rarely on blue paper.

(More details about these stationery issues in the March 1958 issue of the magazine "Aero Field")

ADD ON PAGE 13 UNDER VIII/IX AFTER (3):

The 3g and the 10 g stamp was printed by subsequent impressions from a single boxwood-cut.

CUBA

To further clarify the listings for the Cuban rocketpost experiments, this listing is rearranged as follows:

- I. 1st October 1939: FIRST EXPERIMENTAL START: For this occasion a grey "non-postal" Provincial Stamp of the Province of Matanzas, inscribed "Consejo Provincial de Matanzas—25—Veinticinco Centavos—25" was overprinted "PRIMER COHETE AEREO—1939". 80 overprinted stamps are reported. They exist joined to a non-overprinted stamp also. 60 covers were flown with this stamp, which was cancelled "CAMPO-EXPERIMENTAL — OCTUBRE 1.1939—HABANA, CUBA". The covers have a large blue commemorative cachet: "PRE-ENSAYO DEL PRIMER COHETE POSTAL AEREO-HABANA—C-1—Oct.1re—1939—CUBA".

- (a) Flown cover with overprinted Provincial stamp (60) _____
 (b) Mint provincial overprint stamp (80) _____
 (c) Mint provincial overprint stamp in pair with not overprinted stamp. _____

Some copies of (b) and (c) have later been used on the commemorative covers # V-(b).

- II. 3rd October 1939: SECOND TRIAL START: Instead of the overprint rocket stamp white labels with a blue border were marked with a double line from the left lower to the right upper corner. In the upper space the marking was stamped "C 1", in under part the value "25 C". Same cancellation as for I, but the date changed to a "3" in blue color. Same round cachet as for I, but the date changed by an overstamped figure "3" over the earlier date.

This rocket flew over a distance of more than 500 meters.

Number of flown covers _____ 21.

- (a) Flown cover with imprinted white label stamp (blue border) (21) _____
 (b) Mint imprinted white label stamp (not reported) _____

- III. 8th October 1939: THIRD TRIAL START: This time a label was used with a red border and the text was stamped in by a rubber stamp in blue color "C 1 25C - 8 OCT. 1939 - 3R ENSAYO" This rocket was named the "Marilyn".

Again the same cancellation was used with date changed to "8".

This rocket flew about 200 meters.

Number of flown covers _____ 16.

- (a) Flown cover with imprinted white label stamp (red border) (16) _____
 (b) Mint imprinted white label stamp (not reported).

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

A 10c airpost stamp in green color was overprinted by the postal authorities in black "EXPERIMENTO DEL-COHETE POSTAL-ANO DE 1939". 200,000 stamps were issued. The covers bear a green cachet (rocket raising above the palm trees) inscribed "PRIMER EXPERIMENTO DEL COHETE POSTAL en la America Latina — HABANA-CUBA—OCTUBRE 15.1939". The postage stamps have the Habana postal cancellation of the day.

Since 2581 covers were posted for the flight and the rocket was not capable of carrying all these covers, only 50 of the covers were flown. These cannot be identified from the other covers.

The design of the cachet was used also for a 4¼ x 5½" sheet, printed in blue, black and red on white and inscribed "VALOR 20 c". It was issued by the committee.

(a) Cover with official rocketpost stamp, special cachet and postal cancellation (2581) _____

(b) Mint official rocketpost stamp _____

V. COMMEMORATIVE COVERS:

(a) 15th Oct. 1940. I. Anniversary of the Official Rocketmail stamp: Souvenir covers with the 1939 official rocket stamp and a Camp Experimental Habana, Cuba cancellation. Blue rectangular cachet "1939 — Primer Aniversario Del Cohete Postal Del Cohete Postal 1939 — 15 Oct. 1940", also a black on yellow label.

(b) 15th Oct. 1944. V. Anniversary of the postal rocket: Souvenir covers with the Experimental stamp of the start # I. and postal cancellation of the day. Triangular blue cachet: "5 Aniversario ano de la Victoria — 15 Decembre 1939-1944".

(c) 15th Oct. 1954. A commemorative vignette was issued at the XV. Anniversary of the C-1 Start (The meaning of C-1 was "Cuba-1"). The vignette (2x2¾") showed in the center the design of the 1939 cachet with outside text: "XV. ANIVERSARIO—CLUB FILATELICO—REPUBLICA DE CUBA" and was applied to special covers with postal cancellation "ADMDM de CORREOS—15 OCT. 1954—HABANA-CUBA" and blue cachet with the seal of the Club Filatelico and text in circle "COHETE POSTAL—XV ANIVERSARIO", to the right the form of a rocket with inscription "1939—15 de OCTUBRE—1954".

(d) January 18, 1957. In commemoration of the C-1 start of 1939 an official airletter sheet was issued, showing in the stamp design a rocket in flight between the stars with a First Day Cachet, showing the C-1 rocket with a letter attached to it, which is inscribed: "Primer dia Aerogramme". The form of this cachet follows the design of the Zucker rocket cachet of April 15, 1934. (Germany No. VIII, page 22). Another official commemorative stamp issue is being expected for the XX. Anniversary of the First Official Rocketpost in 1959.

FRANCE

Addition to page 22:

Add after (b): The color of the cachet of the Mayor can be reversed also, that is covers are known with the black and cards with the red cachet.

Addition to page 23:

Add to No. III: These covers have either a rocket stamp of the same design as No. II. but in red and with overprint "R. V. 4 Avion Fusee Guynemer" or they have the same cachet de controle as listed to Belgium No. V.