

Covers From 1939 Cuban Rocket Trials

By Robert B. Spooner (#8397)

% ECRI, 5200 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, Pa. 19462

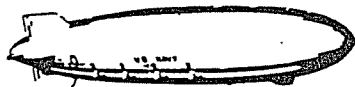
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Stamps for the second experiment on October 3 were made from both red and blue gummed labels, diagonal-



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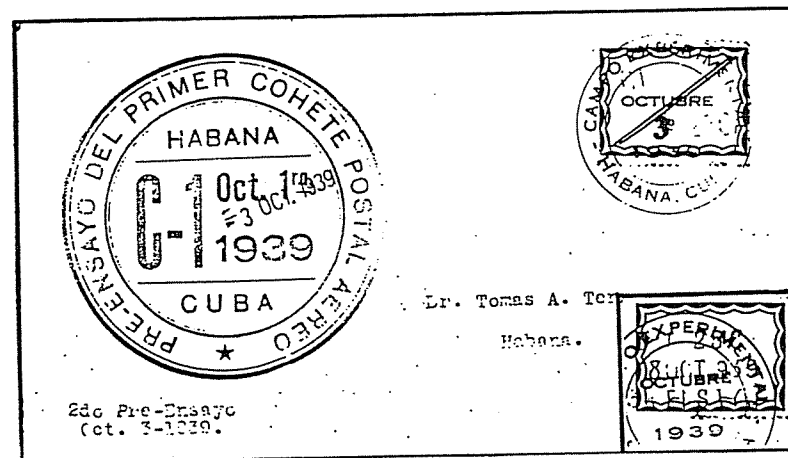
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THE AIRPOST JOURNAL



Cover from second rocket flight, with datestamp. Lower right inset — Hybrid stamp used on third rocket flight cover.

ly divided into upper and lower fields by a double line. The upper field has the rocket designation, C1, stamped in red. The lower field has the price, 25C. E.Z. identifies these stamps as 2A1. The 21 covers franked with these stamps, designated 2C1 (2C1a with a Habana backstamp), and flown in the rocket exhibit other changes from the first test covers. The cancellations have a purple number "3" stamped over the original date and most of the cachets have their original dates overstamped with a large number "3" in purple.

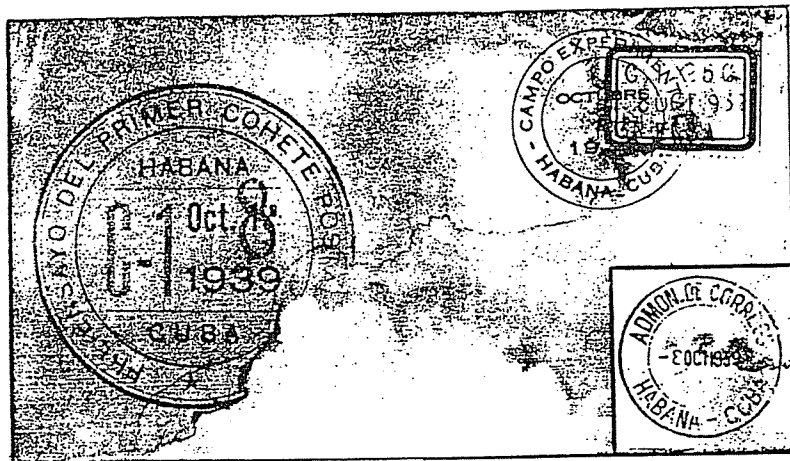
The illustrated October 3 cover is an exception that has not previously been reported. An ordinary date stamp was used to obliterate the original date in the cachet, but without much success. This is probably why the other covers have the large "3", which is much more effective. This cover could be a candidate for catalog number 2C1b because of this difference. All of the covers of both types that I have seen have typed addresses to Dr. Terry.

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Dr. Tomas Terry with C-1 rocket "Marilyn", named in honor of his daughter.



Water-damaged cover from October 8 flight. Backstamp is shown in lower right inset.

famous Cuban pioneer aviator, Domingo Rosillo, (7) who witnessed the flight along with the club president, Luis Anguilo. (6)

For the third pretest on October 8, different labels, again both red and blue, were used for most covers. They have no diagonal, but are stamped in purple in three lines reading, "C 1 25C — 8 OCT 1939 — 3R ENSAYO." These stamps carry the E-Z designation 3A1. The cancellation no longer has the original day, 10, in the center, so there is no need for an overstamp as for the second flight. The cachets are updated with large purple 8s, and the covers are catalogued as 3C1. Most of these reported covers I have seen are unaddressed.

The pictured October 8 cover is especially interesting because of an incident during the flight, which was dedicated to another Cuban pioneer aviator, Agustin Parla. (7) The rocket took off at high speed and good direction; but, after reaching some altitude was caught by strong contrary winds and blown off course so that it came down in the open sea about 200 meters from the launch point. (6, 7) The water damage evident in this cover is, perhaps, the

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When this article was in its planning stage, two other October 8 covers with this same variety stamp appeared, one in Zimmerman's June 13, 1987 auction catalog as lot 768 and the other in R. del Campo's stock. The Zimmerman cover was addressed in longhand to Jose Taiso (sp?) at the Adm. Correos in Havana. The other is unaddressed. Are there other examples of this stamp? With only 15 or 16 covers carried, there cannot be many.

(This author is very grateful for the information supplied by Mark Tyx and Ernesto Cuesta and for the help and comments of Dr. M. A. Chiong, William Jones, Dr. Max Kronstein, Pedro Rodriguez, and Lecta Wambold, who also reviewed this report.)

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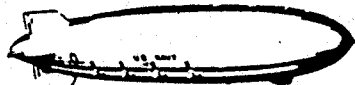
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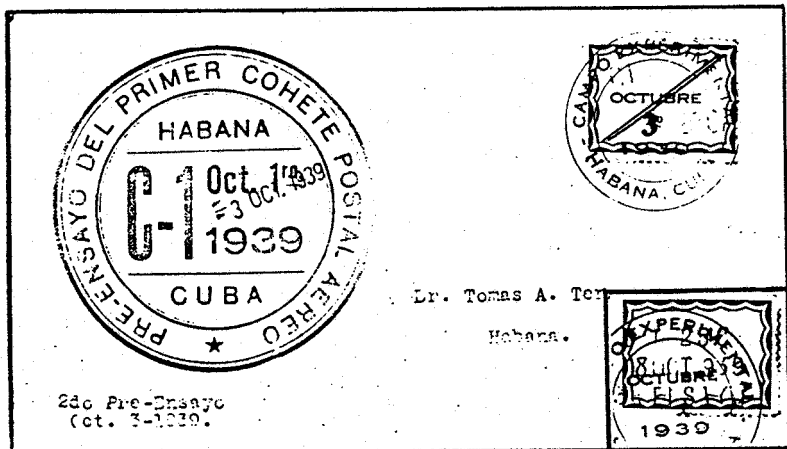
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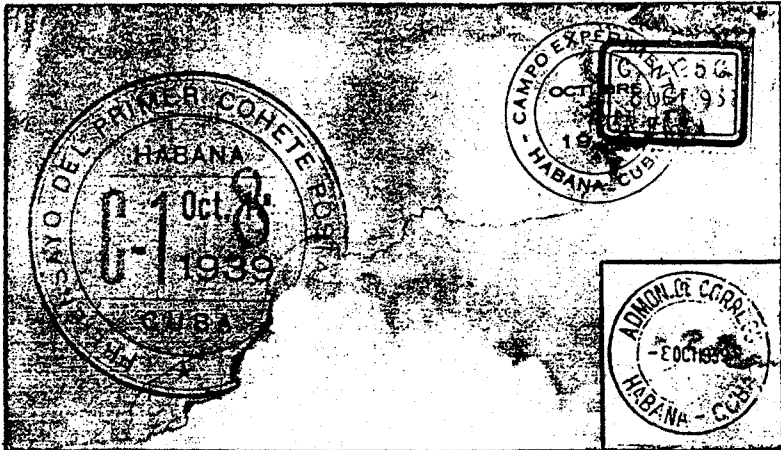
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C. F. C. PRIMER COHETE POSTAL AEREO



DR. TOMAS A. TERRY, PRESIDENTE DE LA
COMISION PRO-PRIMER COHETE POSTAL.
APARTADO 1222
HABANA

OCT. 1, 1939
PRIMER DIA





Sr. C. Del Campo
Admin. de Correos
Habana

(2)



Cuban Rocket Trials: Three Unusual Covers from Experimental Launches

by Robert Spooner.

LSPO088017

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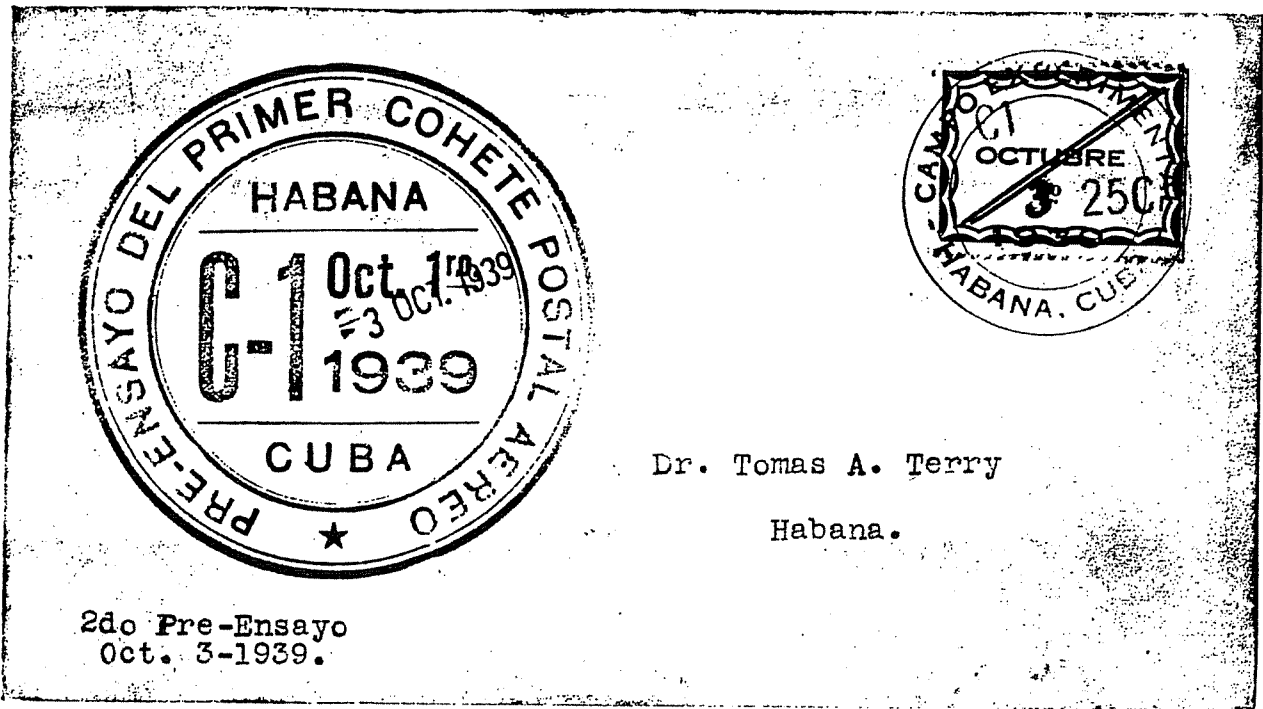
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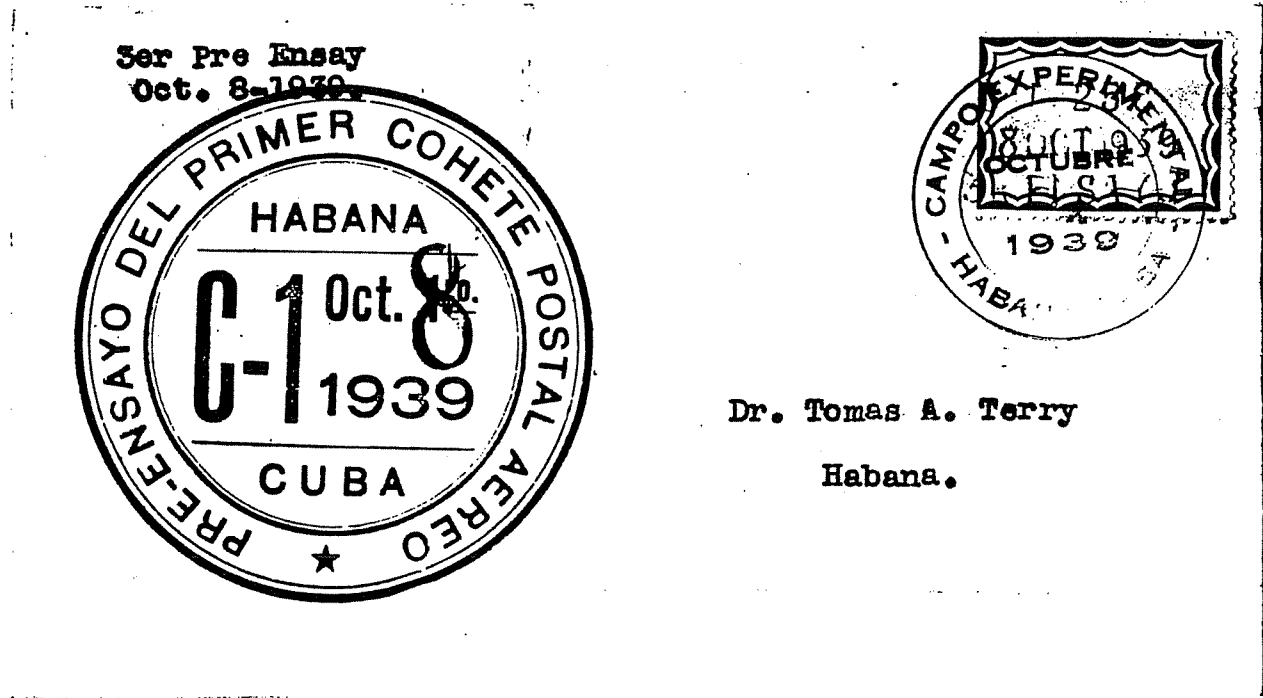
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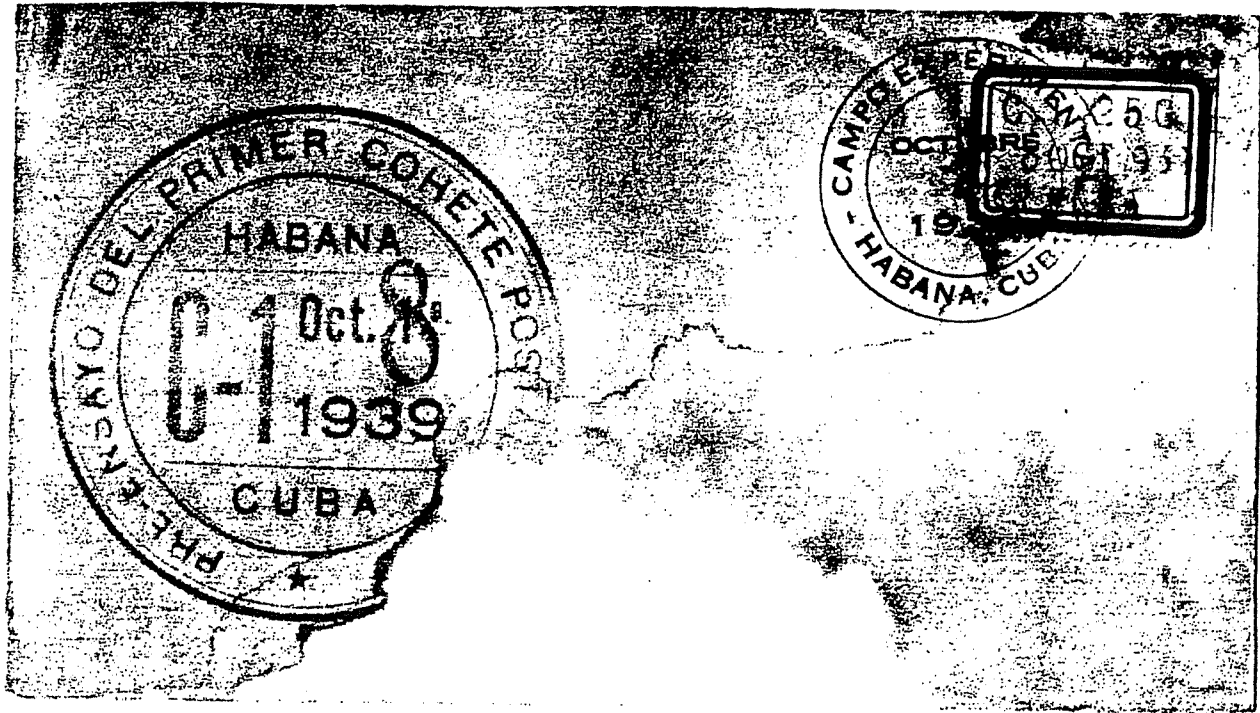
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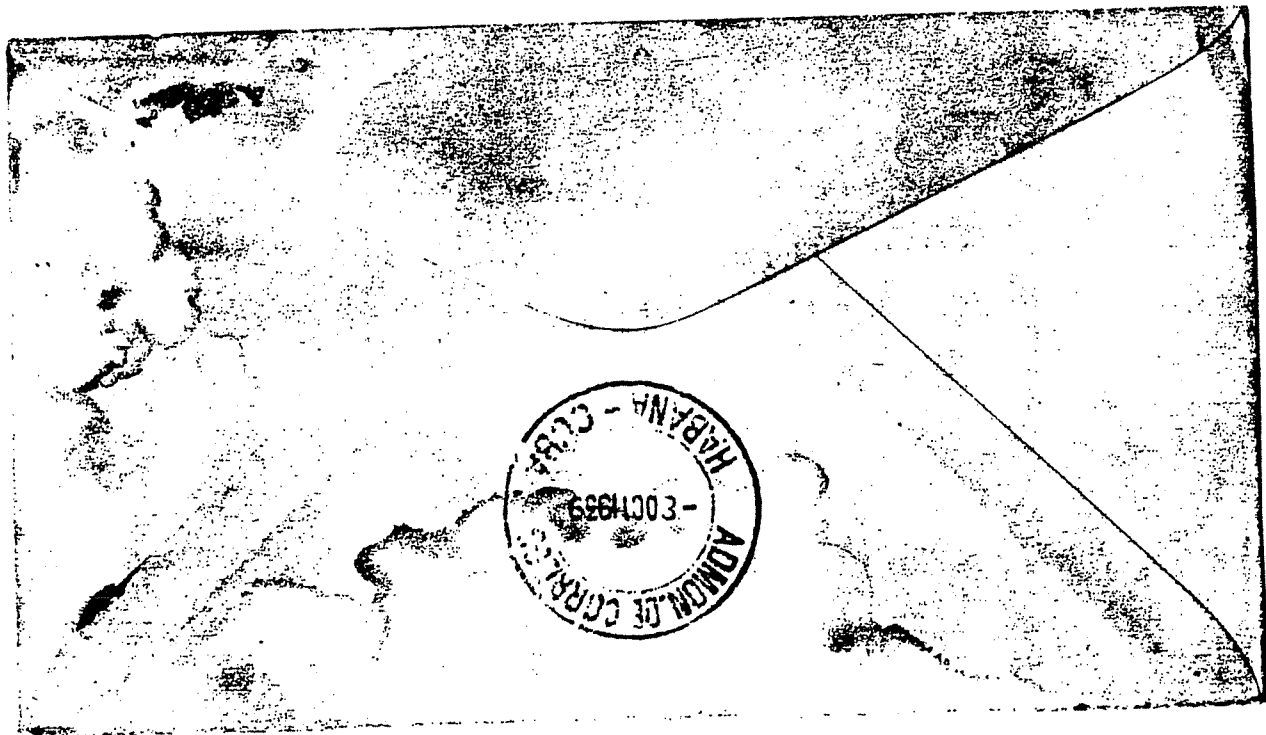


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2a



2b