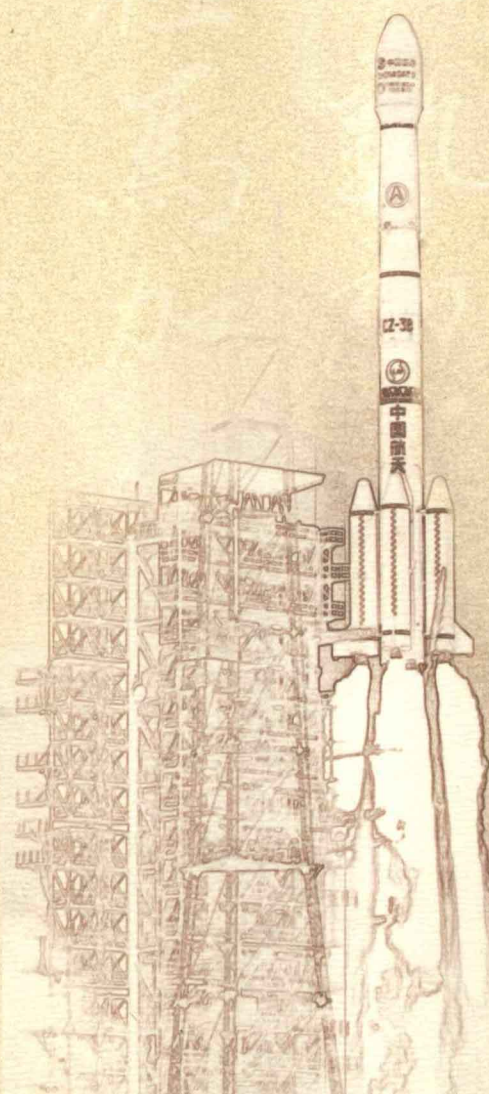


# 中国航天题材邮集

中国航天集邮协会组织编写  
主编 贾可

# 精粹

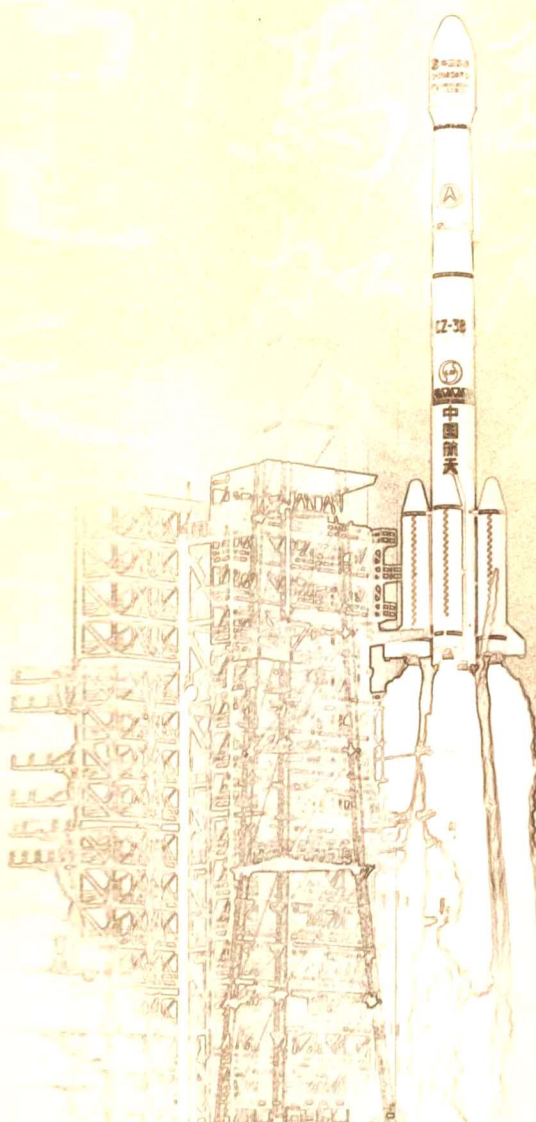




# 中国航天题材邮集精粹

中国航天集邮协会组织编写

主编 贾可



中国宇航出版社

• 北京 •



## 内 容 简 介

本书收录了近几年来在世界邮展、亚洲邮展和全国邮展中,获得镀金奖以上和好成绩的优秀航天题材邮集共13部,其中部分邮集代表了当前中国航天集邮的最高水平。这些邮集各具特色,规范美观,所用资料翔实,具有一定的收集难度和珍稀性,充分体现了研究性和知识性;从集邮的角度反映了世界与中国航天科技发展的历程,宣传了中国航天所取得的辉煌成就。

本书内容丰富,编排合理,设计新颖,印制精美,可供广大集邮爱好者学习、参考、鉴赏、收藏。

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# 序

探索宇宙 —— 人类千百年来的美好梦想。

从西方太阳神阿波罗驾着太阳车巡游九天的神话，到东方夸父追日、嫦娥奔月的美丽传说，人类从具有思维的那一天起，便对头顶这片蔚蓝天空怀有无限的遐想。然而，随着近100年来航天科技的迅猛发展，那曾经看似遥不可及的梦想正逐渐变为现实。从1957年10月4日世界上第一颗人造地球卫星上天以来，世界各国相继研制、发射了大量的人造卫星、载人飞船、空间探测器、航天飞机和空间站。目前，全世界有100多个国家和地区开展航天活动，利用航天科技成果造福人类。

我国的航天事业发端于1956年，2011年是中国航天事业创建55周年。55年来，在党中央、国务院、中央军委的正确领导下，我国的航天事业经过几代人的不懈努力，在创业中起步，在探索中发展，在改革中腾飞，走过了半个多世纪波澜壮阔、光辉灿烂的发展历程；创造了以人造卫星、载人航天、月球探测为代表的辉煌成就，屹立于世界高科技之林；为增强国家的经济实力、科技实力、国防实力和民族凝聚力，为维护国家安全、促进经济发展、提升生活质量、推动社会进步作出了应有的贡献。

回顾中国航天事业走过的道路，最重要的一条是：从国家需要和国情出发，走中国特色的自主创新发展道路。正是依靠我国广大航天工作者的刻苦攻关和自主创新，才逐步攻克和掌握了一项又一项航天领域的核心技术和关键技术，形成了一大批具有自主知识产权的创新成果，锻炼和培育出一批批具有优秀品质的年轻人才和具有极强战斗力的团队，不断推动和牵引我国航天事业的持续快速发展。

我国航天事业之所以称为事业，不仅仅是客观物质的存在，更是一种文化和精神的存在。我国航天事业在取得令世人瞩目的辉煌成就的同时，也积淀形成了具有鲜明时代特征的“航天精神”、“两弹一星”和载人航天精神。这些航天精神已经成为我国航天事业的光荣传统和宝贵财富，已经在一代代航天人手中薪火相传。新一代的航天人在攀登科技高峰的伟大征程中，正以特有的崇高境界、顽强意志和杰出智慧，继承丰盈着航天精神的内涵。可以说航天精神是我们伟大民族精神的生动体现，也是我们伟大民族精神中不可或缺的宝贵财富。

遵循着中国航天事业55年艰难曲折、波澜壮阔、辉煌灿烂的足迹，中国航天事业每一个腾飞和崛起的历史缩影，被一种特殊方式永远纪念、珍藏。几十年来，我国邮政部门和中国航天集邮协会制作和发行了一系列航天题材邮票和纪念封等邮品。这些邮品记录了中国航天的辉煌历史，反映了中国航天的发展面貌，见证了中国航天取得的巨大成就。

这本由中国航天集邮协会组织编撰的《中国航天题材邮集精粹》，共选录了13部航天题材的邮集，全面地介绍了中国航天集邮以及世界航天集邮的基本状况，系统地剖析、挖掘了中国航天以及世界航天的文化底蕴和精神内涵，既是对中国航天题材邮集整体水平的一次检阅，也是对推动中国航天集邮又好又快发展、提升中国航天文化软实力的有力促进。古人云“如切如磋，如琢如磨”，我希望更多的人关注、关心这本书，使之更加充实、完整、准确，为中国航天集邮的发展发挥更大作用。



2011年2月



## Foreword

Exploring the universe is a thousand-year-long dream of human beings.

In ancient Greek mythology Apollo rode his chariot through the skies. Kua Fu, a giant in Chinese mythology, tried to capture the sun and the Chinese goddess Chang'e flew to the moon. Since the beginning of civilization, people have looked to the heavens and dreamed of flying there. With the rapid development of space science and technology over the last 100 years, the seemingly impossible has come true. The former Soviet Union launched humanity's first object into space on October 4th, 1957, and since then satellites, manned spacecraft, deep space probes, space shuttles and space stations, have been put into space. Now, more than 100 nations and regions in the world are engaged in space exploration, taking advantage of the scientific and technological achievements in aerospace to benefit humans.

China's aerospace industry was established in 1956 and 2011 marks its 55th anniversary. Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission over the past 55 years, the country's aerospace industry has overcome numerous obstacles and made great achievements. It has launched satellites, succeeded in putting people into space, and conducted lunar exploration projects. These achievements have not only helped improve national economic strength, scientific and technological strength, national defense strength, and national cohesion of the Chinese people, but also contributed to national security, economic growth, people's welfare and social progress.

Looking back upon the 55 years of China's aerospace industry, a lesson we have learned is that we must persist in taking the road of independence, self-reliance and self-renovation. It is because of aerospace workers' hard work and innovations that we managed to grasp a number of core technologies, obtain a batch of scientific achievements with independent intellectual property rights, and foster a contingent of young and highly qualified space scientists and engineers.

In addition to the eye-catching achievements, the large number of space workers also forged a unique "aerospace spirit", "two-bombs, one-satellite" spirit, and manned spaceflight spirit, which have become part of the glorious tradition of China's aerospace industry and have been passed on and treasured by several generations. In the course of achieving new scientific heights, the new generation of space workers in China will inherit, enrich and carry them forward.

China's aerospace industry has traveled a marvelous path of 55 years, and almost every historic occasion of this path has been marked by the postage stamps and commemorative covers produced by China Post and China Aerospace Philatelist Association.

Compiled by China Aerospace Philatelist Association, *China Selected Postage Stamp Albums with a Space Theme* is composed of 13 postage stamp albums. It gives a comprehensive account of the basic situation of astrophilately in China and abroad and probes into the cultural heritage and spiritual connotations of space exploration of China and the world. As an ancient saying goes, "As you cut, then file, as you carve, then polish". I hope that more people will pay attention to this new publication, making it a more useful, comprehensive and accurate book.

Sun Jiadong  
Feburay, 2011



# 前言

今年，中国航天事业将迎来创建55周年的喜庆时刻。50多年来，伴随着中国航天事业的发展壮大，中国航天邮品也应运而生，我国邮政部门和中国航天集邮协会制作和发行了一系列航天邮品。从1952年中国邮政首次发行航天题材邮票，到20世纪50年代末至70年代末，这是中国航天集邮活动的启蒙阶段。“文革”后，我国集邮活动开始复苏。80年代初期，中国航天题材集邮活动逐渐活跃，航天集邮爱好者开始重视对航天题材邮品的收集。1986年，中国发行了反映中国航天事业成就的特种邮票T108《航天》，首次公开制发了首日封，从此，中国有了真正意义上的航天纪念封。1989年10月，在北京举办的第三届中华全国集邮展览上，首次展出了几部中国航天题材的专题邮集。1991年，航天工业部成立了行业性质的组织——中国航天集邮协会。

中国航天集邮协会成立以来，航天集邮活动稳步发展，无论是在航天集邮理论的宣传、学术研究的开展、航天集邮的交流、航天邮品的制作和收集方面，还是在航天邮集的组编与参展等方面，都有力地推动了中国航天集邮活动长足发展。同时，经过中国航天集邮协会多年来的有力推动，国际集邮联合会有关航天邮集的组集方法、集邮理念和评审规则逐步为中国航天集邮爱好者所了解和接受，并直接贯彻到日常收藏活动中。中国航天集邮爱好者也积极关注并积极参与国际集邮联合会航天集邮评审规范的修订工作，就补充修改有关中国航天集邮的条款向国际集邮联合会提出了建设性意见，为提高中国航天集邮的重要性的国际地位发挥了积极的作用。

进入新世纪以来，中国航天事业取得了辉煌成就，特别是载人航天工程、月球探测工程取得了重大突破。伴随着中国航天事业的跨越发展，正在催生出更多的航天集邮素材，中国航天题材的邮品开始迎来蓬勃发展的黄金时期，为中国航天集邮和世界航天集邮开辟了更加广阔的新题材、新天地和新机遇。目前，以载人航天工程和月球探测工程为题材的邮品已成为中国航天集邮的主要素材，它们的加入使航天题材邮品的含金量和档次有了大幅提高，极大地提升了中国航天邮品的国际影响力。同时，不论是在国内各级邮展还是国际大型邮展上，各种中国航天题材的邮集频频亮相，并在国际比赛中摘金夺银，树立了中国航天集邮在亚洲的领先地位。

《中国航天题材邮集精粹》正是根据我国航天题材邮品迈入黄金时期，满足航天题材邮品市场快速发展的需要而编辑出版的。本书选录了13部邮集，其中11部在全国、亚洲及世界邮展中获得镀金奖以上奖级，从航天邮品的角度展示了中国航天与世界航天发展的科技成就，着重将航天知识趣味性与航天邮品的艺术性巧妙结合，内容丰富，资料翔实，代表了我国目前航天题材邮集的最高水平。相信这本书的出版必定让中国航天集邮爱好者大开眼界，对中国航天集邮的发展将产生直接的示范作用和间接的推动作用。

因此，《中国航天题材邮集精粹》是一部面向普通航天集邮爱好者、便于被国内外资深航天集邮家珍藏、能向社会各界展现中国航天以及世界航天魅力与风采的高品位读物，必将在中国航天集邮发展史上书写下浓墨重彩的一笔。

最后，衷心希望中国航天集邮协会以出版《中国航天题材邮集精粹》为契机，积极关注国内外航天题材集邮活动的最新发展趋势和现状，加强与集邮爱好者的沟通联系，扎实做好服务与交流工作；在宣传、普及航天知识和航天文化的同时，进一步提升中国航天题材邮品的整体水平，为我国航天集邮的健康发展做出更大的贡献。

吴卓

2011年2月



# Preface

2011 is the 55th anniversary of China's aerospace industry. The birth of the industry more than half a century ago marks the start of China's astrophilately. As the aerospace industry has developed and grown, Chinese people have seen a variety of astrophilatellic items produced by China Post and China Aerospace Philatelist Association (CSPA).

Astrophilately in China originated in 1952 when China Post issued the first aerospace postage stamp. In the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution, astrophilately began to return and became active in the beginning of 1980s, with Chinese astrophilatelists paying more attention to collecting astrophilatellic items.

In 1986 China issued T108 Space Flight stamps and a first-day cover for the first time, signaling that China has its own astrophilatellic cover in a real sense. A few postage stamp albums featuring China's space exploration made their first appearance at the third China National Philatelic Exhibition held in Beijing in October, 1989. The Ministry of Space Industry set up the China Aerospace Philatelist Association in 1991.

Since its foundation, CSPA has devoted itself to the development of China's astrophilately by publicizing astrophilatellic theory, conducting academic study, organizing exchange activities, designing and collecting astrophilatellic items, and compiling albums and sending them to exhibitions, which have enabled China's astrophilately to grow by leaps and bounds. Over years' of unremitting efforts by CSPA, the regulations and guidelines for judging astrophilately exhibits of Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) have gradually become known and accepted by Chinese astrophilatelists. Meanwhile, Chinese astrophilatelists have concerned themselves with and actively participated in the amending of the statutes of FIP. They have put forward many constructive suggestions to FIP about adding and amending articles on astrophilately in China, playing a significant role in raising the importance and international status of China's astrophilately.

With the advent of a new century, China's aerospace endeavors have proved extraordinarily successful, particularly with regard to the Manned Space Project and the Lunar Exploration Program. The leapfrog development of China's aerospace industry had led to more astrophilatellic items. At present, astrophilatellic items about the Manned Space Project and the Lunar Exploration Program constitute the bulk of China's astrophilately. Furthermore, the frequent appearance of China aerospace themed postage stamp albums in domestic and foreign exhibitions and their victories in international competitions help astrophilately in China gain a leading position in Asia.

Under the above circumstances, *China Selected Postage Stamp Albums with a Space Theme* was edited and published to meet the needs of a fast-growing market. This book brings together 13 postage stamp albums, 11 of which were awarded Grand Prix d'Honneur or above in astrophilatellic exhibitions home and abroad. It demonstrates the scientific achievements of space industry of China and the world in the perspective of astrophilatellic items, engaging readers in an interesting and artistic way. As an informative book with accurate data, this book represents the top-level development of stamp albums with a space theme in China. I am convinced that this book will provide many insights for Chinese astrophilatelists, and it will set an example for the future development of China's astrophilately.

*China Selected Postage Stamp Albums with a Space Theme* shows the charm of China's space exploration and the world at large to people from all walks of life. It will surely hold an important position in the history of China's astrophilately.

I sincerely hope that CSPA will seize the opportunity to publish this book, actively follow the current circumstances and new trends in astrophilately in China and the world, reinforce its communication with astrophilatelists, provide a better service, upgrade the overall level of China's astrophilatellic items, and make a greater contribution to the sound development of China's astrophilately.

Wu Zhuo  
Feburay, 2011



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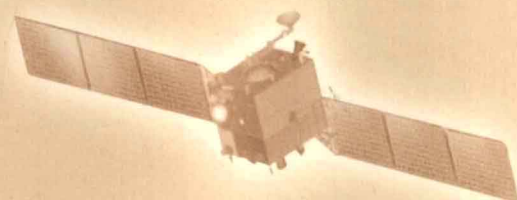
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地球是人类的摇篮，  
但是，人不会永远生活在摇篮里，  
他们不断地争取生存世界和空间，  
起初将小心翼翼地穿出大气层，  
然后便是征服整个太阳系。

——齐奥尔科夫斯基

# 航天类邮集



## 从空间探测初期到中国太空邮件

本展品记录了从空间探索的先驱时期及空间活动的初期阶段到中国载人航天飞行所走过的历程。

- 天文学家对天体力学的研究与应用,为现代空间探索铺就了道路;
- 在20世纪30年代,科学的同温层气球飞行和不同的技术发明,发展了火箭传邮信件;
- 在20世纪40年代,第一枚大推力火箭A4/V2进入太空;
- 在1957/1958国际地球物理年期间,苏联和美国通过发射第一颗人造卫星,研究火箭及空间探测器,为征服太空开始了竞赛;
- 第一次人类进入太空,月球和空间站及其太空邮件;
- 中国人造卫星进行空间探测的第一次任务;
- 中国载人航天飞行和月球探测工程;
- 中国航天飞行任务实施的太空飞行搭载封。



## 集邮简历

林大安,男,1963年12月出生,现居住湖南郴州。现为中华全国集邮联合会第四届邮展委员会委员、国家级邮展评审员、中国航天集邮协会顾问、湖南省集邮协会理事。2005年任湖南澧县中华全国集邮展览实习评审员,2006年任太原中华全国集邮展览评审委员会专家组成员,2008年任南昌中华全国集邮展览评审员。2009年受中华全国集邮联展览工作部委托,将国际集邮联合会现行的英文版《FIP航天集邮展品评审专用规则》和《FIP航天集邮展品评审指导要点》两个文件译成中文。



## 获奖情况

- 1997年重庆中华全国集邮展览《航天飞机首航前史》获航天类镀银奖
- 2001年南京中华全国集邮展览《中国载人航天之路》获航天类镀金奖
- 2003年重庆亚洲邮展候选展《中国载人航天之路》获航天类大镀金奖
- 2003年中国绵阳第16届亚洲国际邮展《中国载人航天之路》获航天类银奖
- 2005年澳大利亚世界集邮展览《从空间探测初期到中国太空邮件》获航天类镀金奖
- 2006年西班牙世界集邮展览《从空间探测初期到中国太空邮件》获航天类镀金奖
- 2009年中国世界集邮展览《从空间探测初期到中国太空邮件》获航天类镀金奖

## 邮集点评

该邮集记录了人类从空间探索的初期到中国载人航天所走过的历程,时间跨度大,重要性高;内容涵盖和涉及了世界主要的航天大事件,整体处理较好,章节平衡,连续性较好,展示流畅;选用素材收集难度大;其中部分邮品属于该领域里的顶级素材,存世数量稀少,具有很高的珍稀性;文字说明内容丰富,有深度;外观制作规范美观,颇具匠心。该邮集将中国航天事件与世界重大航天事件相结合,颇具特色,有着极好的研究价值和欣赏价值;是当前中国航天集邮的代表作之一。



# FROM THE EARLY PERIOD OF SPACE EXPLORATION TO CHINA'S SPACE MAIL

The exhibit treats the steps from the pioneer period of space exploration and activities to the realization of Chinese manned spaceflight.

- those astronomers who paved the way for modern space exploration by applying their laws of celestial mechanics
- the scientific stratosphere balloon flights, the invention of various techniques in developing the rocket for transmission of mail in the 1930's
- the thrust into space by the first giant space rocket A4/V2 in the 1940's
- the beginning of the race for the conquest of space through the launching of the first satellites, research rockets and space probes of the USSR and USA in the International Geophysical Year, IGY 1957/58
- to the first men in space, on the Moon and in space stations and the realization of space mail
- the China in space exploration by satellite of first mission
- Chinese Manned space flights and the Lunar Exploration program
- the flown covers executed by the Chinese spaceflight missions

01

## Astronomers Nicolas Copernicus

born 1473 in Thorn - died 1543 in Frombork - Poland



Archive proof  
Only max. 5  
Canceled 'R' part  
of 'WZOR' and  
'ANO' - part of  
'SKASOWANO'



The special archive proofs  
Only max. 2  
this kind pairs exist



Imperf proofs



Archive proof  
Only max. 5  
Canceled 'W' part  
of 'WZOR' and  
'SKAS' - part of  
'SKASOWANO'

In 1543 Copernicus established with his book 'The Revolution of the Celestial Spheres' the world famous thesis that not the earth - an unimpeachable belief for over 1,400 years - but rather the sun is the centre of our planetary system - and laid with the 'Heliocentric Universe' the foundation for modern space exploration

The World War II Naz Germany occupation of Poland General Government 1943 sheet issued for the 400 year commemoration of Nicolas Copernicus  
The sheet imperforated proofs without date inscriptions on brown paper



02

## Astronomers Galileo Galilei

born 1564 died 1642

The Italian astronomer Galilei championed Copernicus' doctrine of the heliocentric universe and verified it through his own observations of orbits of the planets with his own self-constructed fully-functional astronomical telescope. He was forced to live the last years of his life in exile for corroborating the thesis of Copernicus.



Johannes Kepler, the German contemporary of Galilei, came to the conclusion through his observation of the orbit the planet Mars in relation to the sun, that the planets did not have a circular but rather an elliptical orbit around the sun. This research resulted in the establishing of the 'Three Kepler Laws'.

In order to apply Kepler's laws to artificial satellites, one would have to substitute Sun = Earth with Planet = Satellite

A permanent special cancellation from well the birthplace of J. Kepler, was issued in 1937

Johannes Kepler  
born 1571 died 1630



black proof



03

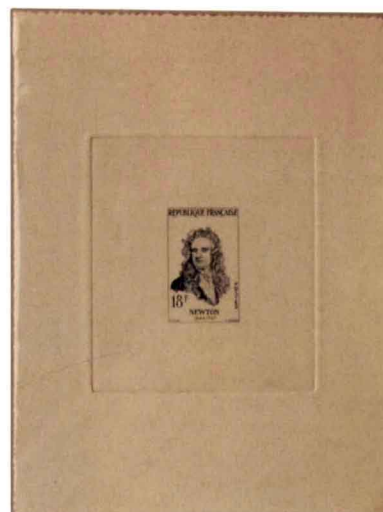
## Astronomers Mathematics and Physics Isaac Newton

born 1643 died 1727

The great English genius of the 17th century discovered the regularity of gravitation and its relation to the orbits of the planets. In 1687 he set down the 'Law of Gravitation'. Newton's finding is important in determining the velocity an artificial satellite needs for orbiting the earth.

In 1687 Newton formulated the law 'actio et reactio' which formed the basis for developing the reaction engines that opened the way for spaceflight.

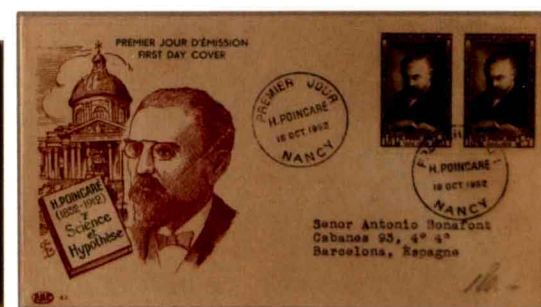
Copernicus, Galilei, Kepler and Newton caused mathematicians and astronomers of the 18th century to expound intensively on the laws of the motion of the heavenly bodies and their exact orbits. Carl F. Gauss, Laplace, J. L. Lagrange and H. Poincare also contributed greatly here.



J. L. Lagrange



12 5



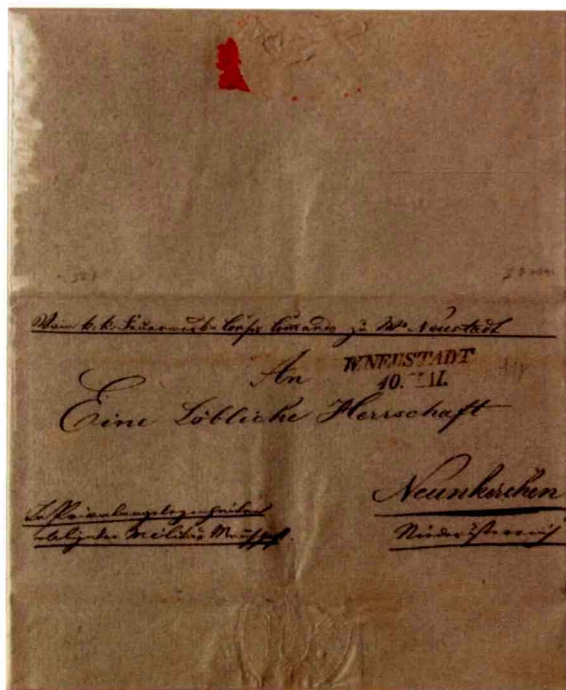
04



### The Rocket Technology in 19th Century

This letter was sent from the special "fireworks" command in Vienna in 1841 - here Mr Augustin became the first man to use rocket technology (still miles away from modern rocketry) as a weapon in wars. Special solid rockets were designed to be shot towards the enemy.

Cover can be folded out to see content - all handwritten in German.  
Sender is mentioned twice "k.k. Feuerwerkscorps Commando".  
The cover are considered the earliest spaceflight precursor cover that are out there.



05

### Stratosphere Balloon Flights in the 1930's

A Swiss physics prof. Auguste Piccard, inaugurated the exploration of space by stratosphere balloon. On his first flight, made in 1931 from Augsburg, Germany, he reached the stratosphere but he failed in his main objective: the measurement of cosmic rays and to gather data on their effect on men.

On 18 August 1932 at 5:00 AM, A. Piccard and M. Cosins from Belgium ascended from Dubendorf Airport, Switzerland with his stratosphere balloon F.N.R.S. in a pressurized gondola, into the stratosphere, reaching an altitude of 16,250 meters (53,115 feet).

The scientific instruments worked perfectly.  
After 12 hours flight the balloon landed at Volta Montana, near Pozzolo in Italy.

Piccard and Cosins carried 50 covers on their flight into the stratosphere. Seven were lost after descent.

The flown covers bear the postmarks of Zurich/Flugplatz 17.8.32 (Since balloon ascended on 18th early in the morning) and Pozzolo, Italy 18.8.32 and data of the flight with signature of Piccard and Cosins.

One of the 50 covers flown by Piccard and Cosins on their stratosphere balloon flight of 18 August 1932.

This cover has No.12



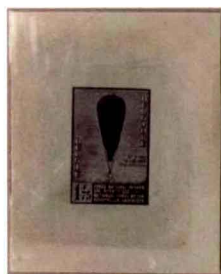
06

### Stratosphere Balloon Flights of Prof. Auguste Piccard



A set of the 3 stamps issued in 1932 from Belgium commemorating the two stratosphere balloon flights of Piccard.

Piccard named his balloon F.N.R.S. the abbreviation for "Fonds National Recherche Scientifique". This institution in Belgium gave financial support to the realization of Prof. Piccard's stratosphere balloon and his flights.



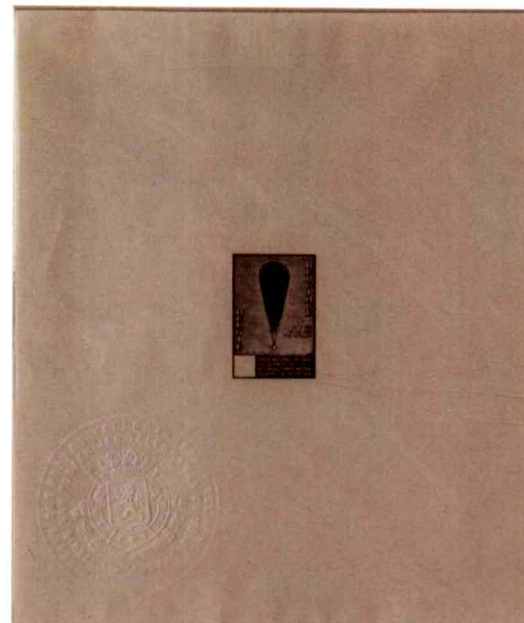
The two proofs in original color each printed in 15 specimen of the 1932 issue from Belgium for the successful stratosphere balloon flights of Prof. Auguste Piccard.



07

### Stratosphere Balloon Flights of Prof. Auguste Piccard

Die proof without numeral of value of the 1932 issue of Belgium commemorating the stratosphere balloon flights of Prof. Auguste Piccard.



08



# Stratosphere Balloon Flights in the USA

The stratosphere balloon flight of Prof. Auguste Piccard in 1932 raised interest in the United States, and he was invited to perform a stratosphere balloon flight on the occasion of the 1933 World Exhibition in Chicago.

On 5 August 1933 at 3:00 AM, Piccard's strato-balloon ascended with Lt. Commander Settle, but after only twenty minutes it made a crash landing in the Lake Michigan, caused by a valve malfunction, and was picked up by a recovery ship.

Official commemorative cover of the 1933 century of progress stratosphere balloon flight with postmark of place of ascent and special ship cachet related to crash.



On 28 July 1934 at 6:00 AM, the stratosphere balloon Explorer 1, a co-operative scientific project of the U.S. Army and the National Geographic Society, ascended from Black Hills near Rapid City, South Dakota, for a research flight.

At 4:50 PM the balloon made a crash landing near Holdrege, Nebraska.

Capt. Albert Stevens, Major William Kepner and Capt. Oril Anderson could escape by parachute.

Cover flown by Fokker C-14 escort of the Explorer 1 with hand-written note by pilot.



09

# Stratosphere Balloon Flights in the USA

On 23 October 1934 at 9:00 AM, the twin brother of Auguste Piccard, professor Jean Piccard, ascended with his wife Jeanette, who became the first woman to travel into stratosphere.

They ascended from Ford Airport near Greenfield/Dearborn, Michigan, to a very successful stratosphere research flight and landed on 25 October 1934 5:30 near Cadiz, Ohio.

On 24 October 1934 at 5:30 PM, they ascended from near Cadiz, Ohio, to a very successful stratosphere research flight and landed on 25 October 1934 at Ford Airport near Greenfield/Dearborn, Michigan.



A few covers were flown by Prof. Jean Piccard and his wife on the stratosphere balloon and were postmarked with place and date of ascent and descent.



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# "Explorer" Stratosphere Balloon Flights in the USA

After the crash landing of Explorer 1 the U.S. Army intended to launch a much larger strato-balloon, Explorer 2, on 12 July 1935, but that balloon burst during inflating. The prepared mail was stored.

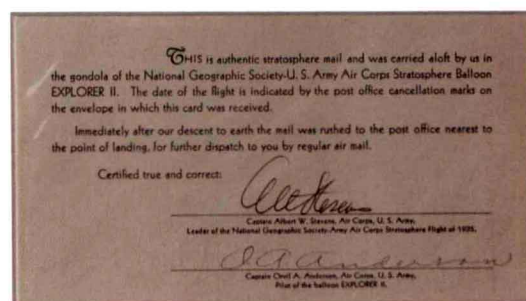
When the repaired Explorer 2 ascended from Black Hills on 11 November 1935 the pilots, Captain Albert Stevens and Capt. Oril Anderson, carried the stored mail, postmarked on the postponed date of ascent - 12 July 1935 - aboard this flight.

The Explorer 2 landed at White Lake, South Dakota after 8 hours of flight, having reached the record altitude of 72,395 ft (22,065 m).

This record was not broken until the 1957 flight on the manned "Man High" medical research balloon flight.



The official "Stratosphere Mail", carried by the pilots on Explorer 2 record were postmarked at the post office White Lake, South Dakota after landing, confirmed by the card contained in the envelope.



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# Stratosphere Balloon Flights in Russia

On 30 January 1934 the Russian scientists ascended with the stratosphere balloon Sirius to an altitude of 63,235 feet (19,225 m). Unfortunately all of them died in an accident later on the flight.



1938 issue of Russia commemorating the

first successful stratosphere flights in 1933

On 30 September 1933 the Russian scientists Prokofiev, Birnbaum and Godunow performed the first stratosphere balloon flight in Russia. The stratosphere balloon ascended to an altitude of 62,340 ft (18,950 m) and successfully conducted research of the upper atmosphere.

Cover with set of three stamps issued in 1933 by the Soviet Union marking this achievement.



12



### Jules Verne

Born 1828 in Nantes - died 1905 in Amiens  
1955 issue from Monaco to the 50th Anniversary of Jules Verne's death.



The stamp depicts Jules Verne with a rocket and a section of his novel 'De la Terre à Lune' (From the Earth to the Moon). In his science fiction novel the French novelist Jules Verne described for his generation a fantastic story and the prediction of a technical revolution which came true with the invention of the rocket.



Two pair of proofs in different color

Special cover and cancellation from Nantes to a 'Jules Verne Day' on 11 October 1947.



13

### Early Rocket Experiment from Stratosphere Balloon

At the end of the 1920's and in the 1930's the idea of space-flight became more realistic. Scientists and rocket engineers strived for this goal by following different courses.

Austrian rocket pioneer Ing. Friedrich Schmiedl was one of the most important rocket pioneers, using rockets to carry specially prepared mails. At his first rocket experiment he used a stratosphere balloon to achieve a high-altitude rocket launch.

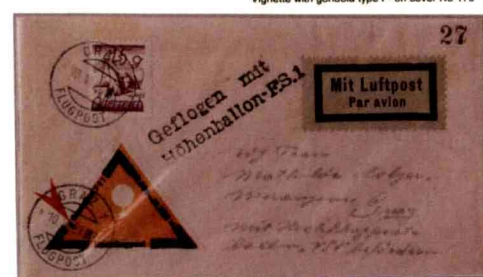
On 10 June 1928, Ing. Schmiedl performed his first test using an F.S.1 stratosphere balloon. It carried a tiny rocket into the upper atmosphere for a special experiment, together with 200 prepared covers.

The F.S.1 strato-balloon ascended from Graz, Austria and at an altitude of 52 500 ft (16,000 m) the rocket was fired from the balloon by automatic ignition. Schmiedl thus sought to prove that a rocket achieves much more capacity by an energy-saving launch condition outside of the conditions of the earth's atmosphere.

The flown covers carried on the F.S.1 balloon bear the postmark of Graz, place of landing, and a special triangular 3 Groschen vignette referring to this event. There exist 2 different types of the gondola.



Vignette with gondola type I - on cover No 175



Vignette with gondola type II with inverted 3 - on cover No 27

14

### The "World's First Rocket Mail"

On 2 February 1931, Schmiedl succeeded with his rocket V7 to dispatch the first mail. By this time his full-operating rocket had reached a size and power capable of the distance from a mountain top at Schoeckel, to a nearby town Radegrund the planned landing place.

The V7 experimental rocket carried 102 covers and cards.

90 copies of an Austrian 10 Groschen postage stamp had been hand-inscribed by Schmiedl: "Rocket Mail Flight Schmiedl 2-2-1931" and consecutively numbered.



57 items were prepared with the special rocket stamp and 45 items with regular postage stamps.

Covers bear two rectangular box cachets, with the imprint "V7" and a hand-inscribed date and number of the flown item.

With a four lines inscription Schmiedl refers to the V7 experiment.

Further postal forwarding after landing was not possible since Sunday and post office closed.

No. 015 of the 57 flown items with hand-inscribed rocket stamp.

### The World's First Official Rocket Mail for public use

On 9 Sep. 1931 Schmiedl succeeded in launching the first world recognized rocket transporting mail for public use.

The rocket R1 carried 333 pieces of mail from Austrian mountains at Hochfriesach to Semtschach.

The "Rocketmail" was safely landed by parachute and delivered to the nearby post office at Semtschach for forwarding.

R1 was of 1.70 m (5.60 ft) length. Empty weight 7 kg (15.5 lb) + 24 kg (53 lb) solid propellant. Diameter 23.5 cm (9.3 inches) reaction power velocity 2.200 m/sec (1.4 miles/sec).



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### Rocket Mail Experiments for Technical Improvements

Apart from his remarkable achievements in rocket mail, the primary significance of Ing. Schmiedl was his range of rocket experiments, testing about 50 models of different geometry and technology by using solid and liquid propellant.

On 21 April 1931 Schmiedl launched a so-called "Registrier Rakete" with 79 covers and cards aboard and various self-constructed mini-sized measuring instruments for data collection of the upper atmosphere and UV rays.

Special Rocket Stationery No. 025 flown by Schmiedl "Registering rocket", 21 April 1931

On 28 October 1931 Schmiedl succeeded with V8 rocket in realizing the First Night Flight by optical steering. Flown cover No. 016 of a total of 84 carried on V8 "Night flight 28 X 1931"

The mail carried on both experimental rocket flights was not provided for postal forwarding



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# Rocket Mail Experiments in Germany

German rocket pioneer Ing. Reinhold Tiling was the first to succeed in launching a postal rocket in Germany

On 15 April 1931 Tiling launched a solid fuel rocket from Ochsenmoor at Dummersee which reached a height of about 1,500 to 1,800 meter

s rocket was provided with lateral extendible wings which automatically operated at the beginning of descent and the rocket made a soft glide landing (a similar principle to that now employed with the Space Shuttles)

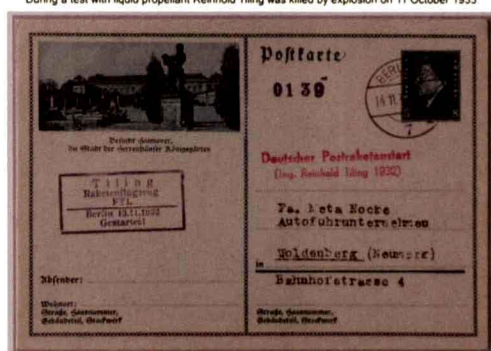
After the successful landing, 188 numbered special rocket cards flown on this flight were delivered to the nearest post office - Dieilingen for further forwarding

Card flown on Reinhold Tiling's Rocket Mail flight, 15 April 1931



Commemorative card referring to a demonstration of a 'Tiling Rocket-Plane FTL' at the Airport in Berlin Tempelhof on 13 November 1932

During a test with liquid propellant Reinhold Tiling was killed by explosion on 11 October 1933



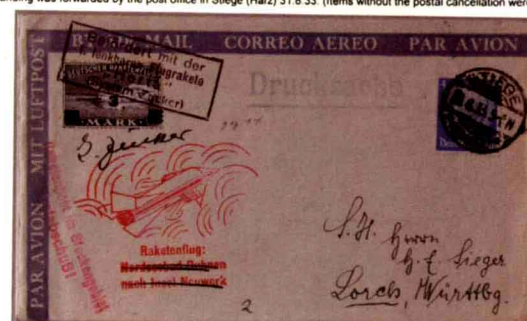
17

# Rocket Mail Experiments in Germany

On 31 August 1933 the German rocket pioneer Gerhard Zucker launched his first rocket with 370 pieces of mail from Hassefelde to Siege (Harz mountains). The mail prepared with the first German 3 Mark rocket stamp and cachet "Dispatched by the first steerable rocket 'Herta' System Zucker" and "Rocketflight Duhnen to Siele Neuwerk"

The latter was crossed out since planned to be flown by rocket in April 1933 but the flight was prohibited by the authorities

The later flown mail by 'Herta' rocket bear an additional third stamp "Rocket Mail in Brocken area First Launch!" and after landing was forwarded by the post office in Siege (Harz) 31.8.33. (Items without the postal cancellation were not flown)



On 4 November 1933 G Zucker launched his First Rocket Mail Flight at Night from Siege (Harz) to Hassefelde Special 1 and 3 Mark rocket stamps and cachets refer to this event

The rocket exploded after launch and out of the 370 flown mails 332 were totally destroyed, and only 38 recovered which were further forwarded by the post office in Hassefelde

Flown card with postmark Hassefelde 4.11.33 17-18 (Items without postmark are not flown)



18

# Rocket Mail Experiments in Germany

On 8 April 1934 G Zucker achieved in the Harz mountains near Blankenburg his "First Rocket Catapult Flight" with 100 cards were flown, including both types. After ignition of the rocket a catapult device, attached at the launch ramp was released to give additional drive in the launch phase

Flown card with postmark of Blankenburg after landing, an the special cachet to the event



On 9 November 1935 Friedrich Schmiedl accomplished a rocket mail experiment at Scharnützsee with 2 rockets, each with 50 covers aboard. After the successful flight, the mail was delivered to the near post office Fuerstenwalde

With this experiment Gerhard Zucker ended his intensive research-work with rockets for transport of mail during the 1930's in Germany



19

# Rocket Mail Experiments in Switzerland and Netherlands

On 27 July 1935 Zucker launched a rocket with 100 mails for a test-flight in Switzerland from Wasserauen to Saentis, 2,504 meter



The launch was successful but the rocket was too heavy to manage the vertical flight thus missed its goal

Some of the mail carried along was postmarked the evening before in Lindau and forwarded after flight

On 6 March 1935 Zucker carried out his first Netherlands rocket mail experiment, a rocket with 600 covers aboard The demonstration firing for the Netherlands Rocket Society, which took place at Katwijk aan Zee

before enthusiasts and postal officials, was unsuccessful and the rocket landed about twenty yards from the firing point.

Only 20 flown covers the rocket stamp with "lip" error on after the "d" of "Nederland"



20



### Experimental Rocket Mail Flights in France and Luxembourg

The France rocket pioneer Charles Roberti experimented with postal rockets in the 1930's, mainly in France and Belgium and also once in Luxembourg.

On 9 September 1935, on the occasion of an Aviation Festival at Le Treport in France he launched his first rocket, "Arenne", with 300 covers and 200 cards aboard.

The flown card, addressed to Paris, bears a black stamp "Maire" from the local authority, a red stamp that reads "Festival Committee Le Treport (Seine)".  
For the first time in France this card was sent by Rocket Arenne and further forwarded by the service of the post (P.T.T.).  
The flown mail was postmarked at the post of Le Treport (Seine) 9-9-35.



On 17 July 1935 in Luxembourg Roberti launched the first liquid propelled postal rocket by using carbonic acid (carbon dioxide). The 300 covers carried on this experimental flight bear a special rocket stamp and a hand-written inscription of Roberti in memory of the 1st carbonic acid rocket flight.

They were postmarked and re-dispatched by the post office near by at the landing place of Clearvaux.  
Cover flown on Charles Roberti rocket mail experiment in Luxembourg.



21

### Rocket Mail Experiments in Yugoslavia

On 19 August 1935 a rocket mail test took place in Maribor as precursor to the rocket flights "Jug I" and "Jug II".



Were prepared for this test flight  
280 special rocket stamps of yellow paper with green overprint.

H. Weihs, a reporter and Schmied's friend and sponsor, conducted the trials with solid propelled rockets designed and constructed by Schmied.

The 187 cards carried by this test rocket were prepared by the postal authorities.

The flown cards bear the rocket stamp numbered and signed by Weihs, a special rocket cachet and a postage stamp cancelled at the post office in Maribor 19. VIII. 35-21.

Flown card No. 008 on the test flight of 19 August 1935.

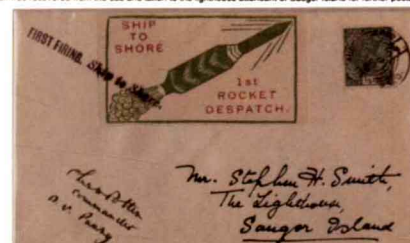


22

### Rocket Mail Experiments in India

An important and most successful rocket pioneer with rocket mail was Stephen Smith, a British engineer. Born in 1891 in Assam, India, he started his experiments with postal rockets in the 1930's and performed 63 experiments with different purposes in India, and 16 in Sakum, most of them successful in testing various technologies.

On 30 September 1934 he dispatched his first experimental postal rocket with 143 covers from the ship "Tranor" to Saugor Island near Calcutta. The rocket exploded shortly after launch. The mail was recovered from the sea and taken to the lighthouse attendant of Saugor Island for further postal forwarding.



Cover flown on the first Ship to Shore rocket experiment with special rocket stamp and cachet for the event, with postmark from Saugor Island and signed by Chasen potten, Capt. from the (Despatch) vessel D.V. "Pansy".

The same day at about 5 P.M. the first Indian rocket dispatches on land were fired by Shenton. This second rocket had been manufactured by the British firm James. Paine and Sons and carried 220 dispatches. Due to the heavy weight of the covers which had been selected for these experiments, the rocket covered only the small distance of 132 yards across a small creek. It was joined to the cover by a rectangular four-line cachet inscribed "FIRST INDIAN ROCKET DISPATCH". Almost all the items are signed by Mr. Walter Shenton.

Cover from first Indian rocket dispatch flown at Saugor Island.



23

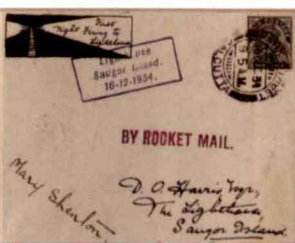
### First Rocket Mail Experiment at Night

Smith wanted to reach Rocket Mail as he by rocket in the shortest time with food, medicine, and messages.

On 16 December 1934 he achieved the "First Night Flying Rocket Dispatch". Two rockets were fired at 9 P.M. from a boat and landed safely on shore about 1,552 and 1,121 yards. Each of the two rockets had 110 special prepared covers, supplied by the "Statesman", aboard with a miniature copy of a "Statesman" newspaper.

The covers bear the rocket stamp, two special cachets "By Rocket Mail" and one from the Saugor Island semaphore station and the postmark of Park Street Station Calcutta 16 Dec. 34, 9 AM.

Cover flown by rocket on 16 Dec. 1934 from ship to Saugor Island and miniature of the "Statesman".



Half an hour later two more rockets were fired from the Semaphore Station to the Lighthouse. These were built by Oriental Fireworks Company and came down 320 and 475 yards from their starting points without exploding.

Cover flown by rocket on 16 Dec. 1934 from Saugor Island semaphore station to Lighthouse.

The covers were signed by Miss Mary Shenton, the daughter of the lighthouse keeper who started these rockets.

24

### First Rocket Mail Experiments in the USA

On 22 September 1935 the first rocket mail experiment in the USA was performed by the rocket constructor W.F. Sylora.

The rocket, with 250 covers aboard, launched at Airport Holmes, Astoria, N.Y., exploded shortly after launch.

The flown covers on 22 September 1935 bear a dark blue rocket stamp and cachet referring to the event.

Only 28 covers could be recovered from the sea, and a rubber cachet marks the explosion.

One of the 28 flown covers recovered from the sea. All recovered covers were further forwarded by Registered mail.



VIA FIRST AMERICAN ROCKET FLIGHT SEP 22, 1935. Green dated handstamp flown piece.



Sheet of 4 stamps in blue with green cachet.



25

### Rocket Mail Experiments in the USA

On 22 September 1935, the same day after the explosion of the first postal rocket, Sylora launched a second rocket with 250 covers aboard which have a red rocket stamp of different design than those of the first flight.

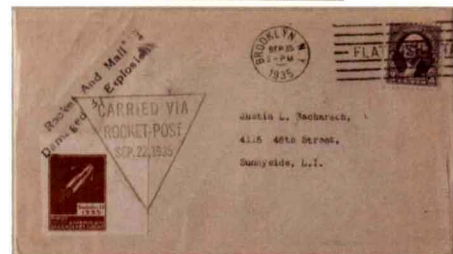
Flown cover on the 2nd rocket flight on 22 September 1935. After recovery from sea further forwarded by the post office in Brooklyn, N.Y.



The rocket reached at least a greater distance, but than it also exploded.

This time 198 covers could be recovered from the sea. A rubber cachet marks the explosion.

Proof of imperf stamp with green rocket cachet.



At the same time, the rocket constructor W. Russo also performed experiments in the USA. On 31 January 1936 he launched in Newark, N.J., a "parachute" rocket which carried 980 tiny covers along on this flight. After a successful flight and a safe arrival, the mail was delivered to the post office in Newark.

The flown covers bear a special rocket stamp and cachet on the front and the postmark from Newark, N.J., on reverse side.



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