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AMERICAN PHILATELIST

September 2010



Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa

July 31 - August 6
1977

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Patriot
U.S. Postage 9

Robert J. Banta

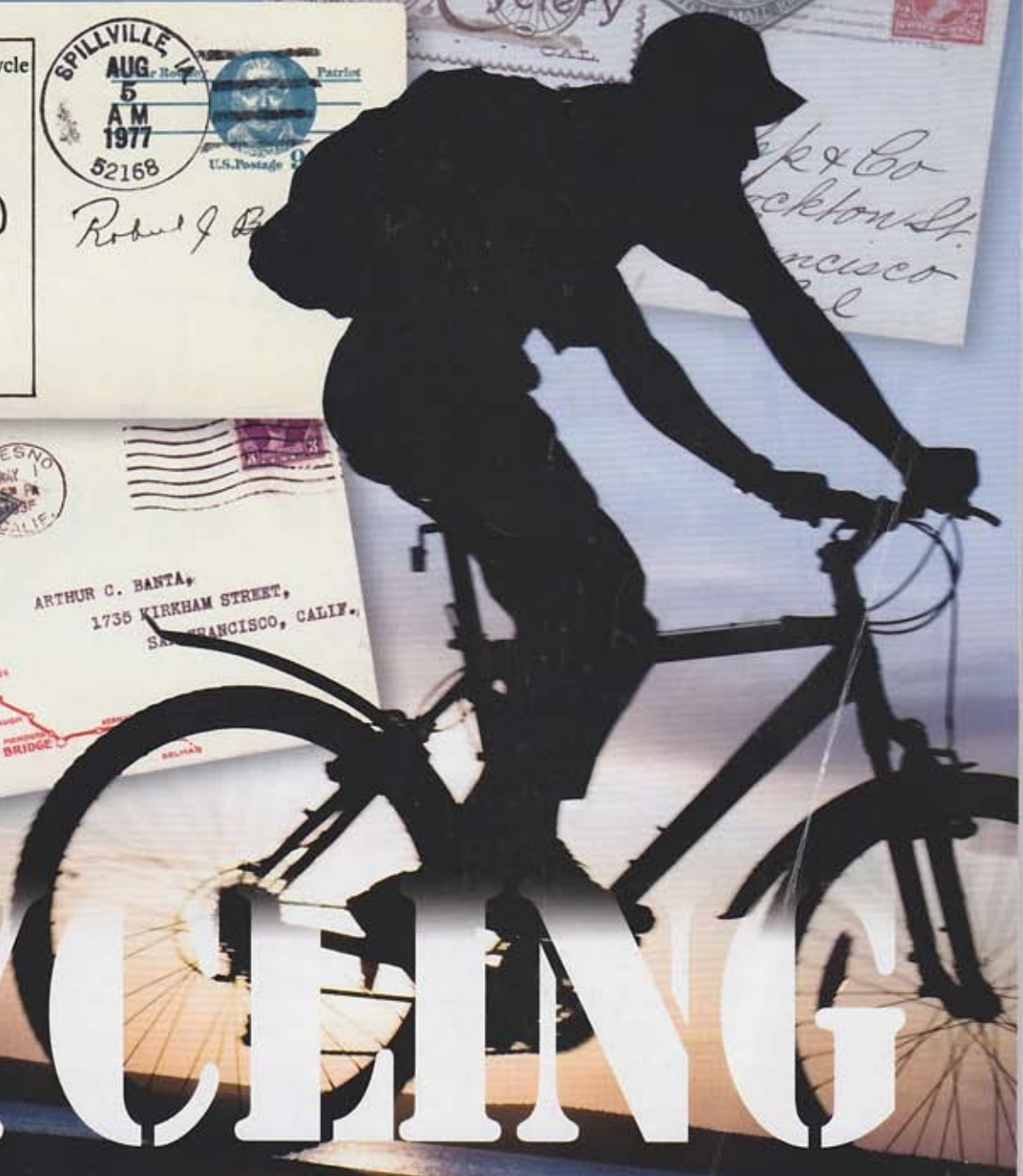
ARTHUR C. BANTA,
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SAN MATEO
REDWOOD CITY
MILPITAS
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GILROY
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MARIPOSA
SAN FELIX
LOS BANOS
SUNNYVALE
PACIFIC PALMS
FREMONT
MORNING HILL
WHITE BRIDGE
BELLEVUE

Arthur C. Banta



CYCLING

THEN & NOW

All this and more the authors have recorded in loving detail up to 1909, the cut off point decided on for this revised and expanded edition of Sir John Marriott's 1963 work *The Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862*. It is largely presented in catalogue format, rather than in a narrative, but much historical information included as well. There are many clear examples of the stamps and other postal markings identified and discussed. The highlights of Trinidad's philatelic history are reproduced in a series of thirty-six full color plates.

In addition, there are five appendices. The first two — Trinidad Postmasters (1851–1914), and Governors of Trinidad and Tobago — are short. The third is an extensive index on Printings and Consignments. While the final two — A Census of the Lady McLeod Stamp (48 pages) and Early Trinidad Covers (49 pages) — are practically small books on their own.

The authors have jointly provided the philatelic reader with a highly detailed and thoroughly researched look at Trinidad's early postal history.

American Astrophilately; The First 50 Years, by David S. Ball. Published 2010 by A&A Publishers, Charleston, SC. Soft-bound, b & w and color illus., 343 pp. + CD-rom, ISBN 978-0-615-34201-6. Available for \$39.95 from A&A Publishers LLC, 1312 Winchester Drive, Charleston, SC 29407; website www.AmericanAstrophilately.com; e-mail dball@alumni.musc.edu

If you are interested in collecting U.S. space covers, this is a "must have" book. Ball and his fourteen "guest authors" have put together a combination history story and exhibitor's handbook

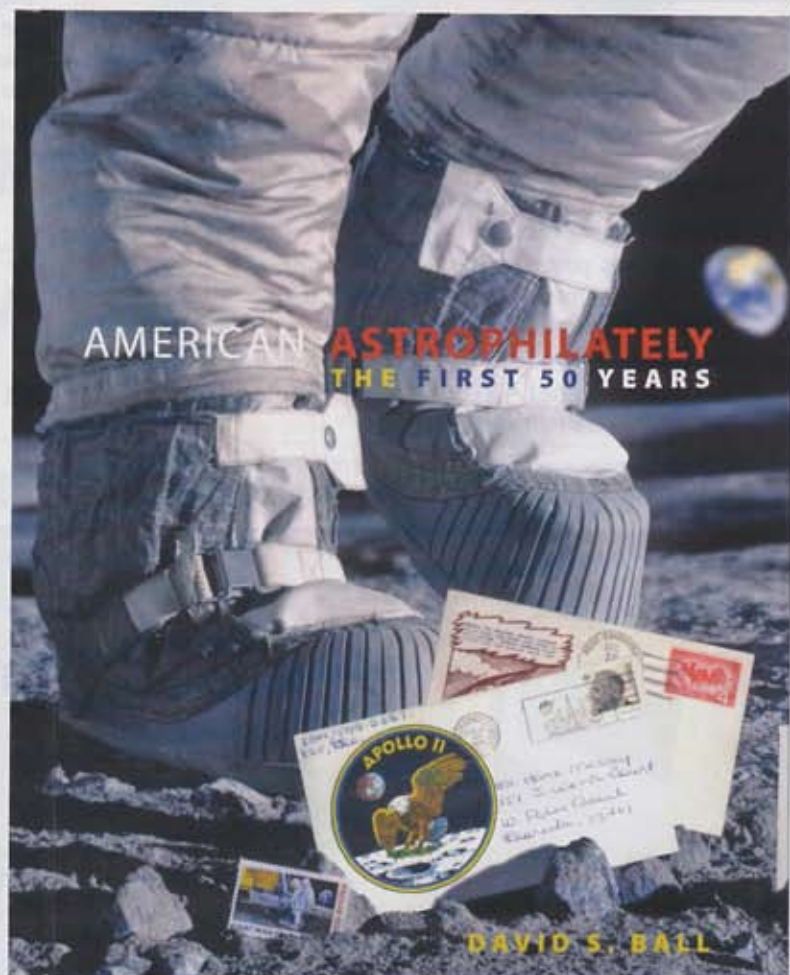
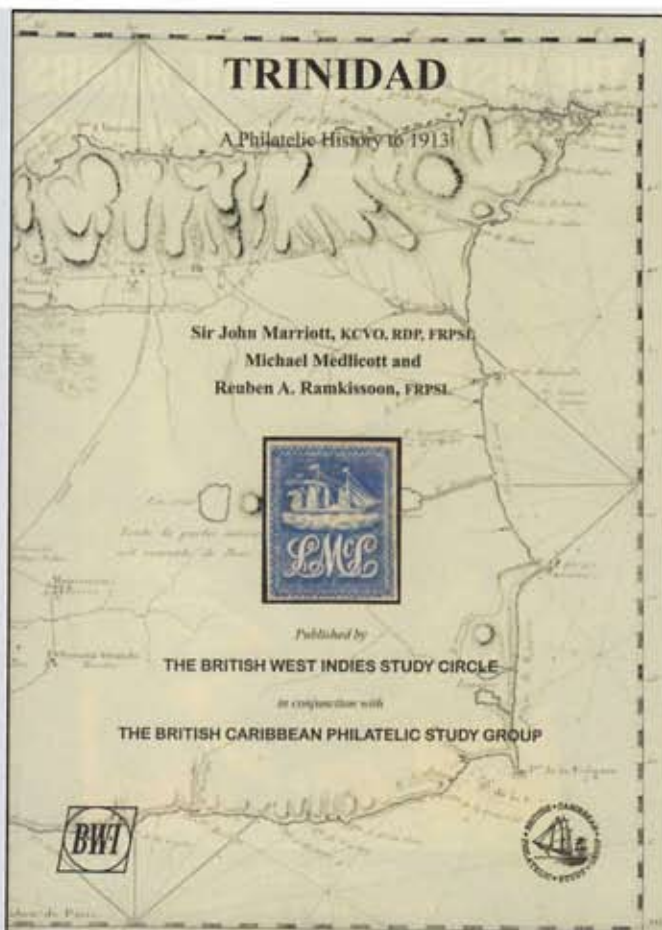
Part I: Voices of Astrophilately begins with a definition:

Astrophilately tells the story of the conquest of space through philatelic media. Postal envelopes cancelled on the day and nearest the place where a significant event occurred have become mementoes of exploration of the heavens.

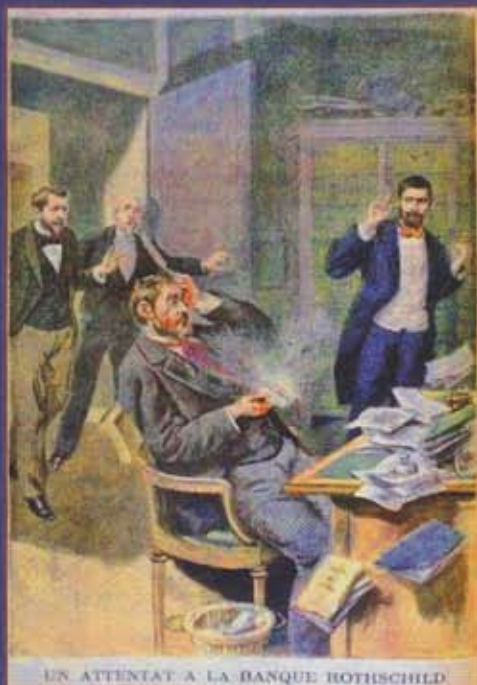
And then goes on, more than eighteen articles, to track the history of space covers from the first U.S. stratospheric balloon flights through ship covers, insurance covers (prepared the day of the flight by the astronauts for their families as an informal insurance policy), flown covers, stamps on the moon, and joint cancellations.

Part II: A World of Covers shows 80 pages of flight covers, from "Unmanned Flight" through "Post Apollo." *Part III: The All Important Postmark* covers postmarks and other identifying marks, beginning with the 1958 unmanned Explorer Mission through 21st-century cachets and labels.

These sections are followed by a Glossary, Bibliography, and a one-page listing of the material included on the accompanying CD-rom — and that material is *extensive*. The seven folders include Animals and Man in Space (1 file), APS Judging Regulations (1 file), Additional Articles (7 files), Calle Archives (7 files), FIP Regulations (5 files), Reference Spreadsheets (8 files), Sample Exhibits ("Development of U.S. Lunar Exploration" and "In Their Prime"), and USPS Regulations (2 files).



THE HISTORY OF MAIL BOMBS A Philatelic & Historical Study



Dale Speirs
The Wreck & Crash Mail Society

Altogether a very readable as well as extremely useful compendium.

The History of Mail Bombs, by Dale Speirs, edited by Ken Sanford. Published 2010 by The Wreck & Crash Mail Society, Leeds, U.K. (www.wreckandcrash.org/). Soft cover, 8½x11 inches, 128 pages. Available for US\$37.50 plus postage or UK£26.00 plus postage. Payment may be made by UK£ or US\$ check or money order made payable to Ken Sanford, or by PayPal to: kaerophil@gmail.com. For PayPal payments, please add £1.10 or \$1.75. Order from Aerophil, 613 Championship Dr., Oxford, CT 06478-3128, e-mail: kaerophil@gmail.com, Fax: +1 203 888 9237.

The first impression of this historical reference on *The His-*

tory of Mail Bombs is a unique cover showing an explosive letter and the injury created to the individual who opened the letter. To make this reference an easy read and, most importantly, an easy reference is the Table of Contents. Unlike a chapter design it is a page design making each topic easy to find.

The first reference to mail bombs was based on gun powder often set to ignite by a crude firelock-type trigger. These were seen in the mid to late 1700s. It wasn't until Alfred Nobel discovered dynamite in 1867 that mail bombs became more prevalent and destructive. The book discusses the various forms of mail bombs that have been seen around the world since then. In addition to explosive mail bombs there have been staining or corrosive bombs where oils and chemicals would spill out and cause harm; those that carry a disease such as the "anthrax scare" in this century; or contain poison such as poison chocolates.

The author examines the various reasons for creating mail or letter bombs, which are not limited to an attempt to injure the intended party but may have other political or terrorist reasons for their development and employment. This is followed by an overview of the security devices used to detect such explosive envelopes or boxes and how these measures came into being, along with a discussion of the various agencies, both private and government, who employ them.

The book is interesting reading with many examples culled from the past 250 years where death and destruction have been caused by mail bombs. There are excellent illustrations of such mail that has been collected by members of the Wreck and Crash Mail Society. The author also provides many references on this subject for the reader interested in further research.

This book deserves to be on the shelves of all those interested in protecting the mails and the employees who work for the postal systems worldwide. — Dr. Steven J. Berlin, D.P.M.

All the books reviewed in this column
are available for loan through the
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100 Match Factory Place • Bellefonte, PA 16823
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