



Lot nr.: L253834

Country/Type: Topical

1959, Space, first rocket mail, USS Barbero, limited edition of 150 pieces.

Price: 490 eur

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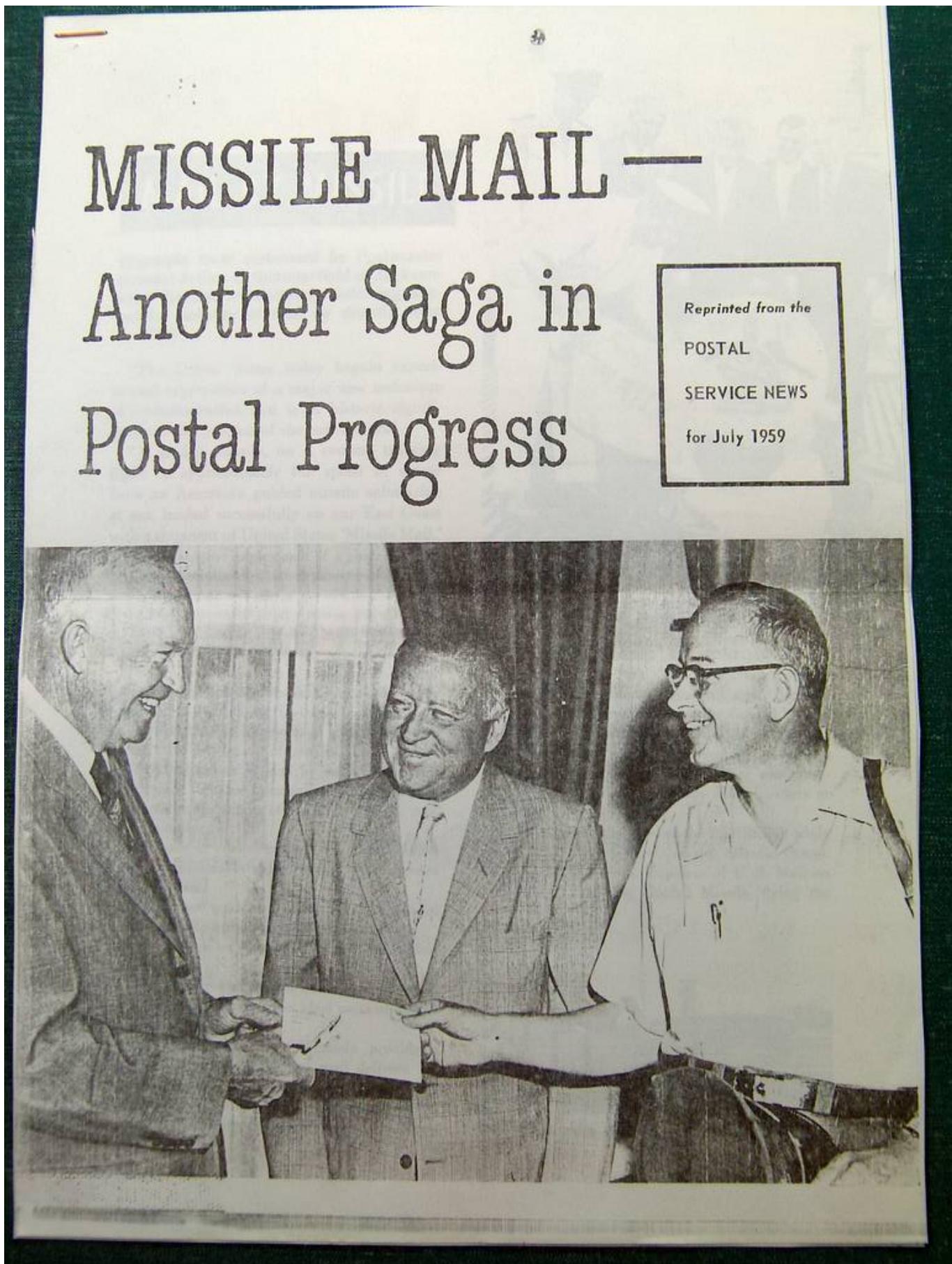




Foto nr.: 5

"MAIL BY MISSILE"

(Excerpts from statement by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield at Jacksonville, Florida, immediately following successful delivery of mail by missile June 8, 1959.)

"The United States today began experimental exploration of a major new technique of communication that is of historic significance to the peoples of the entire world.

"A guided missile, on a routine training flight at approximately the speed of sound from an American guided missile submarine at sea, landed successfully on our East Coast with a shipment of United States 'Missile Mail.'

"This peacetime employment of a guided missile for the important and practical purpose of carrying mail is the first known official use of missiles by any Post Office Department of any nation. An unofficial test flight of a similar Regulus I was made several months ago on the Pacific Coast.

"These developments are a reaffirmation by the United States of its humanitarian aims, as eloquently emphasized by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, that the scientific achievements of our people shall be used as a rich legacy of progress for mankind.

"Today's shipment of mail by missile has given us extremely valuable information of far-reaching importance to the future of the United States mail service, namely:

1. The use of compartments built into missiles to carry considerable shipments of mail appears highly practical.
2. Significant quantities of mail can be loaded quickly and efficiently into missiles.
3. Missiles can be developed to carry mail safely and swiftly.
4. The relative lightness of letters and the small space they occupy makes them ideal users of missile technology.
5. Guided missiles may ultimately provide a solution to problems of swifter mail delivery for international mails, for isolated areas where other transportation is infrequent as well as a supplementary high-priority service to big population centers.



Mail is loaded aboard Guided Missile Submarine USS Barbero at Norfolk, Virginia.

MISSILE MAIL LOADED AT NORFOLK

"The first U. S. Post Office Department official 'Missile Mail' experiment, delivering approximately 3,000 letters, was loaded aboard the Guided Missile Submarine USS BARBERO (SSG-317) at Norfolk, Virginia shortly before departure on a regular training mission. A branch Post Office was established on the BARBERO by my official orders at that time.

"This morning the crew of the BARBERO, while in the international waters of the Atlantic Ocean, dispatched this historic shipment of U. S. Mail on a Regulus I Training Guided Missile, flying the



Mail missile lands at Mayport, Florida Naval Auxiliary Air Station.



Foto nr.: 6

missile successfully to its destination at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Mayport, Florida, near Jacksonville, where it landed safely a few minutes ago.

"The first Missile Mail was carried in two metal compartments, painted in the Post Office Department's official mailbox colors of red, white and blue.

"The letters which arrived via the Regulus I flight at Mayport, are being processed now in the Jacksonville, Florida Post Office for regular dispatch to officials and leading citizens who have contributed to, or shown special interest in the postal progress of recent years."

LETTER FROM POSTMASTER GENERAL

"Each Missile Mail envelope carries a letter from me, as Postmaster General. I would like to emphasize now what I said in the letter: That the great progress being made in guided missilery will be utilized in every practical way by the Post Office Department.

"As our studies proceed on the effective utilization of guided missile techniques for mail delivery, we can expect further experiments to develop the feasibility of our plans and add to our store of



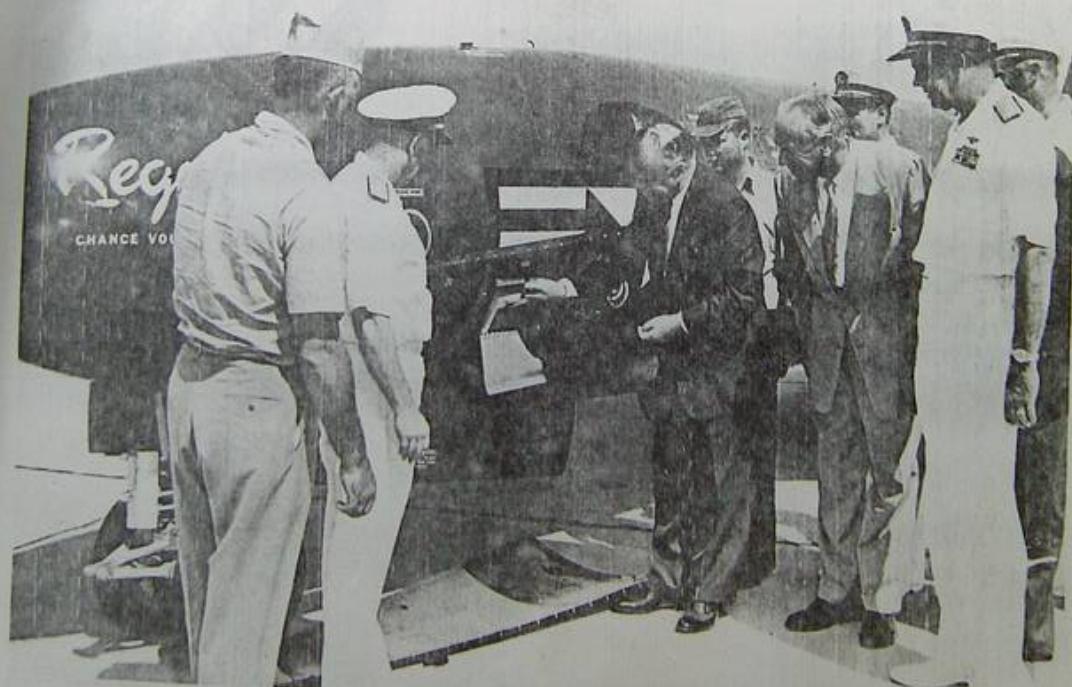
First Missile Mail Cover.

knowledge of what we informally call our 'Pony Express II Missile Mail Project.'

"I believe we will see Missile Mail developed to a significant degree before man has reached the moon.

"Today's experiment with Missile Mail is in line with the finest traditions of the Post Office Department in pioneering with new means of transportation to speed the delivery of the mails.

"Today's Missile Mail will go down in history as another saga of progress and achievement in our national heritage."



Mail is unloaded from Regulus I guided missile after successful arrival at Florida Naval Air Station near Jacksonville.



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Shown above is a picture of the sample copy which was distributed for press reproduction purposes in connection with the Missile Mail flight June 8, 1959



Foto nr.: 8

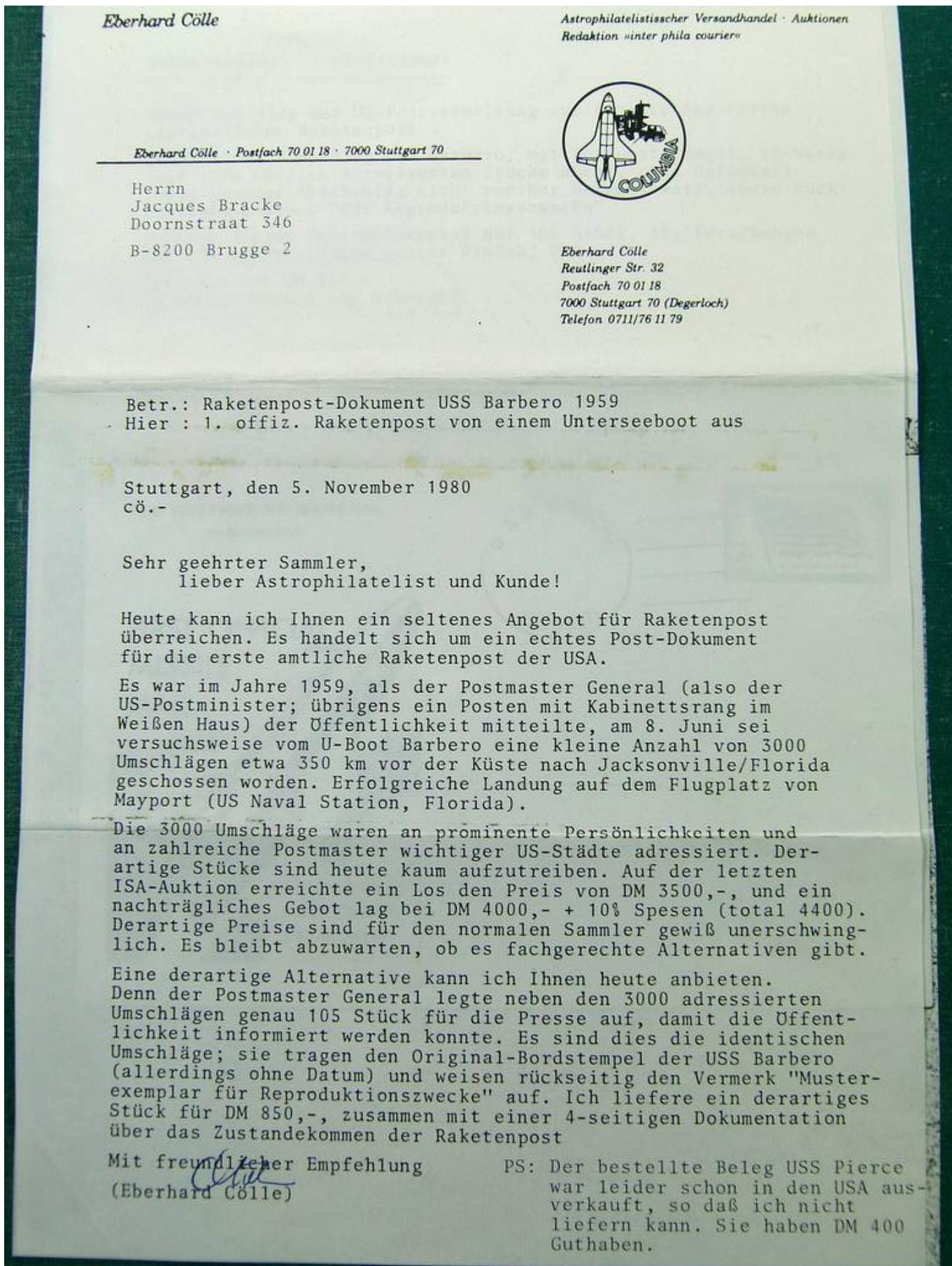




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