

Lot nr.: L253834

Country/Type: Topical

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

Price: 490 eur

[[Go to the lot on www.sevenstamps.com](https://www.sevenstamps.com)]



Foto nr.: 2



Foto nr.: 3



Foto nr.: 4

MISSILE MAIL— Another Saga in Postal Progress

Reprinted from the
POSTAL
SERVICE NEWS
for July 1959



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.

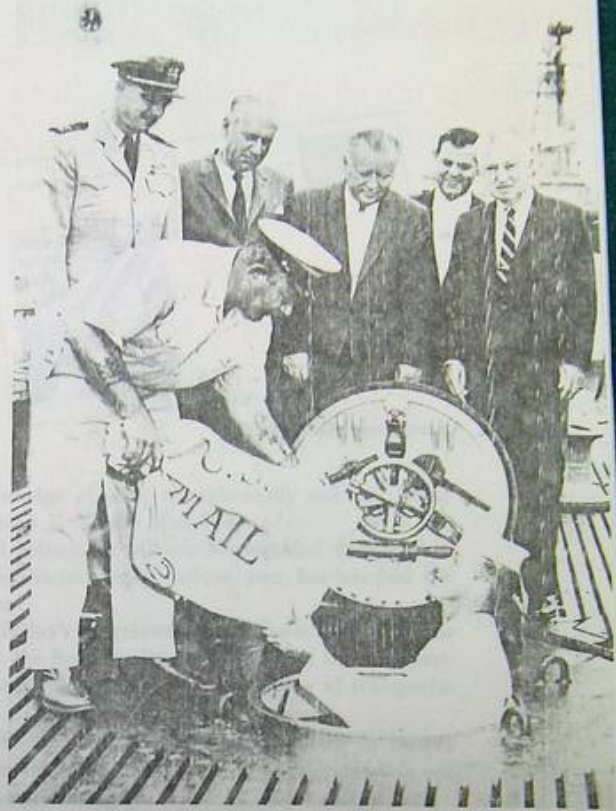
"A guided missile, on a routine training flight at approximately the speed of sound from an American guided missile submarine at sea, landed successfully on our East Coast with a shipment of United States 'Missile Mail.'

"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



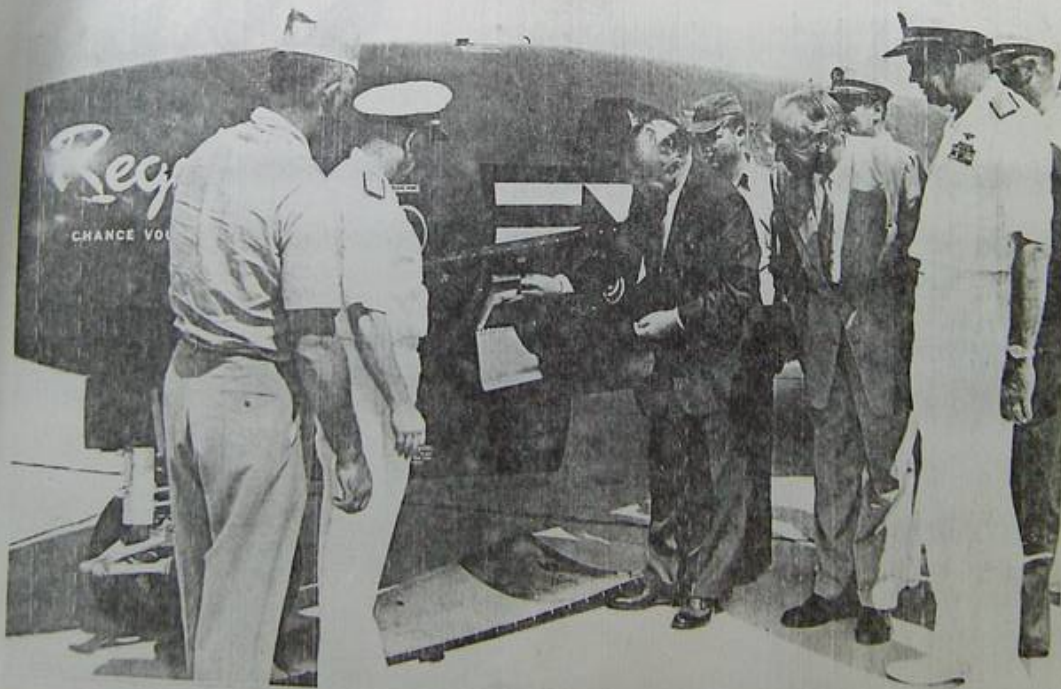
First Missile Mail Cover.

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.

Foto nr.: 7

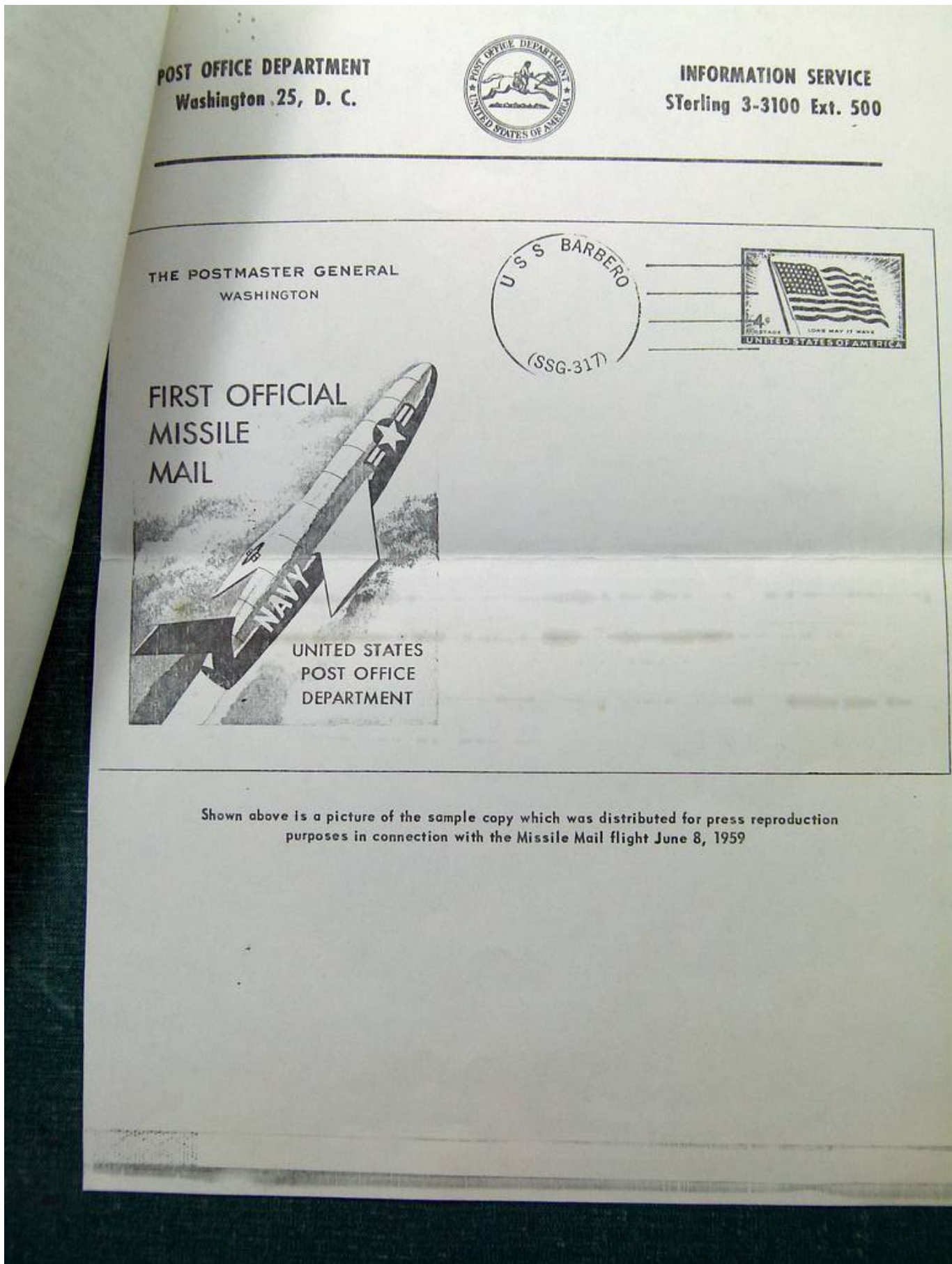


Foto nr.: 8

Eberhard Cölle

Astrophilatelistischer Versandhandel · Auktionen
Redaktion »inter phila courier«

Eberhard Cölle · Postfach 70 01 18 · 7000 Stuttgart 70



Herrn
Jacques Bracke
Doornstraat 346
B-8200 Brugge 2

Eberhard Cölle
Reutlinger Str. 32
Postfach 70 01 18
7000 Stuttgart 70 (Degerloch)
Telefon 0711/76 11 79

Betr.: Raketenpost-Dokument USS Barbero 1959
Hier : 1. offiz. Raketenpost von einem Unterseeboot aus

Stuttgart, den 5. November 1980
cö.-

Sehr geehrter Sammler,
lieber Astrophilatelist und Kunde!

Heute kann ich Ihnen ein seltenes Angebot für Raketenpost überreichen. Es handelt sich um ein echtes Post-Dokument für die erste amtliche Raketenpost der USA.

Es war im Jahre 1959, als der Postmaster General (also der US-Postminister; übrigens ein Posten mit Kabinettsrang im Weißen Haus) der Öffentlichkeit mitteilte, am 8. Juni sei versuchsweise vom U-Boot Barbero eine kleine Anzahl von 3000 Umschlägen etwa 350 km vor der Küste nach Jacksonville/Florida geschossen worden. Erfolgreiche Landung auf dem Flugplatz von Mayport (US Naval Station, Florida).

Die 3000 Umschläge waren an prominente Persönlichkeiten und an zahlreiche Postmaster wichtiger US-Städte adressiert. Derartige Stücke sind heute kaum aufzutreiben. Auf der letzten ISA-Auktion erreichte ein Los den Preis von DM 3500,-, und ein nachträgliches Gebot lag bei DM 4000,- + 10% Spesen (total 4400). Derartige Preise sind für den normalen Sammler gewiß unerschwinglich. Es bleibt abzuwarten, ob es fachgerechte Alternativen gibt.

Eine derartige Alternative kann ich Ihnen heute anbieten. Denn der Postmaster General legte neben den 3000 adressierten Umschlägen genau 105 Stück für die Presse auf, damit die Öffentlichkeit informiert werden konnte. Es sind dies die identischen Umschläge; sie tragen den Original-Bordstempel der USS Barbero (allerdings ohne Datum) und weisen rückseitig den Vermerk "Muster-exemplar für Reproduktionszwecke" auf. Ich liefere ein derartiges Stück für DM 850,-, zusammen mit einer 4-seitigen Dokumentation über das Zustandekommen der Raketenpost

Mit freundlicher Empfehlung
(Eberhard Cölle)

PS: Der bestellte Beleg USS Pierce war leider schon in den USA ausverkauft, so daß ich nicht liefern kann. Sie haben DM 400 Guthaben.

Foto nr.: 9

Sonderangebot -freibleibend-

Musterumschlag der US-Postverwaltung zum Einsatz der ersten
postamtlichen Raketenpost

Original-Postumschlag USS Barbero, mit Bordpoststempel, 4¢-Marke
(wie alle übrigen adressierten Stücke auch), ohne Datumteil
(weil genauer Abschußtag nicht vorher bekannt war), sowie rück-
seitigem Zudruck "für Reproduktionszwecke".

Auflage dieses Post-Dokumentes nur 105 Stück, lt. Forschungen
des ATA SU-Präsidenten Lester Winick, USA.

Barpreis nur DM 850,-
Sofortige Bestellung erbeten!

Abbildung 1:1 des speziellen Beleges USS Barbero, U Boot der US NAVY

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

FIRST OFFICIAL
MISSILE
MAIL



UNITED STATES
POST OFFICE
DEPARTMENT

