Comment and Controversy over Private Spanish Issues

Hi Don,

After reading your article in Orbit #117 (page 21) on sub satellites, I cannot add anything else to the text. As usual, thanks for your efforts in promoting our hobby.

However, it is necessary that I comment you some of the images illustrating this article.

In the page 21 you have shown five Spanish stamped envelopes which are ABSOLUTELY PRIVATE and not OFFICIAL.

These pre-stamped covers can be purchased from Spanish Post (Correos) in blank, and everyone can add them an image by using your own printer. This process cannot confirm the validity of the cover if is not postmarked with the correct date/place where the astronautical event occurs.

They are printed and produced by a collector/dealer or mixed and sold in Delcampe under the nickname jubortorspain1950.

These pre-stamped and illustrated covers have no relation to astrophilately as they are not postmarked in any Spanish post, and even they were, would not be from places with connection to the astrophilatelic event pictured.

Unfortunately for astrophilatelists, these are in the market and some cachet makers are issuing very beautiful covers, but without any relevance.

Another example is a collector/dealer or both that offers covers in eBay but such items are all cancelled in Helsinki (no relation with astronomic events).

Sincerely, I suggest not enclosing these Spanish stamped envelopes as such and if do, please specify that they are PRIVATE without astrophilatelic value. These "philatelic" items must be considered under level or philatelic stamps issued by countries/territories in black UPU lists.

Thanks for your time reading this email.  
Antoni RIGO 21.6.18

Don,

Many thanks for your email and for your quick and sincere response.

It was not my intention at any time to criticise you (or Gary) about these Spanish items. I understand perfectly that you will use any illustration if necessary for better comprehension of the text. Any philatelic item (even of low value) can be used in the articles.

However, collectors should be advised that some items cannot be adjusted to philatelic guidelines.

Instead of using these Spanish stamped envelopes you can buy blank US pre-stamped covers and adding to them with your printer any available (and free) image on internet. The result will be the same.

I have been asked by non Spanish collectors if Spanish Post was very active in Astrophilately by seeing a lot of these Spanish illustrated envelopes. Unfortunately, these covers are private as well as nowadays everyone can produce a private stamp with little value.

Personalis stamps, private covers, etc must not be prohibited, just used with very moderation in articles, and always quoting this fact, and never used in competitive exhibits.

I cannot close without thanking Gary and you for all the immense time effort your expend in promoting our astrophilatelic hobby.

Best Regards  
Antoni RIGO 22.6.18

Footnote: Don commented to Jeff on 31.7.18

With Garry’s help (as usual) we now note these Spanish pre-stamped envelopes as un-cancelled items (and therefore of less value to astrophilatelists). I’m not sure I told Antoni that I had completed that task, as there were a large number of these items on our pages. We thank Antoni for helping us clarify these items, which were previously a bit of a mystery to us.