

rial postmarks. It's similar in the other countries: usually one leader who has the stamina to do that for ten years. It must not end like it did with Ben Ramkissoon - it depends on the personality of this leader.

— Jürgen

Tim Bartshe with APS Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges responds:

Dear Fellow APS Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ) members,

This is a conversation between Ray Cartier, an exhibitor of Astrophilately in the United States and his group of fellow interested exhibitors. I have discussed things with Ray and he feels as I do that the Astro section in Postal Division is kinda silly and not very effective. He is right that in general most astrophilatic exhibits do not fare well for a number of reasons, not the least in that the exhibitors do not fully understand what it is that they should be doing to move their subjects into a more mainstream treatment and exhibiting techniques. Most of what they are doing is related to an event or a series of events (like the Apollo Mission). We already have a subsection in Illustrated Mail to deal with that and with a little bit of expansion, it can be used to deal with astrophilately instead of this rather antique and arcane system established by Ben Ramkissoon in the past.

What do you think?

— Tim

David McNamee with the American Philatelic Society adds his thoughts:

I think the time has come to place Astrophilately explicitly in Illustrated Mail for the reasons cited. Hal Vogel similarly complains that the postal division parameters don't fit Polar studies for the greatest part. Hal was arguing for a separate group of event-driven exhibits, but Illustrated Mail already handles that category quite well.

Ray Cartier concludes with this:

Hi all,

Despite my rocky start in reviewing most of exhibiting problems with F.I.P. due to my overall lack of knowledge of how they and the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging work, it is possible that the effort has paid off for astrophilatic exhibitors. FIP has agreed that the Post Office does not have to be the nearest to the featured event, but a nearby facility is now acceptable (allowing KSC Officials to be okay for launches from Cape Canaveral, for instance).

It appears that the judges who write the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging will consider moving Astrophilately from the Postal Division to the Illustrated Mail Division which will give exhibitors significantly more latitude in showing Space covers in a much better environment.

A special thanks for Judge and CANEJ leader, Tim Bartshe for taking this on for us.

— Ray Cartier

Side Note: Members at the recently held Astrophil 2013 Joint German-Russian Exhibition in Berlin, Germany, were frequently heard criticizing the difficult career path to becoming a juror on the international level. One delegate reported he had been a national juror for Astro since 1998, but was still waiting for his promotion to FIP level. Another delegate recalled that during an association meeting when they were discussing who should aim at becoming a juror on the international level, he was warned that at 40 years of age, he was probably already too old for the challenge, perhaps never reaching the aim during his lifetime. "Let's meet at the crematorium then", one delegate quipped wryly.

— Jürgen

37 – Aeros I & II, Azur, and Dial-Wika

Unmanned Satellites on Postage Stamps

Don Hillger - SU 5200 / Garry Toth

This is the thirty-seventh in a series of articles about un-manned satellites on postage stamps. This article features four German satellites: **Azur**, **Aeros**, and **Dial-Wika**.

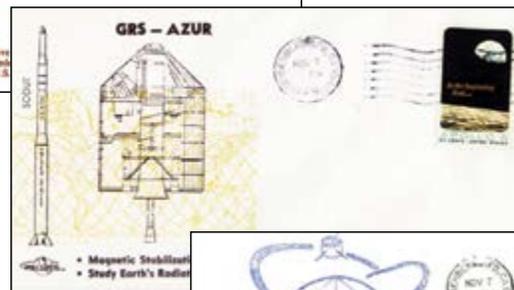
AAzur, meaning "blue", also called German Research Satellite (GRS), was launched into a near-polar orbit on November 7, 1969. A joint effort by NASA and the German Bundesministerium für Wissenschaftliche Forschung (BMWF), Azur carried seven instruments designed to acquire data on the terrestrial radiation belt. The satellite was in the

form of a cylinder with a blunt cone at one end. Azur has not been found on any postage stamps, but launch covers do exist. The authors also know of three non-launch covers (one from French Guyana, 1979 and the other two from West Germany, 1966 and 1968, whose cachets depict Azur.

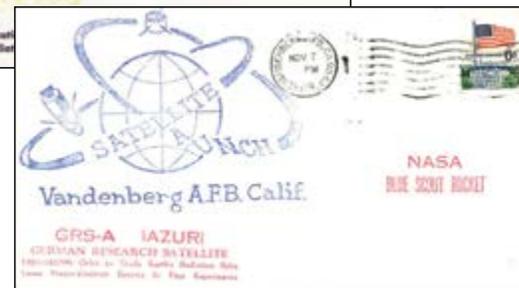


◀ A Swanson Space Covers cachet makes it clear this is a German project with a flag waving above the spacecraft. The launch date and time (5:52 p.m. PST) are backed by the red double ring postmark from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

An Orbit Cover cachet with both the Scout launch vehicle and a schematic of the satellite over a world map with polar orbital tracks. A Vandenberg machine cancel tags an Apollo 8 stamp (s.1371).



A generic blue rubber stamp cachet for Vandenberg satellite launches is detailed with a red rubber stamp noting that the GRS-A Azur satellite is in a 1304 by 188 nautical mile orbit to study Earth's radiation belts using seven proton/Electron spectra and flux experiments; a second red cachet noting the NASA Blue Scout rocket used for the launch.



Checklist of Azur (GRS, Germany) Satellite Postal Stamps and First Day Covers

Country	Catalog No.	Type of Item	Issued	Notes
French Guiana	None	(At upper-left of) cachet on cover	1979	Azur
Germany (West)	None	(At upper-left of) cachet on cover	1966	Early-design Azur, project name 625-A1
Germany (West)	None	(At upper-right of) cachet on cover	1968	Azur

*Scott catalog number, unless prefixed with Mi or BL for Michel, or Yv or PA for Yvert; "i" prefix denotes imperforate.

**FDC = first day cover; SS# = souvenir sheet, MS# = miniature sheet, where # = number of stamps in sheet, and the numbers in parentheses are the catalog numbers of the stamps in the sheet.

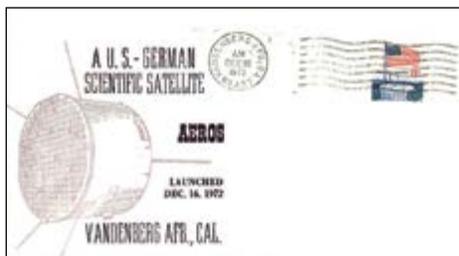
Series continues on following pages. ▶

There were two Aeros satellites: Aeros-1 was launched on December 16, 1972, and Aeros-2 was launched on July 16, 1974. Both satellites were cylindrical, about 0.9 m in diameter and 0.7 m long. The five experiments they carried were designed to study the upper atmosphere and ionospheric F region, especially with regard to the influence of solar UV radiation. Aeros is found on only one postage stamp issued by Czechoslovakia in 1975 (s. 2026). It is also found on the non-launch cover from

French Guiana mentioned in the previous paragraph as well as on the cancel on some Aeros launch covers.



Space Voyager cachet with Vandenberg machine cancel on December 16, 1972 for the launch of Aeros-1.



Unknown cachet with Vandenberg machine cancel for the U.S.-German scientific satellite.



German cover double canceled with a pictorial cancel from Welling Oberbay, the home of the satellite builder.



Swanson cachet with obscured machine cancel noting that the Scout D put Aeros in polar orbit with five experiments.



Goddard Spaceflight pictorial cancel for Apollo 17 on a GSFC stamp club cover detailing the mission objective.



Scarce Andromeda cachet with Vandenberg machine cancel uses same satellite artwork source as Space Voyager cover.

Checklist of Aeros (Germany) Satellite Postal Stamps and First Day Covers

Country	Catalog No.	Type of Item	Issued	Notes
Czechoslovakia	2026 (Mi2280)	Stamp	1975	Aeros
French Guiana	None	(At middle-right of) cachet on cover	1979	Aeros

*Scott catalog number, unless prefixed with Mi or BL for Michel, or Yv or PA for Yvert; "i" prefix denotes imperforate.

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Series continues on following pages. ▶



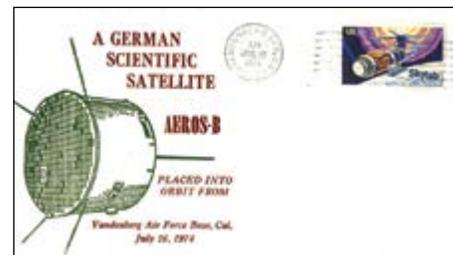
Space Voyager cover for the second Aeros satellite notes the mission's importance to improving radio communication.



The GSFC Stamp Club cachet uses scientific jargon "To measure the main aeronomic parameters..."



Orbit Covers reuses the Scout rocket next to the satellite art, with the Earth's magnetosphere in the background.



Similar to the unknown cachet on previous page, with some variation in text and colors, but same Skylab stamp



An unusual double cancel, one for A.M., a second with P.M. in the hub floating atop, both from Greenbelt, MD.



A typographic mish-mash in a Scout Booster stamped glory hints that the Aeros B was on a Scout Booster at Vandenberg.

A checklist of postal items identified as showing these satellites (<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/hillger/Azur.htm>) is available on the Website developed by the authors for the un-manned satellites featured in this series of articles (<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/hillger/satellites.htm>). The Website includes images of stamps and other postal items depicting the satellites discussed in this article, as well as images of launch covers that feature these satellites. E-mail correspondence with the authors is welcome. Don Hilger can be reached at hillger@cira.colostate.edu and Garry Toth at garry_toth@hotmail.com.



The deluxe version of the preceding cover gets a spiffy red rocket (Saturn V) that was NOT used for the mission.



This "Cachet of Future Space" seeks a "better understanding of the stars, galaxies, and the universe."

Dial-Wika, a joint French-German effort, was launched on March 10, 1970 along with Dial-Mika. The name Dial-Wika is a contraction from the French word 'Diamant' (diamond) and the German words 'Allemand' and 'Wissenschaft' (scientific knowledge) and 'Kapsel' (capsule). The slight difference in the name Dial-Mika comes from the German word 'Mini' (small). Dial-Wika was designed to study time and space

variations of the local electron density and geocoronal Layman-alpha radiation density, while Dial-Mika was to monitor the performance of the three-stage Diamant-B launch vehicle. The Dial-Wika satellite was commemorated on several postal items issued in 1970 by France and Ras Al Khaima, many of which featured the launch rather than the satellite itself. No postal items are known to show the Dial-Mika satellite. 🌐



Le Burin d'Or* created this nice cachet of a Dial satellite launch from Kourou in French Guyana for the "Association sportive et culturelle du CNES", France's National Center for Space Studies. The March 10, 1970 pictorial cancel features a map of the launch site, the grey area and dot just above the Diamant rocket on the stamp (s. 1137) along with the CNES letters in the shape of a rocket. *The gold engraving tool



This Lollini cover features the same cancellation as the cover above, only in red. The diagrams depict the launch profile to orbit and a cross section of the Diamant B rocket.

Another Lollini cover re-uses the Diamant B cross section below the text: First orbital launch from Kourou Space Center, Apogee 1633 km perigee 319 km, orbital inclination 5.41 degrees. The envelope commemorates the first launch of the Diamant B rocket.

Checklist of Dial-Wika (France / Germany) Satellite Postal Stamps and First Day Covers

France	1270 (Mi1705)		1970	Dial-Wika launch ¹
France	1270 fdc1	Stamp and cachet on FDC		
France	1270 fdc2	Stamp and cachet (different) on FDC		
France	1270 fdc3	Stamp and cachet (different) on FDC		
Ras Al Khaima	Mi438	From strip of 3 (Mi438+444+450)	1970	Dial-Wika launch
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444			Dial-Wika
Ras Al Khaima	Mi450			Dial-Wika launch
Ras Al Khaima	Mi438 ds1 (PA84 ds1)*	Deluxe sheet (gray/green)	1970	Dial-Wika launch
Ras Al Khaima	Mi438 ds2 (PA84 ds2)*	Deluxe sheet (white)		Dial-Wika launch
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444 ds1 (PA84 ds3)*	Deluxe sheet (gray/green)		Dial-Wika
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444 ds2 (PA84 ds4)*	Deluxe sheet (white)		Dial-Wika
Ras Al Khaima	Mi450 ds1 (PA84 ds5)*	Deluxe sheet (gray/green)		Dial-Wika launch
Ras Al Khaima	Mi450 ds2 (PA84 ds6)*	Deluxe sheet (white)		Dial-Wika launch
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444 (PA81)*	Gold foil		Dial-Wika
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444 (PA81 ds)*	Deluxe sheet, gold foil		Dial-Wika
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444 (PA83)*	Silver foil		Dial-Wika
Ras Al Khaima	Mi444 (PA83 ds)*	Deluxe sheet, silver foil		Dial-Wika

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¹Payload has the appearance of Vanguard-2, but the images of the satellite are quite small; Not Dial-Wika as intended, based on text imprinted on First Day Cover.



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