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“EDWARDS ROCKETPLANE” CD RELEASED BY SPACE UNIT OF THE ATA AND APS

Taking the lead in embracing new technologies by using CD's to distribute information on this aspect of philately, the Space Unit has released their third CD on Astrophilatelic subject matter in this extremely well-researched work by Dennis Dillman.

This Handbook starts with the story of the development of what is now known as Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) in the desert of California. Historical data for EAFB and for each of the rocket and space related flights is included in this work. His story begins in 1910 when two brothers, surnamed “Corum”, settled down and named their settlement “Muroc” which was their name spelled backwards. Mr. Dillman covers the earliest rocket assisted aircraft flight tests held there and explains how Edwards AFB received its name and when the postal name was changed. Sections of the book are devoted to the test aircraft flown there including the Bell X1 in which Chuck Yeager first broke the sound barrier. For each craft there is a flight log of all flights and dates. The book then lists whether or not covers exist for these flights, illustrating most of them in color. The book is supplemented with photographs of the old Muroc Post Office and the aircraft that were scrutinized.

In addition to the Bell X1, it includes the X2 along with variants of both. Then came the D558II and its history, flight log and cover illustrations. This was the aircraft in which Scott Crossfield became the first to travel at twice the speed of sound. There follows the Xf-91, the famed X15, a plane that was tested by Neil Armstrong among others, the NF104A and the X20 Dyna Soar. Lastly come the wingless lifting bodies that were precursors of the Space Shuttle: the M2F1, F2 and F3 along with the X24A and B and the HL-10.

This fascinating CD Handbook is every bit as much of historical importance as it is a means of identifying the covers that exist covering the history of the programs that led to today's space travel. It is available from the Space Unit – Carmine Torrisi – P.O. Box 780241 – Maspeth, NY 11378 for \$10 plus \$1 for postage in the US and Canada. The other two Space Unit sponsored CD's are also still on sale at the same price. These are “Suspect Space Covers” and “Project Apollo, Space Cover Catalog”, both by Paul Bulver.

These CD's will also be on sale at the National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee on June 17-19 at the ATA Table. Also the Space Unit will be selling them at the APS Stamp Show this August in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



For additional information on the **American Topical Association** contact the ATA Central Office, PO Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone 817-274-1181; fax 817-274-1184; email americantopical@msn.com, or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.