

Scout Rocket Mail - Belgium 1960



Rocket Mail: Rocket mail is the delivery of mail by rocket or missile. The rocket lands by deploying an internal parachute upon arrival. Dr. Adam J. de Bruijn from Amsterdam experimented with rockets, and he and his co-workers, members of the Nederlandse Ruimtevaart Studio (Dutch Space Flight Studio), launched more than 100 mail rockets in Europe from 1936 onwards. The rockets could travel 20 km or more. De Bruijn made an important contribution to the development of rocket mail.

The term **Scout Rocket Mail** is used to describe rocket mail associated with Scouting. Nederlandse Ruimtevaart Studio launched two mail rockets at Raeren, Belgium on April 27, 1960, in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Scouting in the United States. The **purpose** of this exhibit is to show the philately of these two rockets.

The **scope** encompasses all aspects of philately from these launching of these two rockets: locally issued Scout rocket stamps, presentation cards and astrograms, including proofs, colour varieties, flown covers and cards. Special rocket cachets identify mail from the rockets *Daniel Beard* and *Baden Powell II*, respectively. Flown covers carry a bicoloured locally printed rocket mail stamp. The stamps were issued imperforate and perforated in sheets of four. Special astrograms were produced; the rocket equivalent of aerograms or air-letters.

Rocket Baden Powell II

Named after Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell (1857-1941), founder of the Scout Movement and Chief Scout of the World.

Rocket Daniel Beard

Named after Daniel Carter "Uncle Dan" Beard (1850-1941), an American illustrator, author, youth leader, and social reformer who founded the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905. Beard merged his organization into the Boy Scouts of America when it was founded in 1910. He later became editor of *Boys' Life*, the BSA official magazine.

Main source: *Ellington-Zwisler Rocket Mail Catalog, 1960*

Scout Astrograms	4
Scout Rocket Stamps.....	4
Rocket Baden Powell II	5
Rocket Daniel Beard.....	3
Total	16

Scout Astrograms

Proof

ASTROGRAM PROOF



Astrograms of two different types were prepared for the rocket flights.

Astrogram type 1, colour proof, brown colour only.

Signed (in pencil) by the rocketeer Dr. J.A. de Bruijn.

Astrogram type 1 has "ASTROGRAM" and stamp imprint top left.

ASTROGRAM TYPE 1, BROWN COLOUR ONLY



Astrogram type 1, special rocket flight cachet in blue. Not flown.
Colour separation, brown colour only. Probably of proof status.

ASTROGRAM TYPE 1



Astrogram type 1, special rocket flight cachet in blue. Not flown.

“ASTROGRAM / ASTROPOSTBLAD” top left and stamp imprint top right.

PROOF ASTROGRAM, BROWN COLOUR



Astrogram type 2, special rocket cachet in blue. Not flown.

Colour separation, brown colour only. Believed to be of proof status.

PROOF ASTROGRAM, RED COLOUR



Astrogram type 2, perforated Scout rocket stamp and special rocket cachet in blue. Not flown.

Colour separation, red colour only. Believed to be of proof status.

"ASTROGRAM / ASTROPOSTBLAD" top left and stamp imprint top right.

ASTROGRAM TYPE 2



Astrogram type 2.
Special rocket flight cachet in blue. Not flown.

FLOWN ASTROGRAM TYPE 2 WITH CANAL ZONE FDC



The Scout mail rockets were launched in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Scouting in the United States.

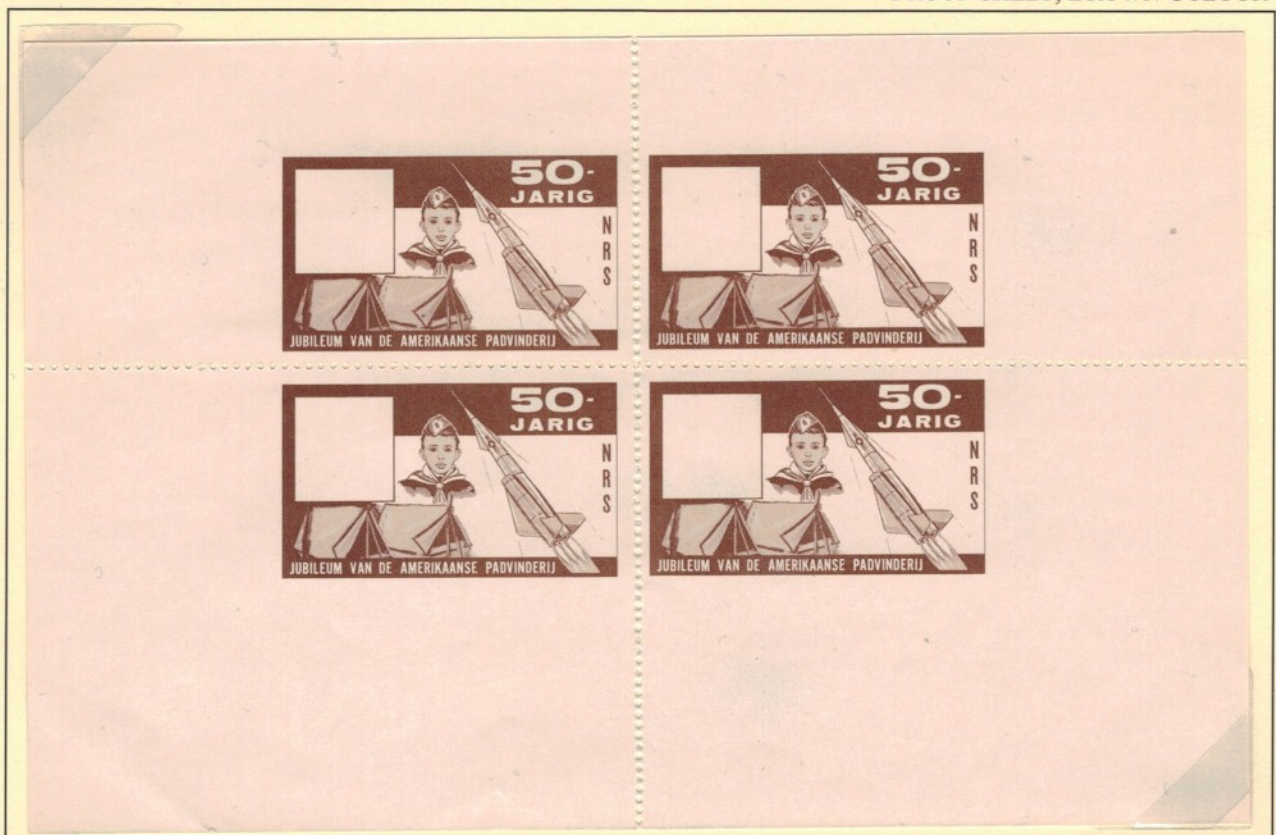
The Boy Scouts of the Panama Canal Zone were founded in 1947, and had ties to the Boy Scouts of America.

Astrogram type 2 with Canal Zone Boy Scout FDC, postmarked "BALBOA FEB 8 1960".

Flown on rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960, special flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn.

The stamps were printed in two colours, brown and red.

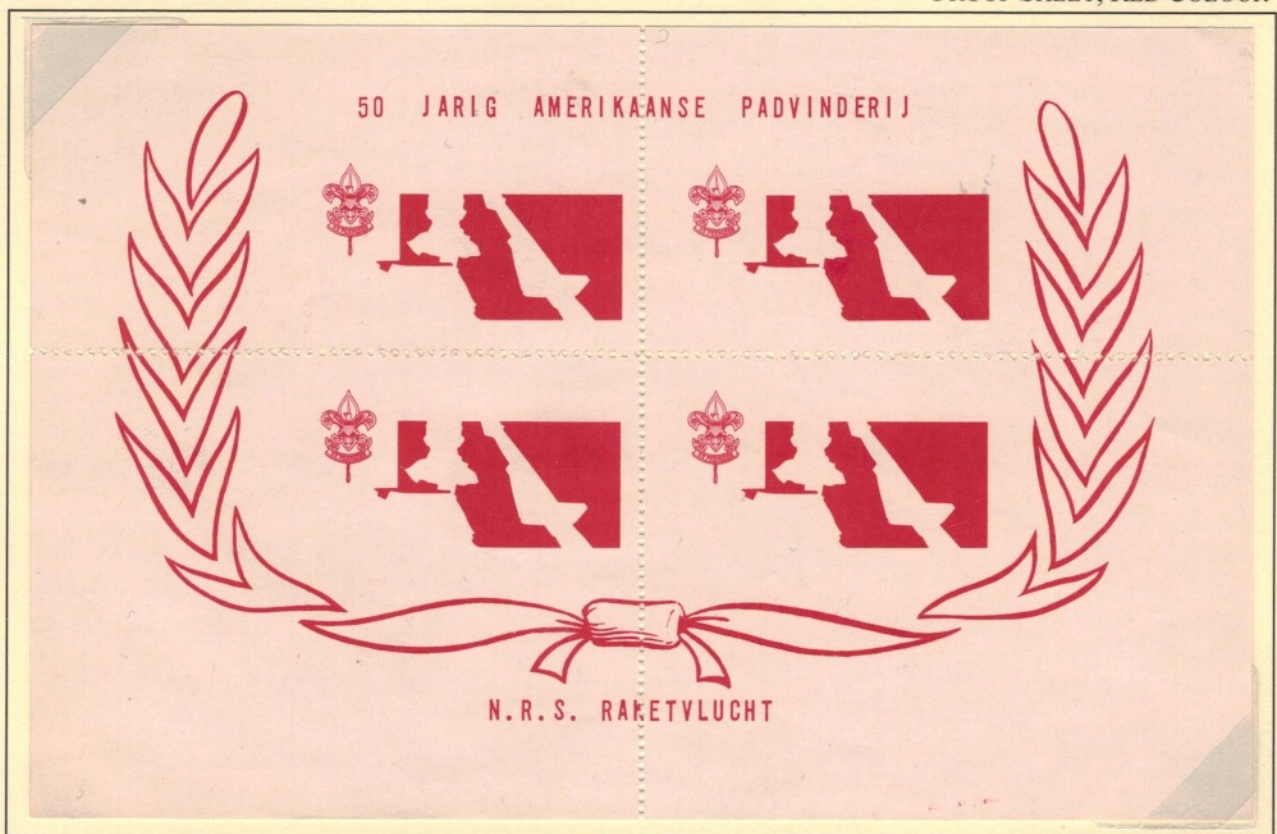
PROOF SHEET, BROWN COLOUR



Sheet of four Scout rocket stamps. The stamps are perforated on two sides. Not flown.

Colour separation, brown colour only. Believed to be of proof status.

PROOF SHEET, RED COLOUR



Sheet of four Scout rocket stamps. The stamps are perforated on two sides. Not flown.

Colour separation, red colour only. Believed to be of proof status.

Scout Rocket Stamps

Uncut Sheet of Rocket Stamps and Olympic Stamps

A brown and red bi-coloured rocket mail stamp was produced locally.

The sheets of Scout rocket stamps were printed se-tenant with similar sheets for a flight commemorating the VIII Winter Olympics. The Olympic rocket flight took place on the same day as the Scout rockets.

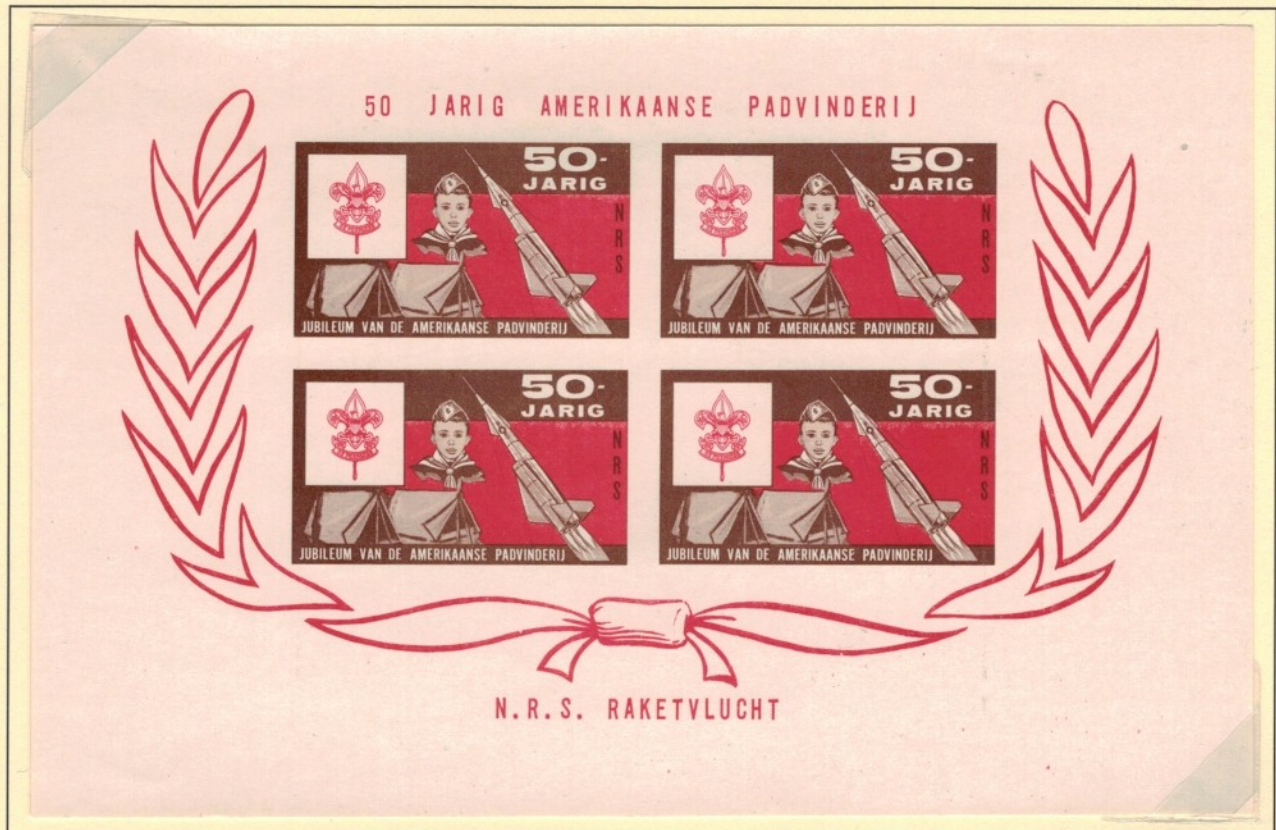
UNCUT SHEET



Uncut imperforate sheet of four Scout rocket stamps,
 printed se-tenant with a similar sheet for an Olympic rocket flight.
 Most sheets were cut prior to use for the Scout and Olympic flights, respectively.

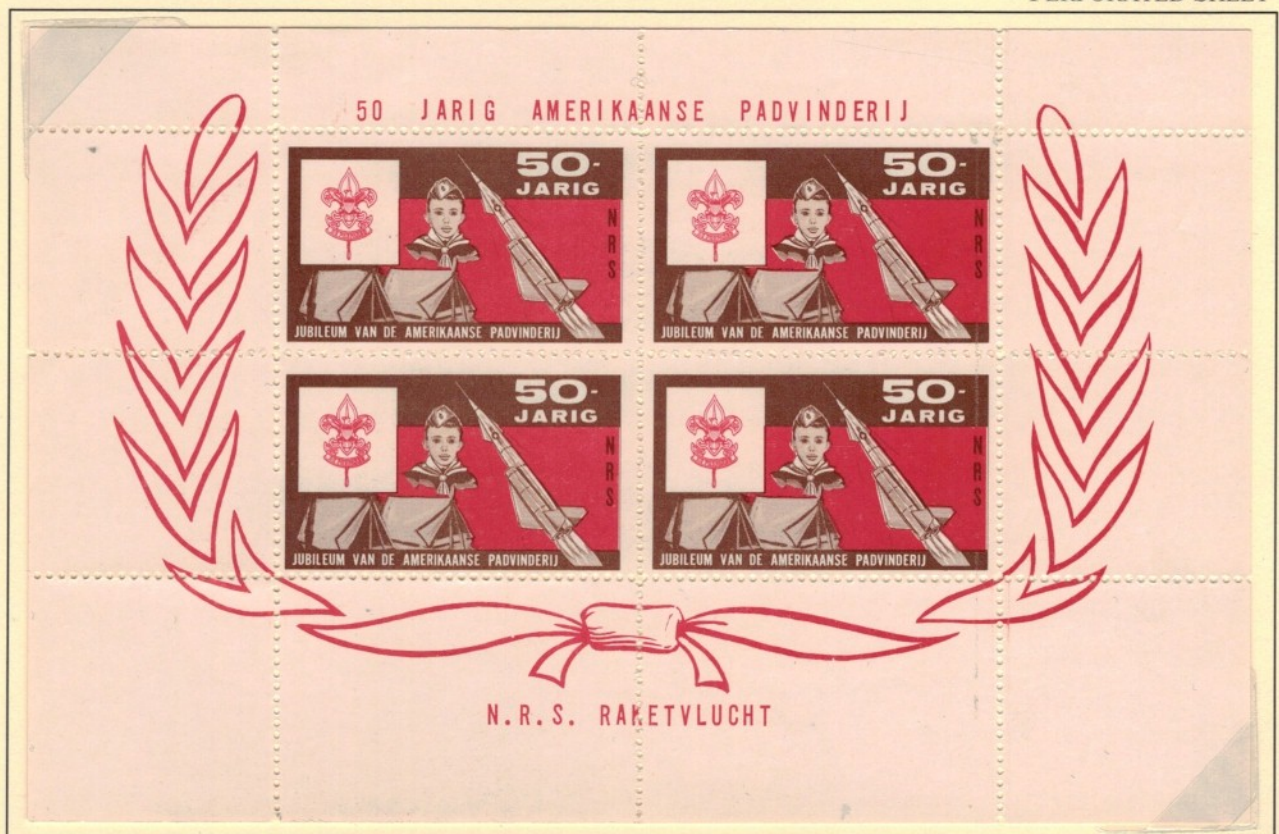
A brown and red bi-coloured rocket mail stamp was produced locally.
The stamps were issued imperforate and perforated in sheets of four.

IMPERFORATE SHEET



Imperforate sheet of four Scout rocket stamps. Not flown.

PERFORATED SHEET



Perforated sheet of four Scout rocket stamps. Not flown.

FLOWN PROOF PRESENTATION CARD



Presentation card on thick paper with U.S. Boy Scout FDC dated February 8, 1960.
 Flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960 and special rocket flight cachet in blue.
 The flown items were signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn.

Brown colour only – believed to be of proof status.

PRESENTATION CARD ON THICK PAPER



Presentation card on thick paper, sheet of four of the Scout rocket stamp. Not flown.
 Signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn. The Dutch postage stamps seem to have been added later.

COVER, IMPERFORATE SCOUT ROCKET STAMP



Imperforate Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Not flown.

COVER, PERFORATED SCOUT ROCKET STAMP



Perforated Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Not flown.



Printed matter to the Netherlands, flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960.

Imperforate Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn.

1F postage stamp postmarked "EUPEN 28-4-1960" (machine cancel).

Postage rate 35c for printed matter to neighbouring countries Nov 1, 1959 to Nov 14, 1963 (1Fr to other countries).



Printed matter to the Netherlands, 1 F postage, flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960.

Perforated Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn.

1F postage stamp postmarked "EUPEN 28-4-60" (handstamp).

Postage rate 35c for printed matter to neighbouring countries Nov 1, 1959 to Nov 14, 1963 (1Fr to other countries).

FLOWN COVER, UNFRANKED TO THE NETHERLANDS, POSTAGE DUE CHARGED AND PAID



Printed matter to the Netherlands, flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960.

Perforated Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue.

Lacking postage, postmarked "EUPEN 28-4 1960" and cachet "T" for Tax (postage due).

Meter mark with 10c postage due paid by the addressee in Amsterdam May 4, 1960.

FLOWN COVER, UNFRANKED TO THE NETHERLANDS, NO POSTAGE DUE



Printed matter to the Netherlands, flown on rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960.

Perforated Scout rocket stamp, and special rocket flight cachet in blue.

Lacking postage, postmarked "EUPEN 28-4 1960". No postage due markings.

FLOWN COVER, AIRMAIL TO THE UNITED STATES



Air mail printed matter to the United States, flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960.

Imperforate Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn.

3.50F postage stamp postmarked "EUPEN 27-4-60". Received "BROOKLYN N.Y. APR 30 1960" (on reverse).

1Fr foreign printed matter rate and 2.50Fr per 5g airmail fee April 1, 1959 to April 14, 1963.

FLOWN COVER, AIRMAIL TO THE UNITED STATES



Air mail printed matter to the United States, flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960.

Perforated Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn.

3.50F postage stamp postmarked "EUPEN 27-4-60". Received "BROOKLYN N.Y. APR 30 1960" (on reverse).

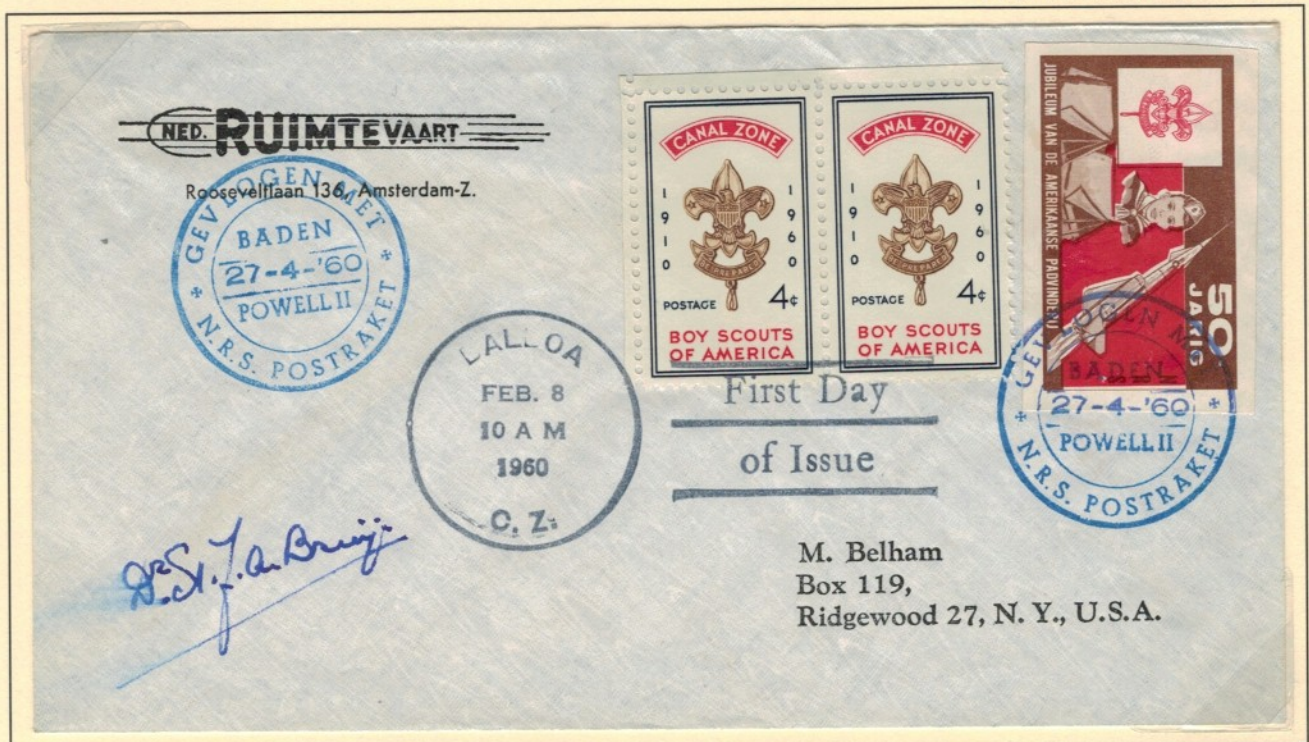
1Fr foreign printed matter rate and 2.50Fr per 5g airmail fee April 1, 1959 to April 14, 1963.

FLOWN COVER, AIRMAIL TO THE UNITED STATES



Air mail printed matter to the United States, flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960. Imperforate Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn. 3.50 F postage stamp postmarked "EUPEN 27-4-60". Arrival postmark "BROOKLYN N.Y. APR 30 1960". 1Fr foreign printed matter rate and 2.50Fr per 5g airmail fee April 1, 1959 to April 14, 1963.

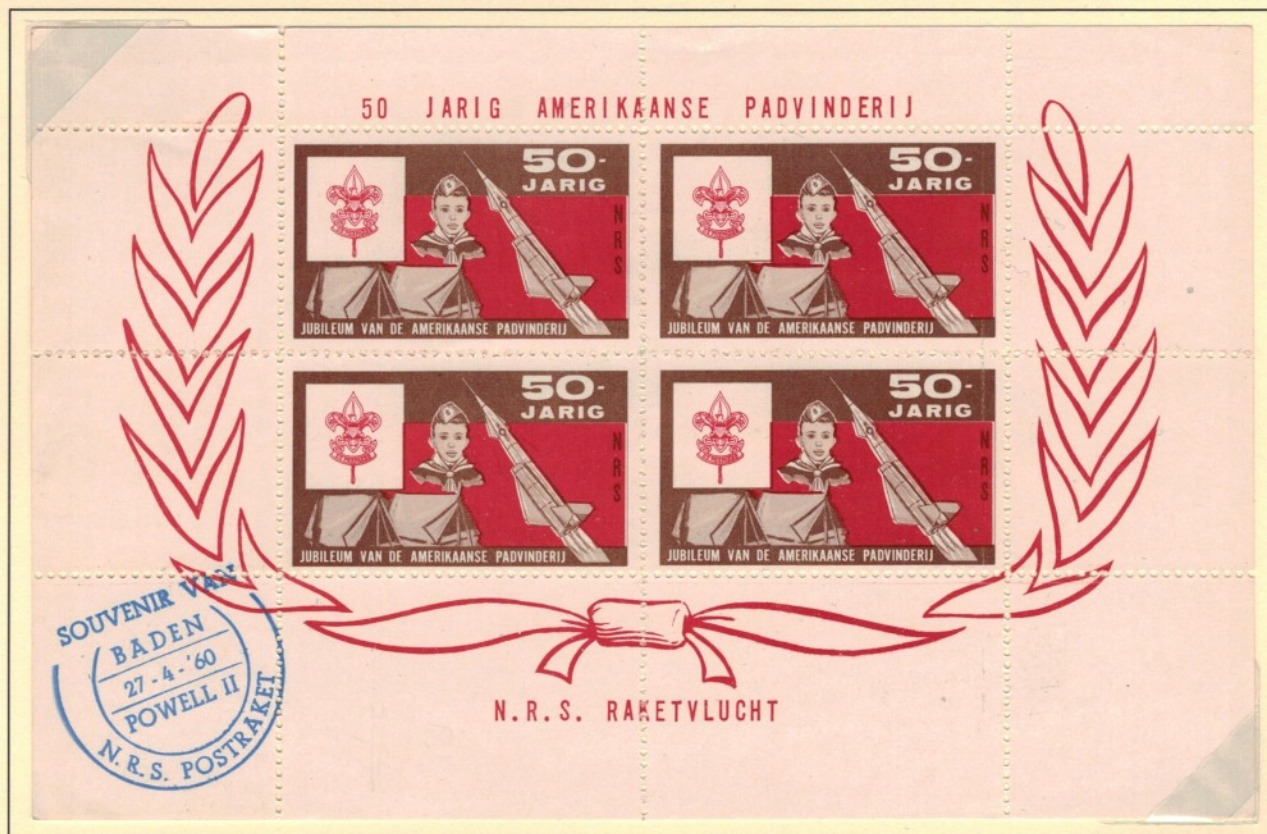
FLOWN CANAL ZONE FDC



The Scout mail rockets were launched in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Scouting in the United States. The Boy Scouts of the Panama Canal Zone were founded in 1947, and had ties to the Boy Scouts of America. Canal Zone Boy Scout FDC postmarked "BALBOA FEB 8 1960" flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* April 27, 1960. Imperforate Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in blue. Signed by the rocketeer Dr. A. J. de Bruijn.

50 of the covers flown in rocket *Baden Powell II* were Boy Scout FDCs from the Canal Zone dated February 8, 1960. These had been sent to the addressee in Ridgewood, N.Y. in February.

SHEET OF FOUR ROCKET STAMPS



Perforated sheet of four Scout rocket stamps.
Special rocket cachet in blue. Not flown.

PRESENTATION CARD



Presentation card on thick paper.
Special rocket cachet in blue. Not flown.

Rocket *Daniel Beard* was named after Daniel Carter "Uncle Dan" Beard (1850-1941), an American illustrator, author, youth leader, and social reformer who founded the Sons of Daniel Boone 1905. Beard merged his organization into the Boy Scouts of America when it was founded 1910. He later became editor of Boys' Life magazine, the BSA official magazine.

ASTROGRAM TYPE 2, SHORT FDC POSTMARK



Astrogram type 2 with U.S. Boy Scout FDC dated February 8, 1960, flown in rocket *Daniel Beard* April 27, 1960. Special rocket flight cachet in red. The flown covers were signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn. "Short" FDC postmark with circular datestamp above "For God and Country".

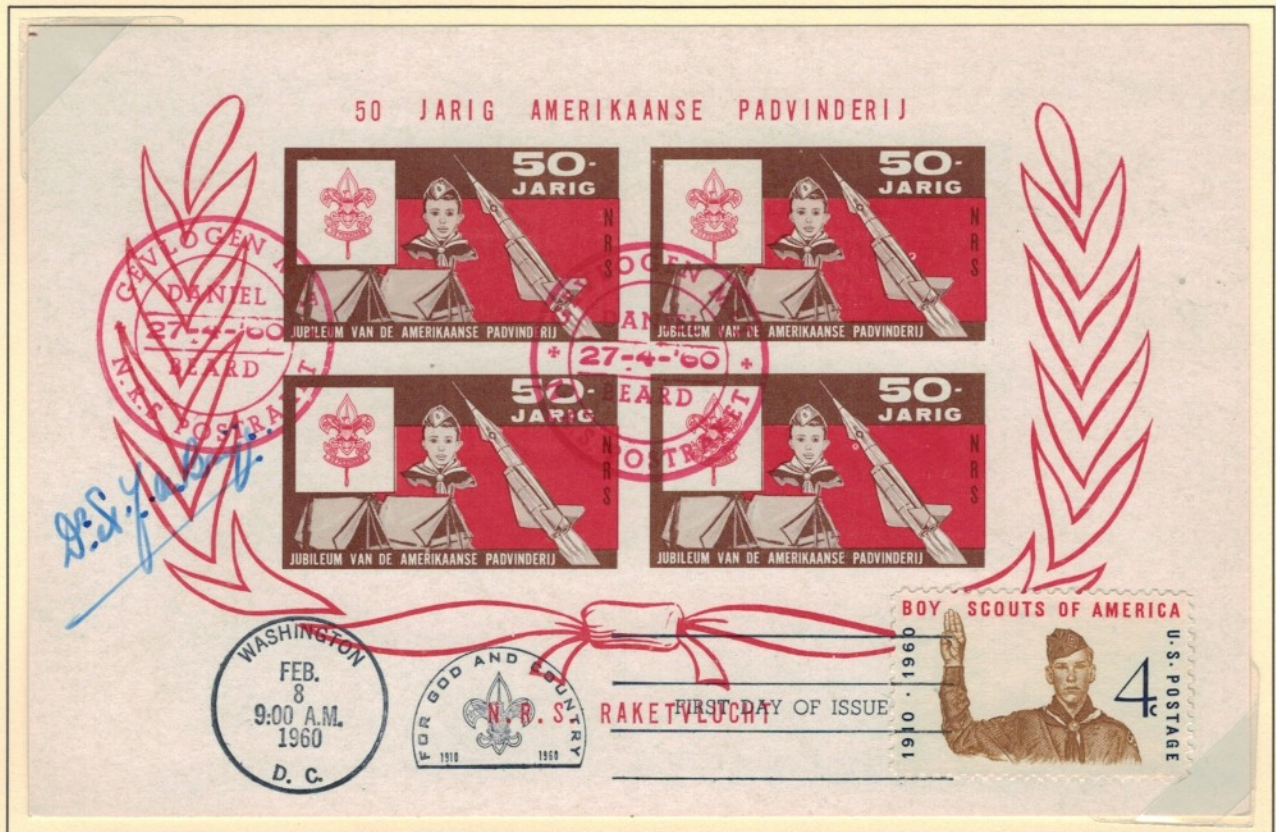
40 Astrograms were flown in rocket *Daniel Beard*.

ASTROGRAM TYPE 2, LONG FDC POSTMARK



Astrogram type 2 with U.S. Boy Scout FDC dated February 8, 1960, flown in rocket *Daniel Beard* April 27, 1960. Special rocket flight cachet in red. The flown covers were signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn. "Long" FDC postmark with circular datestamp to the side of "For God and Country".

FLOWN PRESENTATION CARD / U.S. FDC



Presentation card on thick paper with U.S. Boy Scout FDC dated February 8, 1960. Special rocket flight cachet in red. The flown items were signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn.

25 presentation cards were flown in rocket *Daniel Beard* April 27, 1960.

FLOWN COVER



Printed matter to the Netherlands, flown in rocket *Daniel Beard* April 27, 1960. Imperforate Scout rocket stamp and special rocket flight cachet in red. 1F postage stamp postmarked "EUPEN 28-4-60". Signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn.

Postage rate 35c for printed matter to neighbouring countries Nov 1, 1959 to Nov 14, 1963 (1Fr to other countries).

FLOWN COVER, IMPERFORATE SCOUT ROCKET STAMP



U.S. Boy Scout FDC dated February 8, 1960, flown in rocket *Daniel Beard* April 27, 1960.

Imperforate Scout rocket stamp. Special rocket flight cachet in red.

The flown covers were signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn.

The Scout mail rockets were launched in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Scouting in the United States.

190 Boy Scout FDCs from the United States were flown in rocket Daniel Beard.

FLOWN COVER, PARTIALLY IMPERFORATE SCOUT ROCKET STAMP



U.S. Boy Scout FDC dated February 8, 1960, flown in rocket *Daniel Beard* on April 27, 1960.

Partially imperforate Scout rocket stamp. Special rocket flight cachet in red.

The flown covers were signed by the rocketeer Dr. J. A. de Bruijn.

This concludes the philatelic story of the two Scout rockets.