

# Navphilately

1963

21 January 1963

This newsletter is compiled by W.R. Skelley, Jr, YNC, U.S. Navy. Published monthly except July and August in the interest of naval cover collecting. This is not an official U.S. Navy publication. Address: 1210 Earle Avenue, Chesapeake 6, Virginia. Paid membership

WHAT IS DEEPSTAR???? A self-propelled vehicle that rises, dives and turns at will, unhindered by surface kites or hoses. This is "DEEPSTAR" scanning the ocean bed 12,000 feet down. Manned by a crew of three, DEEPSTAR will search out bounties of minerals, food and oil. In the lightless depths of the sea, this strange craft swims. One of it's mechanical arms holds a powerful light while the other reaches down, and with precise steel fingers plucks an organism from the dark sand. DEEPSTAR contributes to a tepped up world-wide study of Oceanography as it places and observes instruments, lights and photographs the secrets of the sea. Watch newspapers for current and up to date information concerning U.S. and Russian Oceanography studies.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON NAVAL PHILATELIC CANCELLATIONS: U.S. Navy directives summarily state that requests for postmarks on philatelic covers maybe complied with except when precluded for security or other military exigencies or when it appears they are to be used for commercial purposes. Observing the rules of courtesy and fairness will go far to encourage Navy men to support our hobby of naval cover collecting.

ADDITIONAL CUBAN BLOCKADE SHIPS ANNOUNCED: USS SELLERS DDG-11; RANDOLPH CVS-15; CHICKASKIA AO-54; KASKASKIA AO-27; BEARSS, NEOSHO, WASP, MCDONOUGH (DLG-8); DUVAL COUNTY, DODGE COUNTY; MIDDLESEX COUNTY, CHEBOYGAN COUNTY. I wonder what happened to the submarines? Did someone say 63 ships or 93?

OCEANOGRAPHY CACHET REVEALED: USS ARCHERFISH has a "Sea Scan" cachet. USCG Cutter "Arctic Trackline" with Captain W.R. Porter, Commanding.

HERE AND THERE::: USNS James M. Gillis (AGOR-4) will be operated by the Navy's MSTs and assigned to work directly for the Naval Oceanographic Office. Her sister ship USNS Robert D. CONRAD (AGOR-3) is loaned to the Lamont Observatory at Columbia University for operation.

USS DUXBURY BAY (AVP-38) enroute to the Middle East to relieve the GREENWICH BAY. The "DUX", VALCOUR AND GREENWICH BAY Comprise the "white Fleet".

NEW USCS CHAPTER PROPOSED: A proposal is being circulated to organize a USCS Chapter in the Hampton Roads. The request for a charter has been submitted and enthusiasm here seems overwhelming. If approved, the new chapter will be known as "Hampton Roads #63" with a slate of officers and projects to be announced later. It cannot be stressed too strongly that membership in USCS is a definite necessity for collectors of naval covers. Membership application blanks are available from my desk just for the asking. Don't delay do it today....

DATA ON SCHIRRA SIX ORBIT MISSION - Third U.S. Man-in-Space completing 6 orbit Mercury Atlas (MA-8) on 3 October 1962. After circling the earth every 88.5 minutes at a speed of 17,560 mph, Astronaut Schirra's "SIGMA 7" capsule landed 10 hours and 46 minutes later at a point 275 miles northeast of Midway Island and approximately 9,000 yards from the recovery ship USS KEARSARGE. The combined recovery forces consisted of about 28 ships, 66 naval aircraft and 14,500 personnel.

## STAMPS, COVERS and PHOTOGRAPHS

By: Arthur W. Mears

Collectors of ship covers have a practically unlimited field with but little to limit their collection. There are of course certain recognized types of cancels, most of which are carefully listed by the Universal Ship Cancellation Society for naval ships of the United States and the Maritime Postal Society for the merchant markings and PAQUEBOIS. Unfortunately, little has been done for foreign naval ships. In both naval and merchant covers there are two types: official ship post offices and postmarks applied at ports with markings by ships having no postal facilities.

Most collectors begin with the official post offices of ships. There are many branches to this field, amply covered by the journals of the various societies. I have combined stamps, covers and photographs with a brief writeup for a complete coverage.

How do you begin such a collection? The ship stamps can easily be located in any standard catalogue or the fine ATA Handbook. Here again, I vary by including Cinderella items, locals, proofs and seals. Covers and photographs require more ingenuity. To obtain covers, write to the Mail Clerk, Commanding Officer or Master of the ship. Make your request personal, brief and reasonable. In the case of non-post office ships state that you know that they have no mail facilities but that you would like a marking from the ship on the envelope and for it to be returned via a shore post office. In the case of foreign ships with mail facilities an International Reply Coupon will obtain a cover franked with the proper postage. One trait is required in this type of collection—PATIENCE! Some covers will never be returned but many unexpected markings will more than recompense for them. There is always the chance of a friendly note, an autograph or other enclosure. In making requests always remember that our hobby depends upon the courtesy of the ship's officers; they are under no obligation to comply with such requests, tho' most are willing to co-operate once they know about our hobby.

Many of the shipping companies arrange cachets or postmarks for "First Voyages" and Special Trips. The various stamp journals and the newspapers carry notice of these events. France, United States, Queen Mary, Gripsholm are examples of these events.

As a start for the new collector here are a few possibilities from my albums: Merchant Ships: CHUSAN of the P & O Line; MALTESE PRINCE of the Prince Line; the pre-war ships NORMANDIE, BREMAN (this ship had one of the first ship-to-shore mail services), SANTA CLARA (later the USS SUSAN B. ANTHONY, though I know of no markings from her as such). Warships: USF CONSTITUTION, USS HOUSTON, ARIZONA AND OKLAHOMA; HMS VICTORY, HMCS SAGHUNAX; Brazilian MINAS GERIAS, ex- HMS VENGRANCE; Spanish ALMIRANTE CERVERA; Italian AMRIGO VESPUCCI. Many of these are pre-war ships but covers are still quire often located. These are only a few of the possibilities.

Write me if I can be of any help in forming a similar collection.

Arthur W. Mears, Ledge Road, St. Stephen, N.B. Canada.

Naphilately Post script: Courtesy prompts us to enclose an International Reply Coupon to defray the postage expense when requesting information or a reply.

HULL DESIGNATION CHANGED

USS GYATT(DDG-1) hull designation(number) changed back to DD 712. The GYATT was the only destroyer fitted with the Terrier missile. Did you get the DDG-1 cover?

PRESIDENTIAL YACHT Williamsburg has been renamed Anton Bruun and will be assigned research duty.

RANGE TRACKER

Mr. James E. Cone, Purser, USNS Richfield (T-AGM-4), FPO, N.Y. cachets mail in an expertly manner per advisement of William Newcomb USCS 4215. This ship does not have a post office but it's duties as a "tracking ship" in manned orbital flights is not to be overlooked.

BRITAIN'S THIRD NUCLEAR SUBMARINE ANNOUNCED

No further details received from the builder: Vicker-Armstrong, Co., Barrow-in-Furness, Lancaster, England.

SCHIRRA COVERS AND OTHERS AVAILABLE NOW

Miss Blanche Skelley, 1210 Earle Avenue, Chesapeake 6, Virginia has some Schirra covers and others at an offering of .25 cents each or 5 for \$1.00. The Schirra cover is made up similar to the Glenn and Carpenter Covers.....

EDITOR'S REPEATED VIEWPOINT

1963 will be a busy cover year and collectors who insist on sending 10,20,30 and some even 40 covers per event will definitely KILL the whole hobby. Relationships between collector and the Navy should always be on the very best terms and the Navy is more than willing to assist you in your hobby providing it's not a business. Collectors must wake up and realize this for themselves. Requests for postal service aboard Navy ships will prompt refusals. Some folks think they are pulling the wool over a cachet sponsor eyes by sending six or eight more covers after a few weeks or days have elapsed since the first batch were sent. Commanding Officers and Executive Officers are well aware of the fact that very few requests for 1 or 2 covers are sometimes received. Please let me again reiterate in plain every day plain language limit your request for service to 1 or 2 covers. Some say I need more for trading. How many do you need for trading? Trading - Hogwash.

Blanche and I are discontinuing our personal efforts to obtain good covers for some collectors who missed out. This includes all events in 1963 and the covers that we will be receiving will be reserved for our European friends exclusively inasmuch as they do have difficulties due to language barriers and communications. You know it is a funny thing these Europeans - they are satisfied with a 1 cover limit and seldom ask for two. Have you made a Navphilately New Year Resolution for 1963 to repeat limit your cover requests to 2 covers only. Happy New Year and Peace.....

USS HELENA CA-75 DEACTIVATION  
FPO, SF about 1 March 1963.....

CRUISER LINEUP IN THE SPRING

- Atlantic -FPO, New York
- NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)
- BOSTON (CAG-1)
- CANBERRA (CAG-2)
- LONG BEACH GC(N)-9
- ALBANY CG-10
- SPRINGFIELD CLG-7
- LITTLE ROCK CLG-4
- Pacific-FPO, San Francisco, Calif.
- ST. PAUL (CA-73)
- LOS ANGELES (CA-135)
- COLUMBUS CG-12
- PROVIDENCE CLG-6
- TOPEKA CLG-8
- OKLAHOMA CITY CLG-5
- GALVESTON CLG-3
- CHICAGO CG-

CONSTRUCTION SCOREBOARD CHANGES

- SSN-638 KL-Jul-August 1963
- DLG-26 BELKNAP L-18 May 63
- DLG-17 YARNELL C- Feb 63 Boston NSY
- CVA-66 AMERICA L-2 Aug 63
- SSBN-622 MONROE C- 23 Aug 63
- DDG-24 WADDELL L- 3 Feb 63\*\*
- SSBN-617 HAMILTON C- 23 Jun 63
- SSN-607 DACE C- May 1963
- SSN 596 BARB Feb 63
- \*\* Unconfirmed

### X-CHANGE KORNEN

Limited Offer: Mercury, Nevada  
LTCOL R.G. HALLIGAN, USA 4-B Salmon Drive,  
Las Vegas, Nevada offers to exchange a  
cacheted envelope with President Kennedy's  
picture. This cover contains suitable  
marking and denotes the President's visit  
to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Nevada  
Test Site last December. Mercury is the site  
of all nuclear testing in the United States  
LTCOL Halligan desires to trade for covers with  
nuclear aspects.

Trading: 1 unaddressed cacheted Project  
Mercury covers plus packet of 100 different  
stamps for any Presidential Inaugural Cover  
except Kennedy. Write: C.N. Montgomery,  
Centertown, Kentucky.

Swapping: J.R. Treutle, P.O. Box 504, Keyser,  
West Virginia "will swap" nuclear submarine  
covers and needs: Thrasher-Deep Dive Cachet;  
Seawolf-Pirate Chaser; Polaris Missile Firings-  
Any FBM Submarines; Polaris Patrol Mission-  
any FEM Submarines; Geo. Washington-1st Pat-  
rol; Seahorse-Skate North Pole Rendevous;  
SSN-548-Square cachet depicting polar bear  
holding nuclear symbol. Available for ex-  
change Naval ship and submarine covers,  
polar mail, arctic and antartic, First Air  
Mail Flights-SPECIFY your wants or desires.

FULL COLOR AERIAL VIEW POST CARDS of USS --  
BAINBRIDGE AT SEA, MISSILES MOUNTED 7 for  
25 cents postpaid. Mal Walker, P.O. Box 8,  
Quincy 69, Mass. Attn: CARDS

USCS Nuclear Ships Chapter #61 offers the  
following covers @ .30 each. Savannah visits  
San Francisco, Long Beach and Los Angeles,  
Honolulu, Portland, Oregon and San Diego.  
1225 E. Marquette St, Appleton, Wisconsin.

### NAVPHILATELY'S NEW POLICY

The \$2.00 subscription fee effective 1 Jan 63  
eliminates the need to send me a stamped self  
addressed envelope each month. However, I do  
want to hear both the good and the bad from  
you. This new policy was necessary in view of  
increased operating costs.

### FOR SALE

10 Naval Covers for \$1.00 plus a  
long stamped self-addressed enve-  
lope. Quality of covers as to con-  
dition of postmark and theme of  
cachets guaranteed. KOLODAY, RD3,  
U.S. Naval Degaussing Station, T.I.  
San Francisco, California.....

### Photographs Available:

Four aerial views of Bainbridge  
by a commercial photographer.  
8 x 10 inch glossy prints @ .50  
each postpaid. Mr. Mal Walker,  
Cachet Committee, P.O. Box 8,  
Quincy 69, Mass. GOOD PRICE...  
P.S. Thanks to all you collectors  
who sent in that extra postage for  
the covers from Quincy in 1963.

Dynamic Covers from Groton, Conn  
11 Events scheduled in 1963.....  
Launching -Nathan Hale @.25 each  
with 1922 Nathan Hale stamp being  
used thereon. Launching-Flasher  
covers same price and features a  
professional design of the new and  
old World War II Flasher. Submar-  
ines DO NOT repeat DO NOT have  
post offices on board. All covers  
will be postmarked Groton, Conn  
the city of ship construction.  
Where??? Dynamic Philatelic Society,  
P.O. Box 849, Groton, Conn.U.S.A.  
European collectors please includ  
sufficient postage to allow your  
covers to be mailed in a double  
envelope to insure receipt of a  
clean and un-damaged cover. Inter-  
National Reply Cupons accepted.

### STEAM POWERED SUBMARINES

The first Nautilus (SS-618) was the  
first submarine in the U.S. Navy said  
to be steam driven. All U.S. nuclear  
subs are now powered both on and below  
the surface water.

KATALOG KORNER RESULTS AS RECEIVED UP TO PUBLICATION DATE: All ships USS

| SHIP NAME             | POST OFFICE | CACHET   | FPO | REMARKS OR INFORMATION   |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|-----|--|
| USS BRUSH DD-745      | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note#2. W.B. SINCLAIR, FCSN-P.C.   |
| LAWRENCE DDG-4        | Yes         | No   | NY  | Note#1.  |
| FORRESTAL CVA-59      | Yes         | Yes-3  | NY  | Note#2. Postal Clerk collects only FB  |
| HULL DD-945           | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note#1   |
| KLONDIKE AR-22        | Yes         | No   | SF  | R. NORBY, FCCS, USN Note #1  |
| SAMUEL N. MOORE DD747 | Yes         | No   | SF  | Carl Hagan-Postal Clerk Note#1   |
| WISEMAN DE-667        | Yes         | No   | SF  | Post Office disestablished while in Reserve Training Ship status.  |
| DELTA ARG-9           | Yes         | No   | SF  | No informatipn. Note #2  |
| MONTICELLO LSD-35     | Yes         | Yes  | SF  | Note #1 and #3   |
| CARPENTER             | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note #1 and 2  |
| TOPEKA CLG-8          | Yes         | Yes  | SF  | Note#1   |
| WINSTON AKA-94        | Yes         | No other information received-No questionnaire returned. |     |  |
| MAUNA LOA AR-22       | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note#1   |
| BELLATRIX AF62        | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note#1   |
| REMEY DD-668          | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note #1  |
| O'BRIEN DD725         | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note #1  |
| PRITCHETT DD 561      | Yes         | No   | SF  | G. HOUSTON, RM3 Mail Clerk Note 1&2  |
| DE HAVEN DD727        | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note #1 and @. This ship has postmark variations   |
| VOLADOR SS-490        | No          | No   | SF  | Postal Clerk will use return address stamp for collectors.   |
| MILLS DER 383         | Yes         | No   | NY  | Note #1  |
| CHEMUNG AO-30         | Yes         | No   | SF  | Note #1 and 2. T. Maxon is interested in starting a hobby of cover collecting. Here is a collector's chance to make another Navy friend. Why not send him a surplus cover. I sent him a USCS Membership application, two covers, a friendly letter and my right hand of freindship. The ship postmark is worn out and needs replacing and in due time this will be proposed. |

Nuclear Sub Christmas Cover - a 4 color cover depicting three sub insignia of SCAMP, SCULPIN and SNOOK moored together at San Diego, California are offered at \$1.00 each. J. JONES, YNC, USN 3503 Hatteras Ave, San Diego 17, California. All 225 covers are postmarked 25 Dec 1962 with appropriate Christmas seals etc.

Mr. J.R. Fitzpatrick, Editor - The Space Explorer, P.O. Box 2296, Huntington, W.Va. advises Space Craft Covers has the USA dealership for the LOLLINI Space Stamp Catalogues. No questionnaires were received in the envelopes from the ESTES, AGC-12, GLENNON(DD-840), E.F. LARSON(DD-830) BUCKLEY(DDR-808) and OKANOGAN (APA-20).

Navphilately will take on a new look next month. February's issue will include a new shipyard roundup and latest developments on the Cooper Mercury Recovery Force.....

- Note #1 - Postal Clerk willing to assist collectors providing a very limited number are received per collector.
- Note #2 Collectors of stamps or covers are on board as indicated by the Postal Clerk.
- Note #3 Large cachet- leave entire left half of envelope blank.

#### FOUR RULES ON IMPROVEMENT

Improvement is defined in my dictionary as: (1) a change or addition whereby a thing is improved (2) something or person that represents an advance on another achievement (3) profitable use - the improvement of one's time (4) a bringing into a more desirable or valuable condition - a making or becoming better.

Will you help in making Navphilately an "improvement" by sharing the news with others in 1963? Your assistance makes us all improve.

#### SCHIFFSPOST NEWS

During the past six months Mr. Ulrich Naumann, our German writer and a very faithful correspondent has done much to promulgate the hobby of Naval Covers or ship mail in his beloved homeland. His December issue of Schiffspost News or Navphilately merits a round of applause from his fellow collectors. He is to be congratulated on his untiring efforts to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and peace.

#### ASTRONAUTICS SHIP DESIGNED

A new kind of ironclad envisioned by the Navy has been designed for an astronautics ship capable of launching three large space vehicles at sea./

Polaris missiles launched have proved that sea launchings are feasible and most desirable. Her construction similar to a large C-4 cargo hull (Mariner class), 563 foot overall, 76 foot beam and a 17,700 ton displacement with a speed of 20 knots. She will be also capable of steaming about 10,000 miles before refueling.

The seagoing launch pad is under study by the Navy and as one writer put it "the oddest thing afloat" since the Monitor and the Merrimac. Details on watertight integrity, fuel storage, protection against special hazards and personnel are now under advisement.

#### WHERE ARE THEY??????? "SHIPS IN THE NEWS"

HYADES (AF-28) enroute to the Mediterranean - only this time with a newly installed helicopter deck on her stern. Cuban Blockade ship. HUNLEY (AS-31) changes homeport to Holy Loch, Scotland effective 15 Feb 63. She will replace PROTEUS who it is rumored will take up duties at Rota, Spain. Hunley's baggage welcomes the first American ship built from the keel up as a tender for missile-firing nuclear powered Polaris subs. Tonnage - 18,300

AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE "THUNDERBOLT 1-63" underway finds the EOKER LST-4, TOMKEN AKA-103, PORT SNELLING LSD 30, RUCHANKEN APP89 and GRANT COUNTY (LST-1174) participating in the Caribbean. Returning to the U.S. in March 63.

SPRINGBOARD '63 being conducted in the vicinity of Puerto Rico consists of 110 ships; 100 aircraft and about 40,000 men. Travel with the Navy and go South for the winter.

TOMBIGEE (AOG-11) is enroute to McMurdo Sound delivering her cargo (gasoline). She is bird watching for John Hopkins in hopes of sighting some pink dyed and banded albatross to assist in a study of migratory habits.

BEGOR APA-127 now assigned inactive status. BAINBRIDGE (DLG-25) completes high speed trials off Chesapeake Lightship. Soon to be in her homeport Charlest, S.C. before accompanying Enterprise on a 5 or 6 months deployment to the Med. LONG BEACH is expected to join Bainbridge and the Big "E" in the Med late next spring. Boy what a show that will be....

GOODWILL "SOLANT AMITY" CRUISE comprises the VAN VOORHEES (DE-1028), J.K. TAUSSIG (DE-1030) and SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) spreading goodwill and medical supplies along the African Coast.

A DATE IN SPACE.... Captain Leroy G. Cooper, Jr., USAF has a scheduled date in space come April 1963.

The Navy's 1964 shipbuilding and conversion program provides for 41 new ships and 36 major conversion necessary to replace part of the obsolete World War II ships. More later ARMY & NAVY OPERATIONS find the Duval County and Cheboygan County engaged in amphibious warfare exercises with the Army. These ships will be operating from the Rodman Naval Base, Canal Zone. Everybody is going South for the winter except me....

FOREIGN NAVAL SHIP CACHETS

T. G. Nicholson, P.O. Box 8079, Norfolk 3, Va offers to cachet your covers signifying visits of foreign naval ships in the Hampton Roads area. Many of these ships are U.S. ships on loan to a foreign government. IRC accepted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

Effective 1 January 1963 the City of South Norfolk is changing it's name to Chesapeake by merging with the remainder of Norfolk County to form the third largest city in (land) the U.S. so, I may be reached by writing to:

W.R.SKELLEY, JR, YNC, USN  
1210 Earle Avenue  
Chesapeake 6, Virginia

FRIENDS OF VISITING U.S. NAVY MEN

Mr. A. L. Groeneveld, Groeneveld 21, Rotterdam 24, Holland and Mr. Hugh W. Ungricht, Sandeman Bros, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain are real pals to visiting Navy men. Won't you join me in this Holiday Season in sending them a Christmas card and say "Thank You". We need more friends like these men.

GUMMED ADDRESS LABELS

Handy Labels, 215 Jasperson Bldg, Culver City, California offer 1000 gummed address labels for a \$1.00 postpaid or 3 different orders of 1000 each for \$2.00-Here is a wonderful way to send a friend a nice but inexpensive gift for Christmas.

ANNUAL DECEMBER ENVELOPE SALE

500 -white 6-3/4 or 500 white #10(long) envelopes are offered to Navphilately readers only at discout prices. Send me a 3¢ postcard for a quotation which includes postage and handling. Orders for less than 500 not accept- ed and all orders must be computed in boxed increments of 500, 1000, 1500, etc. Offer good in U.S.A. only and expires 31 December 1962.

PHILATELIC COURTESY

Philatelic courtesy is the equivalent to manner and collectors when writing for information should always inclose a stamped envelope for the reply requested. A writer or a chapter president dealing with philatelic matters most often digs down into his own pocket to pay some expensive postage fees.

HAVE FUN AND KEEP SMILING AND THE WORLD SMILES WITH YOU- CRY AND YOU CRY ALONE.

CUBAN HIGHLIGHTS

USS BARRY (DD933) intercepts and inspects Soviet ship ANOSOV.  
USS DAHLGREN (DLG-12) trails freighter through Windward Passage  
USS VESOLE (DDR-878) close alongside & inspects Polzunov and Volgoles.  
USS NORFOLK (DL-1) photographs & inspects Leninsky Komosomol  
USS BLANDY(DD-943) inspects Kurchatov 6 and Dvinogorsk  
USS OWENS inspects Bratsk 2  
USS LEARY (DDR-879) inspects Labinsk 2  
USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148) inspects Soviet ship Labinsk 2.

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IN MEMORIAM TO A DEPARTED BROTHER

/// SGT Harry M. Shuty, USMC was ///  
/// fatally injured recently in an ///  
/// automobile accident on 15 Sep. ///  
/// Mr. Shuty handled and sponsor- ///  
/// ed many philatelic events for ///  
/// collectors. Our sincerest ///  
/// sympathy is extended to the ///  
/// loved ones at home. ///

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AUCTION OF NAVAL GOLD STAR COVERS

A really good display of covers from World War II Gold Star ships will go to the highest bidder. The collection consists of 40 covers from 37 ships, mounted on heavy card- and faced by neatly typed copies of the news- paper stories describing their sinking. Most covers are pre-war cacheted with many intersting slogans in the killer bars. The Arizona, Shaw, Utah and Oglala of the Peral Harbor disaster are included. The owner calls for mail bids instead of pre- pricing them himself. A bid high enough will also buy the 3 ring binder in which the display is housed(worth 75¢). Write to: Mr. Kenneth N. Rinker, P.O. Box 424, New Albany, Indiana. Refer to Gold Star news item - Oct issue Navphilately.

NEXT U.S. ASTRONAUT

Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., has been selected as the pilot for the next U.S. manned 24 hour space flight scheduled for April 1963. COOPER's flight could very well conclude the Project Mercury program. GEMINI Program contemplated for 1962....

## ASTRONAUT NAVAL COVERS

1. Some of you have written requesting information concerning the availability of additional sets of GLENN AND CARPENTER covers. The answer is Yes, you may now request some additional sets.

2. Schirra cachet was planned and prepared for the envelopes you sent me BUT everything went badly. The process used is very tedious and messy especially when attempting to apply this type of cachet. The reason being, the machine is manufactured for single thickness of 16lb or 20 lb paper and envelopes contain two and three thickness on the folds. All fillers had to be removed and then replaced before returning your un-cacheted envelopes. Several hundred of my covers were ruined in process but managed to salvage about 200 envelopes before the equipment destroyed the artwork. I am content they were my envelopes and not yours - aren't you?

## COLLECTOR-SHIPMATE OF THE MONTH

Navphilately's choice of the Collector-Shipmate for November, who is doing a bang up job for us all is: Mr. Morris W. Beck, P.O. Box 116, Whitewater, Wisconsin.

## SPECIAL ENVELOPES "DO IT YOURSELF"

Envelopes have been prepared depicting the President's picture on regular collector size white 6-3/4 envelopes. These are available for a "Do it yourself" projects. Send me a stamped self-addressed and a dime for the limit of 2 of these special envelopes. USCS Nuclear Ships Chapter members do have preference. Quantity available about: 175 Blanche and I are planning more of these "Do it your self covers" and we would like to have your ideas and suggestions. Also, send us a note once in a while and let us know on the progress your are making etc.

HELP WANTED: Collectors living in countries who are willing to assist U.S. collectors in obtaining covers of visiting U.S. Navy ships and ships of other Navies. Pay is negligible but friendship and experience vast.

FREE BROCHURE - entitled "Visit Historic Portsmouth" from the Portsmouth Chamber

of Commerce, Portsmouth, Virginia. This brochure contains photographs of historical interests in a Navy town.

## PUBLICATIONS:

A very worthwhile magazine full of Navy news and views "NAVY- The Magazine of Sea Power" - \$2.50 per year. Write to: The Navy League, The Mills Bldg, Washington, D.C. The Navy League was founded in 1902 and is an independent, civilian organization.

## BOY AND GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

Scouts are now receiving small packets of stamps to assist them toward earning a stamp collecting merit badge. If, you were a good Scout and contributed stamps to this project - the boys and girls are saying "Thank you" and I thank you.

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

DO NOT forget the postal rate hike effective 7 January 1963. New rates are: first class .05¢ and .08¢ for airmail. Failure to use the correct postage on your covers being returned from ships in 1963 will result in many postage dues.

## COVER CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THIS YEAR ARE ACKNOWLEDGED WITH "THANKS"....

ANTARCTIC NEWS .. USS GLACIER (AGB-4) leads the first convoy enroute to McMurdo Sound. Unfavorable weather at present is preventing flights from New Zealand to the Antarctic.

ENVELOPE CACHET SERVICES - Repeated efforts of your pal and mine, Morris W. Beck, P.O. Box 116, Whitewater, Wisconsin make it possible for us to receive beautifully cacheted covers at a fantastically low cost of .02¢ per cover. This incidently, includes postage to re-mail your envelopes to their ultimate ship destination. Repeating the famous words of Omar the tent Maker, "Say you want more for your money? Where can you get more for your money?" Mr. Beck sponsors cachets for all types of naval events. Send him 25 stamped-self addressed covers plus the service charge and you will be glad you did.



Dear Friends in America

God ever guard my memorie:  
In your divine and happy land

I find a glorious occasion and a desirable opportunity to write to all of you after I arrived home (Jordan) from my most enjoyable stay in your country.

I was graduated from Elon College in August 1962 and left for home in Sept. I heaved heavy sighs upon departing, for I became a part of all that I met. It was hard to re-collect myself. Indeed, I grieved while doing that. Still I do not possess all my shattered self; my imagination soars high over the drowsy lands of Vermont and New Hampshire<sup>9</sup> my patience departs when I remember divine Virginia; my zeal blows when memories of happy North Carolina haunt me; my love and admiration are distributed among the Americans I associated with.

To me American was a song. I yearned to see the people who sing it. America was superb ideas of a lyric. I had a great desire to compose it. America was a dream that wooed my imagination. This dream became a reality. America was a desert and the Americans made it paradise.

Three years were enough time to explore and experience. Much did I see and know; cities of men, councils, governments, climates and manners. I missed many things in not spending some time in each state. I had the pleasure to spend long or some time in or pass through many states. I had a great time in Virginia, and memorable moments with some delightful Virginians. The North Carolinians were very pleasant and wonderful. I had a glorious time with them. My experiences and memories in dear ole Elon are immortal. The dignified Elonites are impressive. A golden link of friendship joined my heart to their brave, tender hearts. I spent a mirthful time with them in school church and homes. I shared their livelihood.

Everyone of you contributed to make my stay pleasant and enjoyable. I am paying you tribute in writing and telling my experiences and memories with you.

I am endeavoring to give a true picture about the American Society. I am persuading many antagonists of the American Policy that America has a noble intention. I shall justify the American attitude toward world affairs. Of course, I do not see that this attitude can be justified all the time. For example, the American buildup of arms in Israel reseambles the Russian buildup in Cuba. We are endangered by American Rockets in Israel just as North and South America are endangered by Russian rockets.

My colleagues in college especially those I lived with in the dormitories bring to mind dear memories. The cypress-slender, silver-smiling girls were a source of rapture and ecstasy to my beauty-loving heart.

I am thankful to all my teachers who built a part of myself in college. I am thankful to all the learned people who heightened my thoughts and defined my ideology. Above all I am thankful to the dedicating Rotarians who made it possible for me to smite the ringing shores and share the joy of romance and work with great companions in divine America. I am thankful to the American Government and the Institute of International Education for the advice and facilities they offered me.

The Americans resemble, to a great extent, the old Athenians. Both were fore-runners to democracy and freedom. Like the Athenians, the Americans public opinion welcomes and honors talent in every aspect of achievement not for any sectional reason, but on the basis of excellence alone. The Americans are lovers of beauty without extravagance and lovers of wisdom without un-manliness. To them wealth is not a means for display but an opportunity for aid and a means of achievement. Though they are frank and friendly in their private dealings, they keep their public acts strictly within the controls of the law. A free nation with a constitution offering every individual the right to enterprise will triumph over crises. The Americans have a free press and an open society; they have beautiful meadows

and dignified mountains; they have purling brooks and mermaid-beautified beaches.

It is such a society that I admire and it is no wonder, therefore, that I expressed my desire to stay forever in America as it seems in this stanza of a long poem I wrote just before I flew to Jordan:

I wish that I remain a nightingale  
To sing forever in this happy land.  
It does not worth to sing in Jordan's vale;  
Passions cannot my conscience withstand.

At the present I am teaching in a teachers training college in Jordan. I seek to utilize my college knowledge in chemical industries rather than in teaching. Jordan is making great efforts to progress despite the lack of the exploited natural resources.

My prayers that peace may overwhelm earth that civilization may persist to flourish and that man may live in harmony with his brothers on other continents.

My hearty greeting and best wishes to all of you. May joy and happiness woo your hearts forever.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Nabil  
Nabil Abu-Aitah

The envelope was postmarked Bethlehem and received at the Skelley Christmas Tree before Christmas.

4 January 1963

My friends,

The above letter received from Jordan was undoubtedly the best Christmas gift I received and I wanted to share it with you.

I met Nabil briefly at Blon College last summer. He was working at Moonelon a summer camp for christian boys and girls. Nabil embraces the christian religion and in his quiet unassuming manner was loved by all the children at camp. Jordan is a poor country but this has been due to political and religious wars.

The beauty in this Arab's soul is reflected by the beautiful manner in which he sees and writes about our land - America. Arabs are naturally poetic and speak similarly.

Who among us would have a tribute of thanks and gratitude greater than the words in the letter above? Do we appreciate the freedom and achievements our forefathers labored, fought and died to preserve. It is written that we will reap what we sow but will it be in our lifetime? Will it be good that we sow or will it be unworthy to be remembered?

I find myself at a loss for words to describe - my heart-felt happiness and genuine respect for this fine young man.

This is where some of your money goes in sharing with others and it is good.

Bill Skelley