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## **American Astrophilately: The First 50 Years**

**David S. Ball : American Astrophilately: The First 50 Years** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Astrophilately: The First 50 Years:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. American Astrophilately: The First 50 Years (Purchased on 09/25/2011)By Elgin E. SinkItem which was in excellent condition was received promptly with no damage in transit. It is an excellent informative book with many historic photographs and cover illustrations and highly recommended for anybody interested in space postal history of Projects Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo and earlier. "Launch" and "recovery ship" postal history is presented in detail and many historic facts are included not previously known from earlier research on the subject. Author, David S. Ball, even provided a personalized autograph in the book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Book!By Devin T. ZellWhen it comes to philately, good books are hard to find---especially when one is looking for a book on a very specific topical subject such as astrophilately. This book is well made, well illustrated, and a pleasure to look at! A welcome addition to my library!4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Astronautics and Astrophilately CombineBy Colin BurgessAs the author of numerous books on the history of space exploration, I am constantly looking for books to fuel my ongoing interest and research. I will declare from the outset that I am not a philatelist, nor do I collect any covers or stamps to do with any nation's space programme, but I know that a great many of these items - obviously many thousands - have been printed

and released over the past few decades. That said, I found immediate fascination in David Ball's superbly-compiled book, and spent many educational hours looking through the literally hundreds of full colour images so lovingly gathered together for this book, and the accompanying text. Some of this text was not only written by authoritative collectors, but by award-winning artists and people very close to America's space programme. This amazing book harks back to the age of stratospheric balloon flights and biomedical research rocket flights, but also covers tracking ships and navy crews connected with space missions, the historic first space flight of Alan Shepard, and Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. As well, it examines such subjects as flown covers, insurance covers, postmarks, and even fraudulent covers. As a resource for any current or future astrophilatelists, or simply for anyone with a fascination for publications on space exploration, this book will prove an invaluable and even definitive resource. It is beautifully presented with quality gloss paper and colour illustrations throughout, and the text is both sublimely well written and authoritative. I love this book for the history it encapsulates, and it is a book I will refer to often. Highly recommended.

Book assists collectors in identifying tracking ships, cachets, postmarks, etc...