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AIR MAIL NEWS

Journal of the British Air Mail Society.

Formerly the British Aerophilatelic Federation and incorporating the Aero Philatelic Club, London (1923)

Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation and FISA (www.fisa-web.com)



In this issue: Our President presents Part 4 of his North Atlantic German Catapult story; Martyn Cusworth shows more mail flown by the Chilean airline LAN; David Lee discusses the Exchange of mail between France and Madagascar in September 1932; Peter Wingent introduces us to European Post & Freight Night Services; and Julian van Beveren discusses RNAS mail flown during the First World War.

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The British Air Mail Society

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LITERATURE REVIEW.

CUBA FIRST FLIGHTS AND AIRMAIL EVENTS CATALOGUE 1913 – 2018 by Adolfo Sarrias Enriquez

Published by www.filateliadelahabana.com A4 format, soft bound, 128 pages

Price: 50 Euros or US\$60. Shipping cost: Within Spain 8 Euros, within Europe 17 Euros, rest of the world 25 Euros. Order through www.filateliadelahabana.com web page or by email request to filateliadelahabana@gmail.com

The first comprehensive and authoritative Cuban first flight cover catalogue was “*El Correo Aereo en Cuba*” (1937) by Rafael Garcia, published under the auspices of El Club Filatelico de la Republica de Cuba. In the later 1940s and early 1950s, one or two pages of updates were published in a scattering of philatelic journals and mimeographed sheets.

The classic Garcia catalogue was structured in the following manner:

- Domestic Flights
- First flights from Cuba to Foreign Destinations.
- First flights from abroad to Cuba.
- Souvenir Historical and Commemorative Covers.

Crashes were also included, for crashes which occurred in Cuba or in other countries where covers to or from Cuba have been recorded.

This new Adolfo Sarrias catalogue incorporates *the American Air Mail Catalogue*, (1950 edition), Specialised Cuba Flights section, compiled by Rafael Garcia and others. That was the first comprehensive Cuba flights catalogue in English. The AAMC 5th edition, Volume 5, updated the 1950 Cuba Flights section and was lightly expanded by Mark Tyx, following AAMC listing policies.

The Cuba First Flight sections of the 2002 and the 2012 EDIFIL Specialised Cuba Catalogues basically copied the organisation of the Rafael Garcia classic ‘*El Correo Aereo en Cuba*’ Catalogue and updated and expanded slightly the listings, but took one step forward by including more items and more colour images of covers.

The new Adolfo Sarrias Cuba Flights and Events Catalogue has now entered the Cuban aerophilatelic catalogue arena. It is a bi-lingual Spanish-English catalogue bridging both worlds as well as breaking the 1937 Garcia catalogue organisation of four set groups. For the very first time, this new catalogue contains more than 400 more listings of aerophilatelic items than reported in previous Cuba first flight catalogues.

The prices for covers are shown in Euros (€) and are based on sales and offerings from the philatelic market in 2017 and 2018. Prices are not shown where covers are unknown, and the letters RRR are shown for covers which have not come on the market, but are known to be rare.

There is a 2-page bibliography which readers will find helpful.

All illustrations are in colour and there are maps of various routes which are useful.

American Air Mail Society member Mark Tyx collaborated with the author and wrote the Prologue to this catalogue.

The catalogue is very well produced and will prove essential for anyone interested in Cuban, Pan American Airways and Caribbean aerophilately.

Ken Sanford.