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David S. Ball

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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...