

THE U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.:

A HISTORY

RICHARD F. WINTER

Founding and Initial Development

Early in 1948, a small group of enthusiasts of the first United States 3¢ stamp began to explore the idea of forming a "Unit" of specialists. William W. Hicks of Rosemont, Pennsylvania, and Warren C. Stewart of Portland, Oregon, started contacting collectors to inquire of their interests in supporting a special group. Warren Stewart decided to expand the inquiry by sending a letter to all members listed in the American Philatelic Society directory who were 1851-1857 specialists. The responses he received enthusiastically favored the formation of a new Unit. By March 1948, between 25 to 30 collectors indicated a willingness to become members of the group. A set of By-Laws was drawn up and a ballot mailed out for the first set of officers. As often happens, the initial instigators were elected to become the first officers for a two-year period. William W. Hicks became the first President; Warren C. Stewart, the Secretary-Treasurer; and John Ayer, Charles A. Pfahl and J.M. Schwartz became the first Directors. The group was called "The Three Cent 1851-57 Unit," with an initiation fee of \$2.00 and annual dues of \$1.00. Application for recognition by the American Philatelic Society was made, and plans initiated to publish a newsletter and a journal. By July 1, 1948, when the deadline for charter membership arrived, 52 members were enrolled. Among this number were the leading specialists in the country on the stamps of the 1851-57 issues, including Stanley B. Ashbrook, Dr. Carroll Chase and Leo J. Shaughnessy. Dr. Carroll Chase was made an Honorary Member right from the start. About this same time, Tracy Simpson suggested the name "Route Agent" as the official designation of each member. By September 1948, President Hicks announced the acceptance of the new group by the American Philatelic Society as its Unit No. 11. (As a precondition of this acceptance, he was required to change his title to "Chairman" so as to avoid confusion with the President of the American Philatelic Society.) The name of the journal was selected as *The 3c. '51-'57 Chronicle* and the newsletter, which Bill Hicks, the "Chairman," authored, was named *Chairman's Chatter*. (These two important publications will be discussed in more detail later.) The Unit grew steadily, and by the end of its first full year, July 1, 1949, there were 116 members. To provide more operating revenue, the initiation fee was dropped at the start of the second year and the annual dues raised to \$2.00.

The 52 Charter members were:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Leo J. Shaughnessy | 14. C.S. Gridley | 27. John L. Steele, Jr. | 40. Dr. Carroll Chase |
| 2. Charles A. Pfahl | 15. Dr. Warren R. Coleman | 28. Harry I. Darr | 41. Ernest S. Park |
| 3. William W. Hicks | 16. A.R. Rowell | 29. Towner K. Webster | 42. Willard W. Davis |
| 4. Leroy C. Brown | 17. V.R. Core | 30. C.A. Weiant | 43. William A. Fox |
| 5. Tracy W. Simpson | 18. Thomas J. Holmes | 31. Gilbert M. Burr | 44. Walter A. Keightley |
| 6. Stanley B. Ashbrook | 19. Richard McP. Cabeen | 32. Clarence W. Wilson | 45. Walter I. Quelch |
| 7. Dr. Gerald B. Smith | 20. Ernest R. Jacobs | 33. Maurice C. Blake | 46. Arthur R. Davis |
| 8. Warren C. Stewart | 21. Richard K. Meyer | 34. John Ayer | 47. Daniel W. Vooy's |
| 9. Stephen C. Lyon | 22. Warren S. Anthony | 35. Richard A. Edmonds | 48. Ronald R. Atkins |
| 10. Abe Rubel, Jr. | 23. Gene Kiggins | 36. Dr. Benjamin R. Tilden | 49. Louis C. Rove |
| 11. J.W. Schwartz | 24. Lewis A. Gracey | 37. Sylvester Colby | 50. Louis C. Rove, Jr. |
| 12. D.A. Grant | 25. H.A. Eaton | 38. Arthur S. Wardell | 51. Edward J. Morgan |
| 13. Alexander I. Dumas | 26. Rev. Charles H. Gibboney | 39. H.P. Atherton | 52. Oscar Salzer |

Four members of the original 52 Charter members are still active members today! These four pioneers are Richard A. Edmonds, William A. Fox, Richard K. Meyer and Louis C. Rove, Jr.

In December 1951, Stanley Ashbrook was unanimously voted as the second Honorary Member of the Unit. Less than eight months after the Unit's first convention in Philadelphia, in March 1952, the members were saddened to learn of the death of Route Agent No. 1, Leo J. Shaughnessy. The Unit had grown to 190 members in four years.

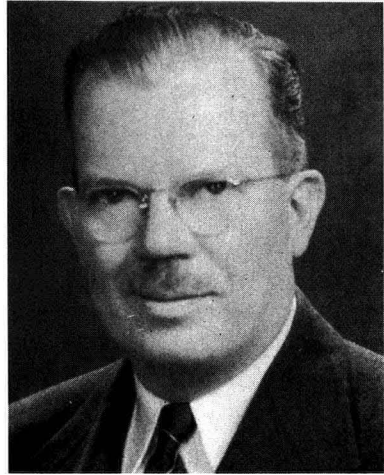
At the business meeting of the Unit during the second convention in Philadelphia, honoring the Centenary of the 1857 issue, a By-Laws amendment was proposed to change the name of the Unit to "The U.S. 1851-60 Unit." Since the study of the 3¢ stamp was interwoven with the other values of the 1851-57 issues and many of the members were students of one or more of the values, it was felt that recognition of them should be given in the name of the Unit and their studies included in *The Chronicle*. A ballot to authorize the By-Laws change was sent out in August 1957 and was quickly approved by the members. The annual dues were also increased at this time from \$2 to \$3. The Unit's growth to this date had been moderate, with 220 members by mid-1957.

In July 1960, J. David Baker assumed duties as Chairman of the Unit. He immediately began a program to broaden the influence of the Unit on U.S. philately. He felt strongly that there needed to be more active attempts to improve the understanding of the 1851-60 stamps by both the collecting and dealer communities. He also wanted to expand the membership of the Unit and to increase the number of national and regional meetings of the Unit's members. He wanted more workshops to discuss research and interest in the stamp issues and more active displaying of the material in exhibitions. He would aggressively attack each of these areas in the months to come. His first objective was to incorporate the Unit as a non-profit educational institution. Earl Oakley of Los Angeles, California, a Director and attorney, started work on this objective. Baker's second objective was to inaugurate a regular stamp column in a prominent philatelic publication. "Bakers' U.S. Classics" would appear in *Stamps* magazine as a weekly column in April 1962. The new column was authored by J. David and his brother, Hugh J. Baker, Jr., and ran for almost seven years. His third objective was to prepare programs using slides to discuss the stamps and their uses. This was a continuation of an educational effort that he had started himself six years earlier as Membership Chairman. A very active slide show program would eventually make individual slide shows available to local clubs for showing at their meetings.

After 29 months of work, the membership was sent a special issue of the *Chairman's Chatter* in December 1962 which provided a ballot to vote on the incorporation of the U.S. 1851-60 Unit under the laws of California as a non-profit corporation. Of interest under the Articles of Incorporation was the stated purpose of the organization. The Unit's area of interest was expanded to include all philatelic material during the entire period of the Classic Issues (which was not defined), not just the stamps of the 1851-60 issues. This action would ultimately support all future expansions of actual areas of interest. The ballot return was overwhelmingly in favor of incorporation, and the incorporation was completed before the next *Chairman's Chatter* in April 1963. The April 1963 *Chairman's Chatter*, however, brought news of major changes to the Unit's journal, planned for mid-1963, and in the stated area of interest of the Unit, described in more detail below under the section on *The Chronicle*. With the enlargement of the period to be covered by the Unit, it was concluded that a name change was in order. The members' views were solicited in the April 1963 *Chairman's Chatter*; any change, however, would require a By-Laws amendment. While the Unit's leaders acknowledged the faithful loyalty of the members whose special interests in the 3¢ 1851-57 brought the Unit into being, they also recognized that this expansion was necessary for the future of the organization.



Leo J. Shaughnessy
Route Agent No. 1



William W. Hicks
First President



Dr. Carroll Chase
Honorary Member



Stanley B. Ashbrook
Honorary Member

On March 2, 1964 the U.S. 1851-60 Unit became The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, incorporated this time in the State of Indiana as a not-for-profit corporation. An application was made to the Internal Revenue Service for status to receive tax-free contributions. Annual dues were raised to \$5.00 to enable more and larger issues of *The Chronicle*. The new incorporation did not change the affiliation with the American Philatelic Society as Unit No. 11. The Society leader's title was changed to President. The accomplishment of this new incorporation was largely the work of Hugh and J. David Baker. Non-profit exempt status as an educational organization, described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, was attained in September 1966.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors in March 1967, President Mortimer Neinken appointed three new Assistant Vice-Presidents. These positions were created to encourage promotion of the Society in areas of the country not otherwise covered by the regular officers and directors. These positions would provide more contact between the leadership of the Society and the growing membership. They would also furnish valuable assistance in setting up and supervising regional meetings and in checking on new applicants to the Society. By September 1970, the number of appointed Assistant Vice-Presidents was expanded to four and the appointments made on a regional basis. The selected regions were East, Midwest, South and Far West. Again, the growing size of the Society made it more desirable to have regional representation. A loose network was begun to make the Society more visible at the growing number of national shows and to promote more regional gatherings of members. In September 1975, there were seven appointed Assistant Vice-Presidents, whose title was changed to Regional Vice-President to better fit their appointed duties. This became the basis for the more formal organization of Regional Vice-Presidents which appeared later. The restructured concept would cover 15 geographic regions, each with a Regional Vice-President whose activities were coordinated by the Society Vice-President. Preliminary guidelines for today's Regional Vice-Presidents were published in the December 1992 *Chairman's Chatter*. The concept was formally embedded in the By-Laws of the Society in 1993.

Effective in July 1968, the annual dues were raised to \$7.50. A new program to encourage life memberships was introduced by reducing the payment for life membership from \$500 to \$100. This new program encouraged over two dozen members to become life members. In June 1977, dues again had to be raised, primarily to cover the greatly increased cost of printing *The Chronicle*. The new annual dues were raised to \$10 and life membership raised to \$200. Among the cost-cutting measures approved was the decision to issue membership cards only to new members.

Over the years, a number of special funds had been established in memory of prominent Society members. These funds all had special purposes, and included the Bill Hicks Publication Fund, the Baker-Meyer Slide Show Fund, the Towle-Meyer Book Fund, the Gerald V. Steward Fund and the Lester L. Downing Fund. In June 1977, these funds were combined into one new Memorial Fund. In 1990 the Board of Directors decided to devote the use of the Memorial Fund exclusively to support the Society's awards program, which had grown to become a significant annual expense.

July 1980 saw another increase in the annual dues, to \$15. Continued escalation of the costs to produce *The Chronicle* was cited as principal cause for this increase, as had been the case just three years earlier. Life membership cost was also raised to \$300.

The first separate chapter of the Society was formed in January 1981 in New York City. The New York Chapter met at the Collectors Club for its monthly meetings and still meets there today. From the beginning, the meetings presented an energetic set of guest speakers chosen by a three-member Program Committee. The success of the guest talk program has been a continuing feature of these meetings to this day. Starting in January 1982, a second Chapter was formed in Southern California to meet every two months, later

changed to four times a year. A third Chapter was formed in the Washington, D.C. area in May 1982. This was an outgrowth of a small study group that started meeting in December 1980 as the Transatlantic Study Group. Since a number of the members of the group were Society members, an application for status as a Society chapter was submitted and approved in early 1982. The chapter has met monthly ever since as the Baltimore-Washington Chapter. In late 1982, a Northern California chapter was also established, to meet monthly. Unfortunately, this chapter disbanded in early 1988 as there were not enough members to carry on activities. The latest chapter to form was the Northern New England Chapter: from January 1996, a small group of Society members has met quarterly in Newfane, Vermont.

In June 1981, President Tom Alexander reported that donations had been received from several members to establish a Research Fund to support philatelic and postal history research. A committee was created to establish the fund's goals and supervise its operations. A few months later, it was learned that the fund was started with the contributions of some shares of common stock from one member and a large collection of stamps and covers donated by another member. The estimated value of the donations was about \$25,000. The committee was deactivated a few years later, since no agreement could be reached on administration of the Research Fund. Many years later the monies of this fund were incorporated into another restricted fund, the Publication Fund, which was set aside to support Society-sponsored publishing efforts.

Effective July 1993, the annual dues were raised to \$22.50, the previous increase in dues having occurred in 1980. This latest increase was made to reverse the continuing decline in net income. *The Chronicle* and *Chairman's Chatter* costs continued to exceed the investment and dues income. Members who paid their dues promptly were offered a discount of \$2.50. Life membership fees were raised from \$300 to \$500.

In September 1996, the Society announced it had joined the sweeping changes of our modern, computer-oriented society by creating a WEB site on the Internet. The pages provide information about the Society, its publications and its programs, and are accessible to anyone on the Internet. The site is currently maintained by Mark Rogers; its URL is <http://www.scruz.net/~eho/uspcs>. Plans for the future include using this site to sell Society publications and to offer links to pages of other members or Societies. Preparation for the 21st century had already begun. Additionally, the Society created an e-mail directory, available to any member, to facilitate electronic communications among members.

Over the years the Society's growth has been slow, but steady. The initial growth was strong, with 116 members joining in the first year, but it slowed to a total of 138 members by the end of the second year, and 190 members by the end of four years. Moderate growth continued so that there were 400 members in 1963 when the *Chronicle* format was changed to the slick paper magazine format of today. Strong growth again returned in the late 1960s and early 1970s with the membership total reaching 500 in 1966, 600 in 1968, 700 in 1969, 800 in 1971, and 900 in 1973. Total membership finally attained 1,000 in 1975. From there membership slowed again with a total of 1,100 in 1977 and 1,200 in 1989. During the last eight years the membership has remained steady in the vicinity of 1,200 members. While the slowdown and lack of growth in recent years might seem cause of concern, the fact is that the Society's membership has not declined during a time when many other philatelic societies are struggling to retain their members, and in some cases, their existence.

During the fifty years of the organization's life, first as The Three Cent 1851-57 Unit, then as The U.S. 1851-60 Unit, and finally as The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, the leadership has been strong and effective. The list which follows provides a record of the principal officers of the Society, along with the Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle* and the editor of the *Chairman's Chatter*: The years listed are fiscal years beginning July 1st.

| Year | President | Vice-President | Secretary | Treasurer | Chronicle Editor | Chatter Editor |
|------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1948 | Hicks | NA | Stewart | Stewart | Simpson | Hicks |
| 1949 | Hicks | NA | Stewart | Stewart | Simpson | Hicks |
| 1950 | Hicks | Downing | Remele | Remele | Simpson | Downing |
| 1951 | Hicks | Downing | Remele | Remele | Simpson | Downing |
| 1952 | Hicks | Webster | Remele | Remele | Simpson | Downing |
| 1953 | Hicks | Webster | Remele | Remele | Simpson | Downing |
| 1954 | Webster | Smith | Remele | Remele | Simpson | Downing |
| 1955 | Webster | Smith | Remele/ Amonette | Remele/ Amonette | Simpson | Downing |
| 1956 | Webster | Smith | Amonette/ Fortgang | Amonette/ Fortgang | Simpson | Downing |
| 1957 | Webster | Smith | Fortgang | Fortgang | Simpson | Downing |
| 1958 | Smith | Baker J D | Fortgang | Fortgang | Simpson | Downing |
| 1959 | Smith | Baker J D | Fortgang | Fortgang | Simpson | Downing |
| 1960 | Baker J D | Neinken | Fortgang/ Schuh | Fortgang/ Schuh | Simpson | Downing |
| 1961 | Baker J D | Neinken | Schuh | Schuh | Simpson | Downing |
| 1962 | Baker J D | Neinken | Schuh | Schuh | Simpson | Downing |
| 1963 | Baker J D | Neinken | Schuh | Schuh | Simpson/ Hargest | Downing |
| 1964 | Neinken | Baker J D | Schuh | Schuh | Hargest | Downing |
| 1965 | Neinken | Baker J D | Schuh | Schuh | Hargest | Downing |
| 1966 | Neinken | Baker J D | Schuh | Schuh | Hargest/Graham/ Davidson | Downing/ Neinken |
| 1967 | Neinken | Baker J D | Schuh | Schuh | Davidson | Forcheimer |
| 1968 | Gallagher | Hart | Schuh | Schuh | Davidson | Forcheimer |
| 1969 | Gallagher | Hart | Schuh | Schuh | Davidson | Forcheimer |
| 1970 | Gallagher | Graham | Hegland | Schuh | Davidson | Forcheimer |
| 1971 | Gallagher | Graham | Hegland | Schuh | Davidson/ McDonald | Forcheimer |
| 1972 | Schuh | Gallagher | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Forcheimer |
| 1973 | Schuh | Gallagher | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Forcheimer |
| 1974 | Schuh | Friend | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Forcheimer/ McDonald/ Chapman |
| 1975 | Friend | Beals | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Chapman |
| 1976 | Beals | Friend | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Chapman |
| 1977 | Beals | Friend | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Chapman/ Pope |
| 1978 | Beals | Alexander | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Wierenga |
| 1979 | Beals | Alexander | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Wierenga |
| 1980 | Alexander | McDonald | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | Wierenga |
| 1981 | Alexander | McDonald | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1982 | Alexander | McDonald | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1983 | Alexander | McDonald | Hegland | Hyzen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1984 | McDonald | Pulver | Hegland | Allen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1985 | McDonald | Pulver | Hegland | Allen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1986 | McDonald | Pulver | Hegland | Allen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1987 | McDonald | Pulver | Hegland | Allen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1988 | Christian | Allen, Kelsey | Hegland | Allen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1989 | Christian | Allen, Kelsey | Hegland | Allen | McDonald | van Ingen |
| 1990 | Allen | Winter | Walker | Littauer | McDonald | Pulver |
| 1991 | Allen | Winter | Walker | Littauer | McDonald/Allen | Pulver |
| 1992 | Winter | Koppersmith | Walker | Littauer | Allen/Peterson | Pulver |
| 1993 | Winter | Koppersmith | Walker | Littauer | Peterson | Pulver |
| 1994 | Winter | Koppersmith | Walker | Littauer | Peterson | Pulver |
| 1995 | Winter | Koppersmith | Walker | Littauer | Peterson | Pulver |
| 1996 | Koppersmith | Walker | Hulme | Littauer | Peterson | Pulver |
| 1997 | Koppersmith | Walker | Hulme | Littauer | Peterson | Pulver |

The Chronicle

As mentioned earlier, the original members of The Three Cent 1851-57 Unit had decided from the start that a technical publication was desired. Tracy W. Simpson of Berkeley, California, agreed to be the first editor. The name chosen for the publication was *The Chronicle*. Tracy Simpson had been gathering data on cancellations to supplement Dr. Chase's book on the 3¢ 1851-57. Dr. Chase agreed that *The Chronicle* would be the official vehicle for corrections and additions to his book. On July 25, 1948 a significant milestone for the Unit was achieved with the publication of Issue No. 1 of *The Chronicle* under Tracy Simpson. He would remain its distinguished Editor-in-Chief for another 15 years. The first *Chronicle* was a 12-page, hand-typed, offset-printed document with an additional slick page for illustrations. The purpose of the journal, which was called The 3c. '51-'57 *Chronicle*, was "to record matters of interest concerning the varieties and uses of the stamp to which it is dedicated." To set up a reserve against the cost of publication of the journal, a special bulletin was sent with the first *Chairman's Chatter* in the fall of 1948, announcing the formation of a Publications Fund. *The Chronicle* was projected to cost about \$225 per year (200 copies printed of each issue) and could be sustained only with contributions to the Publications Fund from the members. Member response was immediate. By July 1, 1949 four issues had been published, full of well-written material on postal markings and plate varieties of the 3¢ 1851-57 stamps. Writing a brief history of the Unit in 1951, Charles W. Remele stated his belief that "the *Chronicle*, by itself, under Tracy Simpson's capable editorship, has more than justified all the time and money that have gone into the organization and development of the Unit which made that publication possible."

Bill Hicks wrote in his second *Chairman's Chatter* (December 1948) that he felt obligated to tell the members a little about their *Chronicle* editor as Tracy Simpson would not mention his qualifications himself. He continued by saying that Tracy Simpson had completed all the '51 plates, 2,600 positions, with the exception of only one position, and that he had a prize winning cover and cancellation collection, with many of the rarities, in the finest quality. He also mentioned that Simpson had prior publishing experience, in addition to his thorough knowledge of the 3¢ stamps, and that the Unit was very fortunate to have acquired his services, which were purely voluntary.

As a result of the By-Laws revision approved in mid-1957, which changed the name of the Unit, *Chronicle* No. 29, issued in October 1957, showed the revised title of *The U.S. 1851-'60 Chronicle*. This name would remain until the publication changed to a slick paper magazine in mid-1963.

In April 1963 major changes were about to take place in the organization and its journal. After 44 issues and 15 years as editor of the *Chronicle*, Tracy Simpson was ready to step down. This coincided with a planned dramatic change in the format of the journal. Prior to mid-1963, *The Chronicle* had been offset from typed manuscript with one or more plates of illustrations as the final pages. Starting in July 1963, the publication was changed to a slick paper magazine with type-set content and high quality halftone illustrations, the same size as *The American Philatelist*. Also, the scope was to change, to include all postal stamps and usages from the 1847 through the 1861-68 issues. The name of the publication was changed to *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Issues*. Dr. George E. Hargest of Worcester, Massachusetts, consented to undertake the publishing and editorship of the new journal. A new group of section editors was established, containing the following sections: 1847-1851 Period, 1851-1860 Period, 1861-1867 Period, and Transatlantic Mail Period. (The Section Editors will be discussed more in a later section of this history.)

In August 1966, George Hargest had to relinquish his position as Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle*, having been responsible for the first eight issues of the newly-formatted journal. During his visit to SIPEX in Washington, D.C. in May 1966, he had suffered a coronary attack. His recuperation necessitated a quieter and less active life. He did elect to



Tracy W. Simpson
***Chronicle* Editor-in-Chief**
1948 - 1963



Susan M. McDonald
***Chronicle* Editor-in-Chief**
1971-1991

retain his additional duties as section editor of the Transatlantic Mails section. Richard B. Graham of Columbus, Ohio, agreed to assume the Editor-in-Chief role on a temporary basis for the next two issues while a search for a new Editor-in-Chief was conducted. By October 1966 Robert L.D. Davidson, from Fulton, Missouri, agreed to assume the task as Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle*. With Edwin A. Christ as his Associate Editor, he began almost five years as Editor-in-Chief with his first issue, No. 55, in June 1967. In February 1968, *The Chronicle* became a quarterly journal from one produced only two or three times a year.

November 1971 saw the resignation of Robert L.D. Davidson as Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle*. He had relied very heavily on his Associate Editor, Edwin Christ, to produce the journal. When Christ died unexpectedly of a heart attack, Davidson decided that he could not continue as Editor-in-Chief. Susan M. McDonald of Canton, Ohio, took over the duties as Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle*, which had grown into an award-winning journal. Her first issue was in February 1972. She would be the Editor-in-Chief for the next 20 years, during which she would guide *The Chronicle* through numerous changes. The current 72-page size with the expanded areas of interest, to include articles from stampless, Postmaster Provisionals, locals, and carriers and other topics up to the Bureau issues, was approved by the Board of Directors in April 1977. This had been recommended by Susan McDonald as a measure to counter the probable loss of members expected when the annual dues were increased in 1977. Continued recognition for excellence would be the hallmark of the journal under Susan McDonald. When she started, *The Chronicle* was a 48-page journal with six sections and principal editors. When she ended her long term as Editor-in-Chief, *The Chronicle* was a 72-page journal with nine sections and 13 principal and associate editors, reflecting the expanding interests of the Society.

A series of articles appeared in *The American Philatelist* from March through June 1973, in tribute to the 25th Anniversary of the Society. These articles, along with a few reprinted from earlier issues of *The Chronicles*, were gathered into a 64-page reprint booklet published by the Society in May 1974, called the *Silver Anniversary Booklet*. It was edited by Susan McDonald. The format size was the same as *The Chronicle*. A copy was provided free to each member.

In May 1981, publication of *The Chronicle* was moved to Canton, Ohio, from Columbia, Missouri, where it had been printed since November 1967. The delays and frustrations in working with a printer at a distant location finally caused the Editor-in-Chief to select a nearby printer. This enabled her to restore and maintain the regular issue schedule. Printing has remained in Canton, Ohio, to this date.

Following *The Chronicle's* change to a slick paper magazine in July 1963, it slowly expanded its coverage to reflect the widening interests within the Society. The original magazine, which appeared under the editorship of George Hargest, had four sections: 1847-'51 Period, 1851-'60 Period, 1861-'69 Period, and The Transatlantic Mails. The Cover Corner section started in the 1847-'51 Period section, but moved to its own section with Issue No. 47 in June 1964. The editorial board had new editors to cover waterway markings and railroad markings from February 1967, but material in these areas appeared under the 1861-'69 section. In February 1969, with Issue No. 61, a new section on Railroad Postmarks was started. In February 1973, Issue No. 77, the Bank Note section was added to *The Chronicle*. In May 1973, The Transatlantic Mails section was changed to The Foreign Mails section to reflect an interest in all foreign mails, not just those that crossed the Atlantic. The February 1974 issue, No. 81, brought the addition of a separate section on the 1869 Period. Previously, this area had technically belonged to the 1861-'69 Period. The Prestamp and Stampless Period section was added in Issue No. 96 in November 1977. The next change did not occur until February 1982, Issue No. 113, when the U.S. Carriers section was added. The last official section to be added was the Officials *et al.* section, which commenced in May 1990 with Issue No. 146. One "working" section was created in November 1993, issue No. 160, to handle a series of articles about special printings, which had been moved from the "back-of-the-book" category. This section, called Special Printings 1875-84, has been the product of William E. Mooz. In August 1995, Issue No. 167, the name of the U.S. Carriers section was expanded to include Independent Mails. In the 35 years of *The Chronicle* as a slick paper magazine, there have been only four permanent and two temporary Editors-in-Chief. In this same period, the Editorial Board, published on the masthead of *The Chronicle*, has had only 39 section editors, associate and assistant section editors.

Color first appeared in *The Chronicle* No. 90, the May 1976 issue, which was dedicated to Interphil 76, the international show in Philadelphia. Robson Lowe donated four color pages of covers that appeared at the center of the journal. The use of color was an instant success, but an expense which the Society was not willing to add to its budget. Ten years later, in Issue No. 130 (May 1986), dedicated to the international show in Chicago, AMERIPEX '86, Christie's and Robson Lowe donated a color section. This time 19 pages of color pictures of important classic U.S. covers appeared in the center of the journal. Since then color has appeared on only four other occasions, each time in a four-page paid advertisement for the sale of a major collection inserted at the centerfold.

Another initiative found in *The Chronicle* was introduced in August 1990 by Editor-in-Chief McDonald. Issue number 147 included a separately produced, card-covered supplement, provided at no charge to all members. It consisted of a 24-page monograph by Richard F. Winter on mails between the U.S. and Spain, carried under the British mail treaties during the period 1849-1876. This experiment prevented having to break up a lengthy article over several issues of *The Chronicle*. It also made the complete monograph available in a separate format for easy reference. It was hoped to print additional suitable manuscripts in this way in the future.

Susan McDonald passed away in March 1992, having finally succumbed to a long, difficult battle with cancer. Her last issue of *The Chronicle* was the February 1992 issue, much of the preparation of which had been with the assistance of Thomas F. Allen, residing in nearby Cleveland, Ohio. He took over as acting Editor-in-Chief and edited four issues while a search was undertaken for a more permanent Editor-in-Chief. In May 1993,

The Chronicle came under the editorship of our current Editor-in-Chief, Charles J. Peterson of Laurel, Maryland.

Section Editors

From its inception, *The Chronicle* has been the main attraction to membership in the Society. Over the years *The Chronicle* has had a pattern of gradual expansion to cover segments of United States stamps and postal history not previously covered. The Section Editors have been unquestionably the reason for the appeal of *The Chronicle* and the popularity of the expansion of topics. Their expertise and competence have been the key factors, together with the ability of the Editors-in-Chief to bring the sections together to make a whole that has covered a full range of U.S. stamps and postal history prior to the Bureau Issues of stamps of 1894. Thus, while the Editor-in-Chief was responsible on a policy basis of selecting what appeared in the magazine, it was the Section Editors who were responsible for the actual content that was produced and for its quality of scholarship and writing. The reputation of *The Chronicle* shows that all these aims have been achieved consistently over the years.

As mentioned earlier, the publication was first called *The 3c. '51-'57 Chronicle*, and the heading of the first issue had an editor's note stating "the purpose of this CHRONICLE is to record matters of interest concerning the varieties and uses of the stamp to which it is dedicated." At that time, Tracy W. Simpson, an electrical engineer living in Berkeley, California, was, as he styled it, "Ye Editor," and he continued to edit the journal for its first 44 issues. However, even in those early issues, specialists served more or less as defacto editors for their specialties. Charles Remele and Bill Hicks wrote on railroads, George Hargest on transatlantic mails and Henry A. Meyer wrote about steamboat mails. There were many others who reported data.

When *The Chronicle* was expanded to include the 1847 and 1861 stamp issues and their uses in July 1963, it went from an 8½" x 11" typescript, offset publication to a small slick paper magazine, mainly to provide quality halftones, adopting the then 7" x 10" format of *The American Philatelist*. This change also brought a sectionalized organization, based upon the stamp issues it now covered, plus a transatlantic mails section. Railroad markings were also included as sub-sections under the stamp sections. This organization for the magazine turned out to be well-received, as were the editors of the various sections, together with the Editor-in-Chief, a highly respected staff producing a superb publication.

At the time of the journal's reorganization, beginning with Issue No. 45 of July 1963, when Professor Hargest of Clark University took over as Editor-in-Chief, the Baker Brothers of Indianapolis, Hugh and David, became Section Editors for the 1847-51 Period section, with Creighton C. Hart of Kansas City as Associate Editor. There was an understanding that Creighton Hart would assume the section editorship as soon as he could make time to do so. This took about a year, but in Issue No. 48 of October 1964, Creighton Hart took over the 1847-51 Period section. He carried the 1847 section through Issue No. 86 of May 1975, when Susan M. McDonald took over, temporarily, until Hart could resume with the issue of May 1977, No. 94. Creighton Hart finally relinquished the section for good after Issue No. 122 (May 1984). Until Jerome Wagshal took over the section, now called the 1847 Period section, with the issue of August 1993, No. 159, the 1847s were represented only by an occasional article inserted by Editor-in-Chief McDonald. Wagshal served through Issue No. 175 (August 1997); Wade Saadi, the current 1847 Period editor, took office commencing with Issue No. 176.

The 1851-60 Period section, which covered the original stamp issue period around which the Society was formed, continued to be edited by Tracy W. Simpson until August 1969, Issue No. 63. He asked to be relieved as Section Editor because of other pressing demands on his time. During the 21 years that he had been first Editor-in-Chief and later Section Editor of *The Chronicle*, he had brought a wealth of knowledge and assistance to

the members, mostly as an author rather than as editor. Now he generously made his files and notes available to the new Section Editor, Thomas J. Alexander, who was assisted by David T. Beals III, both of Kansas City. In November 1977, Issue No. 96, the section title was amended slightly to The 1851-61 Period. When Dave Beals died in April 1987, Tom Alexander continued as Section Editor until he retired just after the death of Editor-in-Chief Susan M. McDonald in March 1992; he had been a Section Editor for 23 years. Professor Hubert C. Skinner assumed the editorship of that section with the issue of August 1992, No. 155.

The 1861-69 Period section, which at times has included the stamps of 1869, commenced with Henry A. Meyer as Section Editor. Richard B. Graham was named an Associate Editor for Civil War Postal History and Charles L. Towle an Associate Editor for Railroad Postmarks. It soon developed that the railroad section had so much material on hand to publish that it needed to be presented as a book. With Issue No. 49, February 1965, Henry Meyer took over editing what became the Meyer-Towle book on railroad markings, and Richard B. Graham took over as temporary Section Editor until the book was completed. Unfortunately, Henry Meyer died before the book was published, and Dick Graham continued in the temporary [!] appointment for another 27 years, through Issue No. 156 (November 1992). William J. Herzog provided assistance by serving as Associate Editor of the section commencing with Issue No. 106 of May 1980 and remaining until No. 138 of May 1988. He helped rectify the balance between stamp and postal history related subjects in the 1861-69 Period section by providing expertise on the 1861 stamp issues. In addition, Bert Christian, Cliff Friend and Ken Gilbert served as Contributing Editors for this section in the 1980s. Michael C. McClung took over as 1861-69 Period Editor with Issue No. 157 (February 1993), and continues to serve in that position.

Although the information about the 1869 stamp issue had been included in the 1861-69 Period section in the early years of the slick paper *Chronicle*, a separate section was created with Issue No. 81 of February 1974. Michael Laurence became the 1869 Period Section Editor and continued until he became Editor of *Linn's Stamp News*. Michael Laurence ended his 8½ years as Section Editor with *Chronicle* No. 116 in November 1982. Scott Trepel became the 1869 Period Section Editor starting with *Chronicle* No. 123, of August 1984. Jon Rose joined as an Assistant Section Editor with Issue No. 155 of August 1992, serving through Issue No. 175 (August 1997).

A Bank Note Period section was inaugurated in February 1973 (Issue No. 77) to encourage collectors of these stamp issues to share their knowledge. Morrison Waud became the first Bank Note Period Section Editor. Arthur Van Vlissingen joined as Associate Editor with *Chronicle* No. 82 in May 1974, but retired due to ill health after issue No. 95 in August 1977. Morrison Waud was succeeded by Richard M. Searing with *Chronicle* No. 105, February 1980. Dick Searing held the post until M. Jack Reinhard took over with *Chronicle* No. 161 in February 1994. Joe H. Crosby succeeded Jack Reinhard with *Chronicle* No. 173, February 1997.

For a very long time there had been a quiet movement to initiate a section in *The Chronicle* dealing with the prestamp and stampless period. Henry Meyer had been an advocate as early as 1967. Finally, at the 1977 Board of Directors meeting, an expansion of *The Chronicle* to a 72 page journal was approved, allowing for new sections. The Prestamp and Stampless Period Section was created with Kenneth R. deLisle the first Section Editor, appearing in *Chronicle* No. 96 of November 1977. Being a section based upon a time period and also a subject, the Pre-Stamp and Stampless Cover Period included some periods of simultaneous existence with the use of postage stamps. Kenneth deLisle was succeeded as Section Editor by Charles I. Ball with the February 1982 issue, No. 113.

Susan M. McDonald and Charles Ball were both designated Associate Editors of the section in May 1983 until relieved by Frank Mandel as Section Editor with the August 1986 issue, No. 131. Van Koppersmith became an Assistant Section Editor in February 1996 with Issue No. 169; Koppersmith stepped down with Issue No. 175 (August 1997), and was replaced by James W. Milgram.

Several sections of *The Chronicle* have been based upon a specific subject, rather than a span of years that covered the use of a specific issuance of stamps. The earliest of these were the Transatlantic Mails, later called the Foreign Mails, and the Railroad Postmarks.

In the offset typescript *Chronicle* days, both Tracy Simpson and George Hargest wrote about transatlantic mails, and this carried over into the slick paper journal, with Hargest providing the section editorship along with being Editor-in-Chief. With Issue No. 53 of October 1966, George Hargest continued as The Transatlantic Mails Section Editor even though giving up the main responsibility of getting out the magazine due to illness. In May 1973, Hargest announced that he had to give up editorship of The Transatlantic Mails section due to deteriorating health after a heart attack a year and a half earlier. At the same time, the section name was changed to The Foreign Mails section to reflect an interest in all foreign mails, not just those that crossed the Atlantic. Until a new Section Editor could be found, the work was carried on by a group of Contributing Editors, identified in November 1973, Issue No. 80, as Charles J. Starnes, Walter Hubbard, Susan M. McDonald, James T. Davis and George Hargest. Charles Starnes of Midland, Michigan, and Walter Hubbard of London, England, became Associate Editors for the section and took over control of the section with *Chronicle* No. 87 in August 1975. George Hargest was named Editor Emeritus of the Foreign Mails Section. Hargest died February 1983 and Hubbard in April 1984, at which time Charles Starnes became Section Editor, alone. Richard F. Winter became Associate Section Editor with *Chronicle* No. 127 in August 1985, and took over the section with Issue No. 154 in May 1992 when Charles Starnes retired due to ill health. Jeffrey C. Bohn became Assistant Section Editor with *Chronicle* No. 156, November 1992.

The Railroad Postmarks section began with articles based upon the 1851-61 era by William W. "Bill" Hicks, the Society's first president. He continued to write a Railroad Postmark subsection for the 1851-61 era when the slick paper *Chronicle* began in July 1963 with Issue No. 45, but confined it to railroad markings used prior to 1861. Charles L. Towle, as was noted previously, did a subsection under the 1861-69 period for railway markings and railway post office markings used after 1861. Then it was decided to present Towle's voluminous postmark records as a book, with Henry Meyer as Editor, but while this was going on, Bill Hicks died in August 1966. Thus, beginning with *Chronicle* No. 54 of February 1967, Charles Towle became Associate Editor for all Railroad Postmarks and Henry Meyer, Associate Editor for Waterways Markings. Unfortunately, Henry Meyer died in March 1968 before his new section could really get started. Beginning in *Chronicle* No. 62, May 1969, Charles Towle was listed as "Section Editor" rather than "Assoc." reflecting the fact that he, alone, was carrying the section. He continued as Section Editor until his death in April 1990. There was no replacement, mainly because Towle's efforts had generated several publications on railway markings published by the Mobile Post Office Society, which continues to provide listings and additions.

A sub-section of the 1861-69 Period section was originally set up for Civil War postal history, to include Confederate as well as Federal matters. However, when Dick Graham became the Section Editor in February 1965, this sub-section lost its identity and was folded into the 1861-69 Period, never to be listed separately again. Articles on Civil War postal history appeared frequently during the many years that Dick Graham was Section Editor, because of his avid interest and extensive knowledge of this area.

With the inception of the slick paper *Chronicle*, No. 45 of July 1963, there was a section called the Cover Corner, edited by J. David Baker. Originally it appeared at the end of the 1847-51 Period section, edited by the Baker Brothers. The section featured a puzzling cover which required explanation of the postal history. Each issue presented a problem cover and relied upon explanations from the readers, the responses appearing in the following issues. In June 1964, two issues later, the section was detached from the 1847-51 Period section and received its own separate location at the end of the journal, a place that it has retained to date. J. David Baker handled this section through the issue of August 1969. Susan M. McDonald took over the Cover Corner in *Chronicle* No. 65 of February 1970. Scott Gallagher became editor of the Cover Corner in *Chronicle* No. 87 of August 1975, and Raymond W. Carlin became Assistant Editor with Issue No. 164 of November 1994.

A new section on U.S. Carriers, under the editorship of Robert B. Meyersburg, commenced in *Chronicle* No. 113 of February 1982, although the section was not included in the Editorial Board listing until Issue No. 122 of May 1984. The original purpose of the section was to publish Elliott Perry's notes on carriers and locals, which had been acquired by and were now provided by Robson Lowe. The section proved very popular and became a regular feature after the Perry material was no longer available. Steven M. Roth became Assistant Section Editor for the section with *Chronicle* 156 of November 1992. He later became Section Editor when Bob Meyersburg retired after over 13 years as Section Editor, effective with *Chronicle* No. 165 of February 1995. With Issue No. 167 in August 1995, the section title was changed to U.S. Carriers & Independent Mails to allow expansion into the large area of local mails. Thomas E. Stanton became Assistant Section Editor with Issue No. 168, November 1995.

Another new section was added to *The Chronicle* in May 1990, Issue No. 146, called "Officials *et al.*" Under Section Editor Dr. Alfred E. Staubus of Columbus, Ohio, this section, while mainly based upon the U.S. Departmental official stamps, also was to include other "back-of-the-book" subjects. Alan Campbell became Assistant Section Editor with *Chronicle* No. 159, August 1993, and took over as Section Editor when Dr. Staubus retired due to press of other work, with *Chronicle* No. 163 of August 1994. Lester C. Lanphear was added as Assistant Section Editor in November 1995 (Issue No. 168).

While Editor-in-Chief, Susan McDonald started a section called "Guest Privilege," and several fine articles appeared in this section starting in the 1970s. Among these were Philip Wall's series on U.S. Postmaster provisionals, Muys and Giphart's serial on mail between the Netherlands and the United States, J.C. Arnell's works on transatlantic mails between Canada and Europe, and his Vignettes, Dr. Stanley Bierman's series on great collectors of the past, Colin Tabear's series on Postage Rates between the U.K. and North and Central America and the Caribbean, 1711-1900, and Robert Stets' research on U.S. Government-Authorized Private Mail Service, 1787-1800. Under this heading, many shorter but significant articles appeared and some, such as Robson Lowe's Philadelphia Local Posts, in *Chronicle* No. 90, the Interphil Centennial issue of May 1976, probably paved the way for later sections that became permanent in *The Chronicle*.

Chairman's Chatter

September 30, 1948 was the date of the first *Chairman's Chatter*. William W. (Bill) Hicks, whose title changed from President to Chairman when the Unit was recognized by the American Philatelic Society as Unit No. 11, decided to issue a newsletter periodically to the members. He intended to cover current Unit activities, such as introducing new members, circulating members' "want lists," providing officer and committee reports to the members, and just passing on current news in a bulletin that would appear between issues of *The Chronicle*. He called his newsletter the *Chairman's Chatter*.

Besides the attached member Want and For Sale lists, the *Chairman's Chatter* soon announced (December 1948) the start of a Unit Sales Department. The intent was to distribute sales circuit books, similar to those of the American Philatelic Society. J.M. Schwartz of Portland, Oregon, temporarily accepted assignment as Sales Manager until a permanent manager could be found. The Sales Department lasted for about a year and was only moderately successful, when it was shut down for lack of good material and the growing business duties of the temporary manager. In early 1950, the Sales Department was again set up, this time under a new Sales Manager, Dr. W. Scott Pollard of California. He retained this position for six years, then transferred the duties to Dr. Wilbur Amonette of Radford, Virginia.

By early 1950, the *Chairman's Chatter* began announcing the members' success at exhibiting. In addition, there were numerous calls for material from members engaged in studies, some of which may be considered pioneering efforts today. Also, members seeking specific items for their collections made their needs known through the pages of the *Chairman's Chatter*. The *Chatter* continued to provide a healthy amount of social information about the Unit members, such as regional get-togethers of members, talks given at shows and club meetings around the country, recognition of members by leading philatelic newspapers and journals, new articles or publications by members planned or coming to fruition, etc.

May 1950 saw the first *Chairman's Chatter* issued under the hand of Lester L. Downing of Concord, Massachusetts. He took over the duties of preparing the newsletter from Bill Hicks. Downing would be at the helm of the *Chatter* for the next 16 years. In early 1952, another trial effort was made to run paid member buy- and-sell ads in the *Chairman's Chatter*; a key feature in earlier *Chatters* but one that had fallen into disuse. The renewed effort didn't have a very long life. A new classified section appeared in *Chronicle* No. 55, June 1967, on the last page, for members to advertise items they wished to sell or buy, and has continued ever since.

Lester Downing's *Chatters* were full of information about the activities of the members, presented in a highly readable fashion. Because he recorded so much information, today we have an excellent picture of the early and formative years of the Society, when it grew to roughly half the size it is today. The May 1967 issue of the *Chairman's Chatter* was issued by President Mortimer Neinken, substituting for Lester Downing who had to give up the editorship of the newsletter which he had faithfully performed so well since 1950. In October 1967, the newsletter appeared under a new editor, Leon C. Forcheimer of Houston, Texas. The new editor, a professional journalist for the *Houston Post*, immediately established that he would not only continue the newsworthy style of Lester Downing, but add his own flair to it. Seven more years of highly informative *Chairman's Chatters* followed, continuing to provide a healthy social history of the members' philatelic activities.

Following Leon Forcheimer's unexpected death in October 1974, Susan McDonald edited the November 1974 *Chairman's Chatter*. The February 1975 issue came out under the new editor, Benjamin E. Chapman of Memphis, Tennessee. The talented combination of Lester Downing and Leon Forcheimer had produced over 24 years of *Chairman's Chatters* full of important information about the Society and its members. In fact, a substantial portion of the information contained in this history came from the observations and faithful reporting of these two great *Chatter* editors. Their legacy was as important as the wonderful articles in the Society's technical journal.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors in Williamsburg, Virginia, in March 1973, Dr. Wilbur Amonette, who had managed the Sales Department for 15 years, asked for and received permission to close out this activity. He cited the members' apparent lack of interest in supplying materials for the circuit books.

November 1977 saw the last issue of the *Chairman's Chatter* under editor Benjamin Chapman due to business pressures. Elizabeth Pope of Webster Groves, Missouri, who was the Society's Program Chairman, volunteered as a temporary *Chatter* editor, producing the March 1978 issue. The next issue, which was delayed until September 1978, was the product of a new editor, Theron Wierenga of Holland, Michigan. He remained editor for almost four years. Starting in June 1981, Louise van Ingen of Placentia, California became the new editor of the *Chairman's Chatter*.

The October 1990 issue brought a new *Chairman's Chatter* editor, Dale R. Pulver of Mentor, Ohio. Under editor Pulver, the *Chairman's Chatter* entered a new phase of quality production with offset printing in a magazine-style format and the introduction of photographs. The photography was an important addition to the newsletter and was well received.

Book Publications

The Unit first became involved with book publication with the 1951 and 1957 Centennial conventions, which will be discussed later under the section on annual meeting and venues. The next involvement in the publication of a book did not start out with the intention of publishing a manuscript, but ended up that way. In May 1955, Charles W. Remele passed away. He had played a very important, influential part in the formation and early success of the Unit. In September 1955, the Editor of *The American Philatelist*, Charles Hahn, contacted the Unit and indicated that he had authority and was considering publishing, in book form, Remele's material on the railroad markings of the U.S. up to 1861. At the time of his death, Remele was considered the best authority on the subject. The American Philatelic Society did not wish to proceed with the publication of Remele's work without substantial pledges from the Unit's members that they would buy the book and cover the cost of publication. While the initial response of the members was encouraging, it was not as quickly forthcoming as might have been wished. The decision to publish the work was delayed. By 1958, however, the picture had changed. The American Philatelic Society approved donating the copyrights of the Remele railroad articles, some of which had been published in *The American Philatelist* since May 1955, to the Unit. Included was the type set and halftone cuts which had been made. The condition was that the Unit agree to publish the articles in book form. The Unit gladly accepted the offer. An editorial committee of William Hicks, Tracy Simpson and William Wyer was created, which took over responsibility of reviewing the original manuscript, making necessary corrections, and preparing the pages on newly reported railroad markings not included in the original. In early 1958, the hard cover book, *United States Railroad Postmarks, 1837 to 1861*, printed in Federalsburg, Maryland, was published by the Unit in a very limited edition as part of the American Philatelic Society Handbook Series. It contained the most comprehensive listings, published to that time, of the early U.S. railroad postal markings up to 1861 including exact tracing sizes, estimated rarity by numbers of examples known, and historical information about the railroads and stations. The book sold at \$7.50 with a pre-publication order offer of \$7.00 to Unit members only. In a period of ten months, all 535 copies of the Remele book were sold. This was the first publishing effort of the Unit. The two earlier books associated with the Centennial Exhibitions were published by the National Postal Museum in Philadelphia and not by the Unit, although substantial portions of the expenses of those books had been subsidized by Unit members through their donations.

The next association with book publishing occurred in early 1959. Unit member Tracy W. Simpson's long awaited book, *U. S. Postal Markings and Related Mail Services, 1851-1861*, was published at Simpson's own expense, under the auspices of the U.S. 1851-60 Unit, urged on and encouraged by its members. Cataloging projects that had run for years under Simpson's hand in *The Chronicle* had been completed and were fully covered

in the book. The printing of 1,200 copies was priced at \$6.50 each, including the supplemental Pricing Pamphlet. Future Addenda and Corrigenda began to appear immediately in *Chronicle* No. 34 (August 1959) and continued for many years as new finds were discovered and reported.

In October 1966, a special issue of the *Chairman's Chatter* was sent out to tell the members about a new project that needed their help. The Society was interested in publishing the material collected by Charles Towle on railroad cancellations, a book that would cover railroad markings after 1861 and supplement the Remele work that had been published by the Society in 1958. A decision had been made by the Board of Directors not to commit the sparse funds of the Society to publishing the book, but rather to establish a Guarantee Fund, composed of contributions from members that would be refunded when book sales permitted. It was also announced that about 1,000 copies of the book would be printed and the book price would be \$10. A special pre-publication offer was made allowing members to buy up to two copies at \$7.50 each. By January 1967, the Society was able to announce that sufficient funds had been received for the Guarantee Fund to commence with the publication of the Towle book. The February 1969 *Chairman's Chatter* was finally able to report publication of *Railroad Postmarks of the United States, 1861-1886*, under the names of both Charles L. Towle and Henry A. Meyer. The book was printed in Federalsburg, Maryland, with the final editing completed by Dick Graham. Henry Meyer had been the original editor, but he died from a heart attack in March 1968 before the work was completed. This long-awaited book, published by the Society, was considered an extension of the earlier Remele book. Approximately 1,200 copies of the book were printed. In September 1969, the price of the book was raised to \$12.50 per copy, but less than 200 copies remained, the long pre-publication period having resulted in the sale of most of the copies. The book immediately achieved status as the most definitive work on the railroad markings of the 1861-1886 period. *The Chronicle* was designated as the source to report new railroad markings, under the Railroad Postmarks Section edited by Charles Towle.

Society members learned from the September 1970 *Chairman's Chatter* that the Society would sponsor Mortimer Neinken's new book, *The United States One-Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861*. This book, built upon the first volume of the two-volume work by Stanley Ashbrook, would illustrate a complete replating of nine of the 12 plates of the 1¢ stamp, with more than 1,600 additional plating drawings over those shown in Ashbrook. A new Guarantee Fund was established to finance the Neinken book. By January 1971, it was announced that the Neinken book would run about 500 pages, with 2,300 illustrations, would cover all 12 plates of the 1¢ stamp, and be printed in a quantity of 1,250 copies. It was hoped that the printing would be completed by mid-1971. It would take another year before the book was available to fill advanced orders. Again, a good pre-publication offer was made to the Society members of \$15 for the regular edition and \$20 for the deluxe binding version. By April 1971, the Guarantee Fund goals had been met and exceeded. Over 600 copies of the Neinken book were ordered by members before the book was produced, but plans to limit the printing to 1,250 copies remained unchanged. In mid-1972, the 550-page Neinken book was completed and advanced subscriptions filled. The book was edited by Dick Graham and printed in Federalsburg, Maryland. Because there were so many advance orders, there were only about 150 copies remaining unsold and available to non-members when the book was published. By the end of the year the book was completely sold out.

A rare and fragile volume of *Hugh Finlay's Journal*, written in 1773 and 1774 when Finlay examined the postal affairs of colonial America, and set into type in 1867 in an edition of 150 copies, was donated to the Society by David Jarrett of New York City in early 1974. He hoped the work would be reprinted by the Society to coincide with the bicenten-

nial of the American Revolution. In September 1975, the Society announced that it had reprinted *Hugh Finlay's Journal* and that it was ready for shipment. The journal was actually a daily record kept by Finlay, the Surveyor of the General Post Office in the Colonies, as he travelled from Canada to Maine and from Charleston to Virginia, examining the post offices and post roads. Copies of the reprinted journal were sent at no charge to numerous historical societies, libraries and philatelic organizations, and were sold to members at \$3.50 per copy.

An article in the May 1973 *Chairman's Chatter* revealed that work had begun to update Tracy Simpson's *U. S. Postal Markings and Related Services, 1851 to 1861*, the book sponsored by the Society in 1959. Tom Alexander got approval from Tracy Simpson to prepare a revised and updated version, including the use of full-size markings instead of the half-size drawings used in the original work. The Board of Directors decided to delay any decisions on financing the new book until the work was much further along. In March 1974, the Board of Directors agreed to express the intent to support the publication. The work was far enough along in October 1976 to involve direct discussions with the Publications Planning Committee under Dick Graham. Pre-publication orders for the book were accepted starting in the Fall of 1979 at \$20 to members; the regular publication price would be \$27.50. All 2,672 tracings of postal markings would be reproduced in full size in the substantially larger, 434 numbered-page, second edition of Simpson's earlier work. Tom Alexander selected and edited sections of the original edition, updating where required, assembled all the markings, retracing most of them, and included many items reported since the original edition. He also selected guest editors, leading specialists in their respective fields, to update and rewrite several key sections. Susan McDonald was the editor of the book, which was printed in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In January 1980, distribution of *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings, 1851-61*, by Thomas J. Alexander, began. With 2,500 copies printed, this was the largest publishing effort ever undertaken by the Society. It received instant recognition as a quality publication, and enjoyed great demand. In March 1981, the book's price was raised to \$30. By June 1983, all copies of the book were sold.

Publication of Dr. Jesse Coburn's book on California was discussed at the Board of Directors meeting in April 1982 at San Francisco. The book would cover the postal history and markings of California, featuring the large collection of Marc Haas, and written by Coburn, Professor Emeritus of Santa Barbara City College and long-time active philatelist. Professor Coburn needed help with the postal history aspects of the work and sought the Society's assistance. The Board went on record as supporting the publication of such an effort and began to explore co-publishing the book with the Philatelic Foundation. A joint effort with the Philatelic Foundation to publish the book was later approved. Susan McDonald agreed to serve as editor. She substantially rewrote and reorganized the original manuscript, including the addition of many new illustrations of covers from member collections. In March 1983, a Guarantors' Fund was established, similar to those on earlier book publishing projects. Six months later, almost \$18,000 had been raised for that fund. A year later, in November 1984, *Letters of Gold* by Jesse L. Coburn became available from the printers in Canton, Ohio, at \$50 per copy. Because of slow sales the book price was reduced in June 1990 to \$35. Interestingly, although this book was never as popular in sales as the other books published by the Society, it was the only Society book to receive a Gold award at an FIP International Exhibition.

In late 1979, the Baker family granted the Society permission to reprint the column by Hugh J. and J. David Baker which had appeared in *Stamps Magazine*. This project had been approved by the Board of Directors as a memorial to the Bakers. The work, however, would not be completed for a number of years because another publishing effort would intervene. Finally, in September 1985, the *Chairman's Chatter* brought news that the

reprint compilation of the column, "Bakers' U. S. Classics," which appeared in *Stamps Magazine* from April 1962 to January 1969, was at the printer in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The book, with over 350 pages, reset all the previously published columns in a larger, more readable type, added marginal notes by the group of Society editors who worked on the book to update the columns, and provided over 200 illustrations of the covers mentioned, but not shown, in the original columns. A comprehensive index was also included. The book was, in essence, a handbook of U.S. classic material from Colonial days through the 1869 issue. Dick Graham was the principal editor of a team which included five other editors from *The Chronicle* staff. The pre-publication price for Society members was \$23.50. In February 1986 the printing was finished and ordered copies placed in the mails. The publication price was increased to \$29.50. In February 1988 the price of the book was raised to \$32.50.

At the March 1985 meeting of the Board of Directors in Cleveland, a new manuscript was introduced for possible Society sponsorship. The manuscript, which was an extensive listing of all the North Atlantic contract mail steamship sailings, was enthusiastically supported by the Board. The expenditure of funds would have to wait until the manuscript was completed and the necessary artwork and pictures assembled. The new work, by Walter Hubbard (deceased) and Richard F. Winter, was *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75*. In April 1985, a printing company in Canton, Ohio, was selected to produce the book. By mid-summer, the Board approved the initial expenditure of funds for typesetting and the selection of an editor, Susan McDonald. After more than 2½ years of difficult work for the editor, who was battling cancer throughout the time and had repeated hospitalizations for surgery, the book was announced as nearing completion. The *Chairman's Chatter* reported the new book would be out in early 1988, contain 432 pages, and provide sailing information on 31 different steamship lines that had contractual arrangements to carry U.S. mails overseas. About 1,150 copies of the book were planned. A special pre-publication price of \$34.50 was offered to members, with a publication price of \$39.50. Another year would pass as the project was slowed by the failing health of the editor, but in early 1989, the book was completed and copies were mailed to fill the advance orders. Susan McDonald, with all her health problems, had not only maintained editorship of *The Chronicle* and completed her second two-year term as President of the Society, but she had also produced a superb new book which would become an important and essential reference book for anyone interested in foreign mails.

July 1991 saw the first announcement of a new Society publishing effort, to be called *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era*, by James M. Cole. Arranged by type of cancellation and cross-indexed by town name, this book would provide a broad representation of the cancellations and killers used during the 1870-1890 period. Dick Graham, the Society's seasoned editor, agreed to edit the new book. By March 1995, the editing effort had been completed and the book was at the printer in Canton, Ohio. For the first time the Society elected to print both a hard bound and a loose leaf version of the book. The 360-page book contained over 5,000 tracings of cancellations and killers, drawn by the author, and 150 halftone illustrations of markings and covers. Again, pre-publication prices were offered to the members, with the loose leaf version at \$29.50 and the case bound version at \$39.50, or a combined set at \$60. The planned publication was 300 loose leaf and 1,200 case bound copies. The book was introduced at the May 1995 annual meeting of the Society in Denver. In July the regular book prices of \$36.50 and \$49.50 went into effect.

A book storage consolidation effort was completed in September 1993. In the past, Society-published books were sometimes retained in storage with the printer, requiring book orders to be placed with a number of different order-fulfillment addresses. The consolidation put all hard bound books at one storage location with one individual responsible for filling orders. Likewise, all soft bound publications were consolidated at a second loca-

tion, again with a single person responsible for filling orders. This consolidation eliminated a longstanding problem with inventory control and filling of book orders.

One final observation related to the Society's book publishing program may be made. Since 1984, when *Letters of Gold* was released for sale, all books published have been fully funded from the Society's publication fund without the need to be supplemented by donations or loans from guarantor funds. It took the Society many years of growth and hard work to reach the point where it could regularly fund the publication of important new works. This boot-strapping effort must be considered a substantial achievement and, hopefully, one that will be continued for many generations of future members.

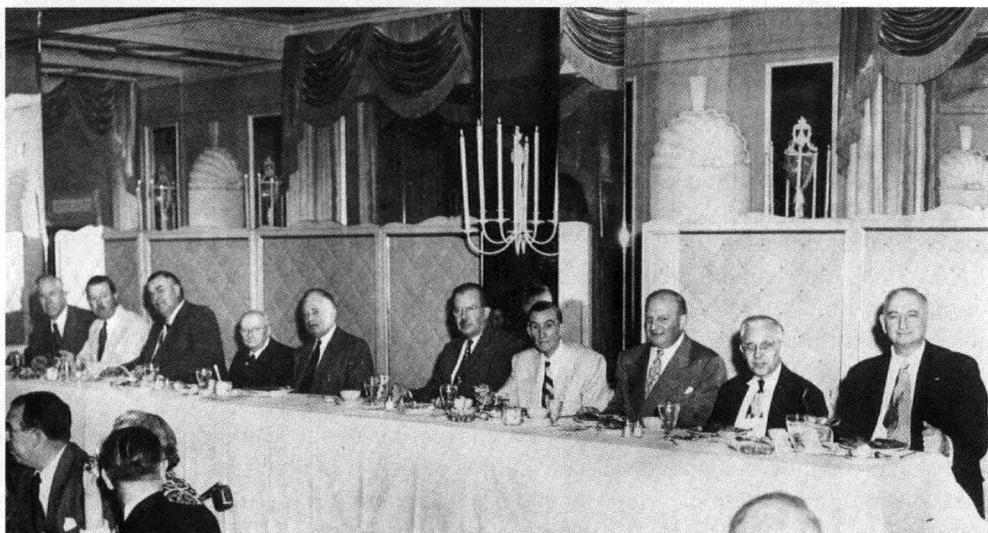
Annual Meetings and Venues

An important announcement appeared in the July 1949 *Chairman's Chatter*. Dr. Carroll Chase had suggested that the Unit stage an exhibition on July 1, 1951, to commemorate the Centenary of the 3¢ 1851 stamp. The Board unanimously approved his idea. The commemoration would also include the 1¢ and 12¢ 1851 stamps that were issued concurrently on July 1, 1851. The exhibition was to be named the "Centennial Exposition of Our First 1¢, 3¢, and 12¢ Postage Stamps 1851-1951," or '51 CENEX for short. The General Chairman of the exhibition would be W.W. Hicks, with Honorary Co-Chairmen Dr. Carroll Chase and Stanley B. Ashbrook. Two years of vigorous preparation followed as the Unit approached its first public venue. The Philatelic Museum of Philadelphia invited the Unit to hold the exhibition in their spacious halls at no cost to the Unit. An Exhibition Fund was established with pledges from more than 90 members. Over \$2,100 was raised from the members to help finance the cost of the exhibition. No fees were charged to the exhibitors, each of whom exhibited non-competitively. By November 1950, the National Philatelic Museum decided to issue the regular exhibition program book in honor of Dr. Chase and Stanley Ashbrook, the two scholars whose research on the 3¢ and 1¢ 1851s had immortalized those issues. In November 1950, Bill Hicks issued the first of a series of news releases to the Unit members on the upcoming '51 CENEX, called *The '51 CENEX FLASH*. (He continued disseminating information to the members until after the exhibition, with his last *FLASH* issued in September 1951 summarizing the successfully completed exhibition.) In January 1951, a Prospectus for '51 CENEX was sent out announcing the first Convention of the Three Cent 1851-57 Unit, to be held during the exhibition, July 5th-7th, 1951.

The '51 CENEX exhibition and first convention of the Unit was a huge success. Eighty-eight members attended the convention, which was about half the membership! There was a full schedule of symposia and group discussions, participated in by the most prominent of U.S. philatelists. Fifty-seven exhibitors showed 288 frames of material, mostly from the collections of the Unit's members. It was, unquestionably, the largest and finest specialty stamp show ever attempted, with numerous examples of all the 1851-57 rarities displayed. A banquet was held at the Warwick Hotel at the grand fee of \$4.85 per person, with Tracy Simpson as Toastmaster. A special tribute was paid to the honorary Co-Chairmen, Dr. Chase and Stanley Ashbrook. This exhibition firmly established the Unit as the premier group of philatelic students of the classics U.S. stamps, only three short years after starting as a study group of the 3¢ 1851-1857 issue. In addition, the Unit emerged from the affair with a nice surplus in its treasury. The official record of the exhibition was a hard-bound book guest edited by David Lidman (later to be announced as editor of *The American Philatelist*, the journal of the American Philatelic Society). The exhibition book contained not only the schedule of events but also pictures and short biographies of all the exhibitors. It also contained tributes to Chase and Ashbrook and a series of excellent articles on the stamps and their postal history by prominent students such as Jack Fleckenstein (1¢ 1851), Carroll Chase (3¢ 1851), Philip Baker (5¢ 1856-60), Tracy Simpson (postal rate markings), Mortimer Neinken (10¢ 1855-57), Philip Ward (12¢ 1851-57), and many more

articles including a charming article about Philadelphia in the 1850s by Mrs. Joseph Carson. Each member of the Three Cent 1851-57 Unit received a copy of the book, whether they attended or not, and 250 copies were given to the Unit for later use.

February 1957 saw the announcement of the second Convention and Exhibition of the Unit. Planned to convene in Philadelphia at the National Philatelic Museum on July 1st-7th, 1957, the "U.S. Perforation Centennial, 1857-1957" marked the centenary of the first perforated postage stamps of the 1857 issue. Mortimer L. Neinken of New York was announced as General Chairman, with a stated goal to surpass the success of the 1951 CENEX event, generally regarded as the best philatelic event ever held. Note that the lead preparation time was now less than six months, as compared to the two-year preparation of the earlier event. Again, Bill Hicks issued a series of eight notices sent to the members promoting the event and providing important information, called *The Perf FLASH*. This time the emphasis was on both the 1851 and 1857 issues in their various collecting forms. Honorary Chairmen were again Dr. Carroll Chase and Stanley B. Ashbrook. Another exhibition publication was planned with various articles to promote interest in the issues of postage stamps. Members donations to support the cost of publishing the exhibition book were again actively sought. David Lidman was announced as the editor of this book, as he had been for the '51 CENEX book.



Head table at the July 1957 Perf Centennial dinner, from left to right: Lester L. Downing, Donald M. Steele, Dr. Gerald B. Smith, Dr. Carroll Chase, Tracy W. Simpson, William W. Hicks, Stanley B. Ashbrook, Mortimer L. Neinken, Henry A. Meyer, Bernard W. Davis.

The second Convention of the Unit was also a huge success. Extensive seminars on the various issues of the 1851-57 stamps were held, including the postal uses of the stamps. Talks were given by many of the Unit's leading students, such as J. David Baker, Philip Baker, Maurice Blake, Lester Downing, Morris Fortgang, Dr. Hertz, William Hicks, Henry Meyer, Richard Meyer, Charles Pfahl, Floyd Risvold, Paul Rohloff, Tracy Simpson, Gerald Smith and William Wyer. Dr. Gerald Smith presided as Toastmaster at the banquet, again held at the Warwick Hotel. A 232-page book was published by the National Philatelic Museum in commemoration of the Perforation Centennial, with David Lidman editor. It was later touted as a publishing effort that would go down in history for size, speed, quality and efficiency. Twenty-four distinguished authors provided valuable articles, including Morris Fortgang, Carroll Chase, Philip Ward, Lester Brookman, Cyril dos

Passos, Van Dyke MacBride, Tracy Simpson, Stanley Ashbrook, Charles Meroni, Henry Abt and many others. The authors contributed an excellent array of articles, not only about the stamps but also their postal history. Again, as in 1951, pictures of those associated with creating the Centenary Exhibition and of the exhibitors were published in the book. On the floor of the exhibition, there was such a large display of rarities and interesting postal history items, many exhibited for the first time, that the 21-page *Chronicle* No. 29 of October 1957 was devoted entirely to describing the material in the exhibits. The Perforation Centennial was a financial success for the Unit as well, with over \$1,800 added to the Treasury as well as a good inventory of prepaid Perf Books.

Four years after the Perf Centennial in Philadelphia, the Unit held its third convention in Richmond, Virginia, in late October 1961. The Confederate Stamp Alliance, holding a regular convention in Richmond, invited the Unit to have a convention at the same time and place. As this invitation was consistent with Chairman Baker's desire to hold more frequent meetings of the members, it was warmly received. A *Flash News Bulletin* was sent to all members by Bill Hicks. The convention was held on October 20-22, with 43 members attending. Again, the members supported the display of outstanding material with a substantial number of frames of excellent classic U.S. stamps and covers. After the business meeting was completed, a Workshop Meeting was opened dealing with the Demonetization of the 1851-57 issues. At a breakfast of members on Sunday morning, future plans for the Unit were discussed, which included consideration of increasing the scope of the current interests to include the later issues of the classic period.

The fourth convention of the Society was held on September 17-20, 1964 at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., in conjunction with NAPEX, the major annual philatelic exhibition of the national Capitol Area, with 88 members attending. After the business meeting, there was a workshop on the U.S. 1847 and 1851-57 issues, followed the next day by a workshop on the 1861 issues.

The Society returned to Washington, D.C. two years later, in May 1966, for its fifth convention and annual meeting at the Shoreham Hotel. This meeting was held in conjunction with the American international stamp exhibition, SIPEX. Over 80 members attended the meeting. Five different seminars were conducted by the Society during SIPEX.

From 1966 to the present time, the Society has held an annual meeting every year. On three occasions, the annual meeting was held outside the country in conjunction with an international show: once in London and twice in Canada. The following is a listing of the conventions and annual meetings of the Society:

| Year | Location | Date | Year | Location | Date |
|------|------------------|----------|------|------------------|----------|
| 1951 | Philadelphia | 07/05/51 | 1980 | London | 05/10/80 |
| 1957 | Philadelphia | 07/05/57 | 1981 | Cleveland | 03/14/81 |
| 1961 | Richmond | 10/21/61 | 1982 | San Francisco | 05/01/82 |
| 1964 | Washington, D.C. | 09/19/64 | 1983 | Boston | 05/14/83 |
| 1966 | Washington, D.C. | 05/22/66 | 1984 | Washington, D.C. | 06/23/84 |
| 1967 | New York | 03/18/67 | 1985 | Cleveland | 03/23/85 |
| 1968 | Cleveland | 03/23/68 | 1986 | Chicago | 05/25/86 |
| 1969 | Cleveland | 03/23/69 | 1987 | San Francisco | 04/25/87 |
| 1970 | San Francisco | 04/25/70 | 1988 | Denver | 05/21/88 |
| 1971 | Washington, D.C. | 05/22/71 | 1989 | Tucson | 01/14/89 |
| 1972 | Chicago | 05/27/72 | 1990 | Cleveland | 03/10/90 |
| 1973 | Williamsburg | 03/24/73 | 1991 | San Antonio | 06/15/91 |
| 1974 | New York | 03/23/74 | 1992 | Chicago | 05/30/92 |
| 1975 | Cleveland | 03/22/75 | 1993 | San Francisco | 04/23/93 |
| 1976 | Philadelphia | 05/30/76 | 1994 | Boxborough, MA | 04/29/94 |
| 1977 | San Francisco | 04/30/77 | 1995 | Denver | 05/19/95 |
| 1978 | Toronto | 06/11/78 | 1996 | Toronto | 06/09/96 |
| 1979 | Denver | 05/20/79 | 1997 | San Francisco | 05/31/97 |

Educational Projects

During a luncheon meeting of Unit members at the September 1954 APS Convention in San Francisco, J. David Baker, the Chairman of the Membership Committee, announced a plan to develop several sets of educational materials for use by stamp clubs throughout the country, to provide educational information about the 3¢ 1851-57 issues. The intent was to help clear up the lack of knowledge and mystery about the 3¢ stamps and create a desire to learn more about the stamps and their postal history. This project would be manifested in later years in the production of slide programs.

With the issue of *Chronicle* No. 22 in April 1956, a new educational project was announced to the members. Dr. Carroll Chase made available his "working plates" of the 3¢ 1851, Scott Nos. 10 and 11, comprising 2,600 positions, for legal-size (1½ times) photos to be sold by subscription to members as supplements to *The Chronicle*. This effort had been delayed many years because, at the time, the government prohibited the production of pictures of U.S. postage stamps. Since many members desired assistance in plating their copies of the 3¢ stamps, the Unit's providing these enlarged size images of reconstructed plates was thought to be of great importance. New rulings on the legality of this form of reproduction now allowed the Unit to offer these photos to its members if they were part of a philatelic publication. Thus, a permanent record of the marvelous lifetime achievement of Dr. Chase was recorded by the Unit. Dr. Chase refused to accept remuneration for the privilege of using his photography. In 1958, Congress passed another Act which allowed philatelic magazines to publish prints of U.S. stamps in exact size. The Unit proceeded to offer exact size prints of the Chase plating photographs, made available three years earlier in legal size. Since the prints had to be a supplement of *Chronicle* No. 33, they were made available only with that issue to members and at an additional cost. The new prints were much superior to the enlarged-scale photos that the former law had compelled and allowed side-by-side comparison for plating purposes.

In November 1962, the *Chairman's Chatter* reported the completion of the first color slide presentation sponsored by the Unit. The 40-slide set on the 1851-57 issues, with accompanying tape recording and printed commentary, was now available to units affiliated with the American Philatelic Society as an APS slide show. The completion of this first program had been a key objective of Chairman Baker. Later, in February 1968, two more color slide programs were made available, covering the transition period in 1861 and U.S. Postmaster Provisionals. By the end of 1969, the Society had produced seven slide programs, under the able direction of J. David Baker, with three programs added on the grilled issues and one on the 1869 issues. Much of the expense of producing these programs was defrayed by a special fund, the Hugh J. Baker - Henry A. Meyer Memorial Slide Show Fund, established by an initial contribution from Robert Siegel earlier in 1969 and contributed to by numerous members. Two more slide programs were added in 1970, the 1¢ 1851-57 stamp and U.S. postal markings of the 1851-61 period. By March 1973, there was a total of 13 slide programs available from the Society, covering a wide variety of stamp and postal history subjects, all the products of the enthusiastic Slide Program Chairman, J. David Baker. The September 1973 *Chairman's Chatter* brought the announcement that the entire slide program library had been sold by the Society to the Philatelic Foundation in a long-negotiated sale that was considered beneficial to both the Society and to the philatelic public. With this sale, the Society recovered the cost of producing the programs and got out of the business of managing the rentals of the programs to stamp clubs throughout the country.

The June 1965 *Chairman's Chatter* advised the members that Dr. Chase's working plates of the imperforate 3¢ 1851 stamps had been presented to the Smithsonian Institution, Division of Philately and Postal History, for safe keeping. These plates had been used to make plating prints for the members many years before. Since the actual

plate reconstructions of Dr. Chase had been broken up and dispersed, these photographic plates represented important historical information that needed to be preserved. Members were advised that prints of the photographed plates would now be available through the Smithsonian Institution, either per pane or per plate. Thirteen plates were available, each with a left and right pane.

Beginning with the September 1968 issue of *The American Philatelist*, the Society sponsored a two-page monthly feature about classic United States stamps and postal history. Contributions to this feature were made by the editorial staff of *The Chronicle* and other members of the Society. It was expected that this feature would reach 15,000 readers of *The American Philatelist*. The feature was called "The Classics Corner." Over the next nine years, a total of 94 articles were sponsored by the Society under the capable editorship of Dick Graham. This was a regular and very successful feature of the journal during those years. "The Classics Corner" ended as a regular journal feature in June 1977.

For a number of years there had been a dialog among the Board members about fake stamps and covers and the Society's role in giving more publicity to fake material. Starting in late 1971, Susan McDonald began to feature selected fake or altered covers in her popular *Chronicle* section "The Cover Corner." The effort was continued by Scott Gallagher when he took over *The Chronicle* section in August 1975. In late 1975, a Fake Stamp and Cover Committee was formed under Louis Grunin. His committee began to examine the challenging issues of how the Society might publicize this material and remove it from circulation. At the annual meeting in Toronto in June 1978, a new program was inaugurated under the leadership of Scott Gallagher of Cincinnati called the Stamp and Cover Repository and Analysis Program (SCRAP). The program was a plan to encourage collectors and dealers to contribute their fake or questionable stamps and covers to the Society for deposit at the Philatelic Foundation. The material would remain the property of the Society. The hope was to remove spurious material from the market and to establish a center where students could study the material. Also, by donating to a non-profit organization there might be tax advantages to the contributors of this material. A contractual agreement with the Philatelic Foundation was concluded in November 1978. For fifteen years the SCRAP holdings, which grew to several hundred stamps and covers, resided at the Philatelic Foundation in New York where, by appointment, members could arrange to see the material. In early 1993, when the Philatelic Foundation, in a cost cutting move, was forced to relocate its offices in New York, the SCRAP material was removed as a general safeguard during the Foundation's period of transition. In the spring of 1993, the SCRAP committee was disbanded and a new SCRAP coordinator, Michael Brown of Williamsburg, Virginia, was appointed. A program plan was prepared to set up new safeguards for the material and to revitalize the original educational aspects of SCRAP. The SCRAP holdings were transferred to Williamsburg under the new coordinator. In 1994, the SCRAP Coordinator began a long-overdue program to systematically analyze SCRAP covers, using the expertise resident in the Society, and to document the findings for a permanent record of some of the fraudulent items on repository with the Society. In the November 1996 *Chronicle*, the first publication of this documentation was made available to *The Chronicle* readers in the form of a new section in the journal. This section, intended to be an advisory to members, was located immediately adjacent to the regular section where similar, but legitimate, material might be discussed.

The September 1988 *Chairman's Chatter* brought news of a new educational project. The Society formed a committee under Dwayne Littauer of New Orleans to make available photocopies of award-winning exhibits of particular educational value which related to collecting areas covered by the *Chronicle*. Bound and unbound versions of the photocopied exhibits, in black and white reproduction, would be made available at prices which would cover the expenses of the Society to produce and mail them. In December 1988, the

first listing of 18 photocopy exhibits was announced in the *Chatter*. Copy prices ranged from \$5.50 to \$17 for bound and unbound versions. The program was an instant success. By early 1991, the responsibilities for the exhibit photocopy program were transferred to Jeffrey Bohn of Columbia, Maryland. More than 70 exhibits are now available, with an order form appearing in each issue of the *Chairman's Chatter*.

Awards Programs

There was no formal awards program for the Unit in the early 1950s. Through the kindness of individual members, at no expense to the Unit, awards such as trophies, bound volumes of the *Chronicle* and annual subscriptions to future *Chronicles* were made on behalf of the Unit for the best showings of 3¢ 1851-57 material at selected shows. These efforts were successful in making the Unit more visible among the philatelic community.

For his 75th birthday in October 1957, Stanley B. Ashbrook was the honored guest at a surprise party held at the Terrace Hilton Hotel in Cincinnati. Many of America's prominent philatelists attended. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of a gift by Raymond and Roger Weill of New Orleans, the Stanley B. Ashbrook Cup. It was presented at the dinner to Ashbrook by Morris Fortgang. The Cup was to be administered by the U.S. 1851-60 Unit through a committee of members who would decide on future recipients based on the best contribution to philately each year. The Cup was originally kept at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia. The events of this evening were immortalized in the 9 November 1957 issue of *Stamps* magazine. This would become the first of the Cup Awards presented each year for philatelic achievement. [In November 1971, the Weill Brothers donated a second Ashbrook Cup since there was no longer space on the original cup to engrave the names of recipients of the award. The second Ashbrook Cup, however, was more than a replacement loving cup. The award, an antique masterpiece in silver-gilt of a late eighteenth century French silversmith's art, was a conserve jar created in 1788 by Francois Joubert, silversmith to Louis XVI. It consisted of an elaborately chased, engraved bowl and cover in a decorated saucer-like stand. The piece was made into an award by Tiffany's, mounted on a dark oak base with a silver plate attached to give the name of the award, the donors, and the recipients. This second cup was placed on permanent display at the Collectors Club of Chicago.]

The August 1958 *Chairman's Chatter* brought news that a group of older members of the Unit, who wished to remain unnamed, felt that it was proper to have a companion cup to the Ashbrook Cup in honor of Dr. Carroll Chase. They purchased a cup, similar to the Ashbrook Cup, and planned that it be awarded annually under much the same conditions as the Ashbrook Cup, for worthy and eminent work on one of the many interests of the Unit. On the occasion of his 80th birthday in September 1958, Dr. Chase, the dean of American philatelists and the first recipient of the Society's Ashbrook Cup, was presented with a silver loving cup by the Unit in recognition of his unparalleled contributions to early U.S. philately. The cup, which became the second of the Unit's recurring awards, was named the Carroll Chase Cup. As with the Ashbrook Cup, the Carroll Chase Cup was placed on permanent display at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, with the Unit designated as administrator of the annual awards. Annual recipients of each cup would receive a certificate of the award and their names engraved on the cups.

In July 1960, the Ashbrook and Chase Cups had to be moved from the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, since the museum was being closed. The Cups went into temporary custody until the Collectors Club (New York) agreed to display them in the library of its meeting house. The Raymond H. Weill Company provided a glass case to display both cups and they were moved to New York in mid-1961.

An announcement at the fourth convention of the Society in Washington, D.C., in September 1964, brought news of a new cup award. The Weill Brothers of New Orleans presented the Society with a new cup, to be called the Elliott Perry Cup. This award



The Stanley B. Ashbrook Cup (1971)



The Dr. Carroll Chase Cup



The Lester G. Brookman Cup

allowed recognition of significant contributions to philately and postal history of the period of interest of the Society. The Perry Cup joined the Ashbrook and Chase Cups permanently on display at the Collectors Club (New York).

When Lester G. Brookman died in November 1971, Robert Paliafito donated to the Society a handsome sterling silver wine cooler to permanently honor him. The new Brookman Cup award joined the Ashbrook, Chase and Perry Cup awards for annual recognition of philatelic achievement. The Brookman Cup, designated for service to the Society, joined the second Ashbrook Cup in residence at the Collectors Club of Chicago.

In early 1975, Robert Siegel made a donation for a new fund to the memory of Lester Downing. His intention was that recognition be given by the Society for exhibits of classic United States material. A committee was formed to recommend the type of award, award criteria and the shows where it would be awarded. In early 1978, the committee selected the award, an electric clock mounted on smoked Lucite with an engraved plate, to be awarded twice annually: at the APS Convention Show and at the show hosting the annual meeting of the Society. The first award was made at CAPEX '78, where the Society held its annual meeting. The award was called the USPCS Achievement Award, and was given for the best exhibit of classic U.S. stamps and covers.

Two new cups were donated to the Society in early 1977 to replace those that had been retired because space was no longer available to inscribe names of recipients. A second Carroll Chase Cup was donated by Bernard Harmer and a second Elliott Perry Cup was donated by Robert Siegel.

Because of the possibility of overlapping areas of award recognition, a special committee was formed in March 1972 to establish award criteria for each of the four cup awards. Up to this time, the cup awards were presented on the basis of distinguished philatelic achievement, and not necessarily for a specific area of classic United States philately or postal history. Mortimer Neinken and J. David Baker prepared the recommendations, which were adopted in June 1972. The award criteria have remained essentially unchanged to this date, and are shown at the end of this section before each listing of cup award recipients.

The Board of Directors at their May 1986 meeting in Chicago approved a new award to be given in memory of Mortimer Neinken. This award is a plaque for the best article appearing in the previous year's *Chronicle* on a stamp subject. The first recipient of this award was named two days later at the annual meeting of the Society held in conjunction with the international show, AMERIPEX, in Chicago.

A new medal award was also introduced by the Exhibition Awards Committee at the May 1986 Board meeting. It was intended that this medal be awarded by the Society for the best U.S. classics exhibit at each of the approximately 33 National shows which qualified for the APS Champion-of-Champion competition. The Board approved the Society medal. The first award of the new medal took place later in 1986. Work began in August 1995 to redesign and coordinate the production of a new medal, reflecting the Board's desire to present a higher quality medal in the name of the Society. Since 1986, the award had been used to recognize excellence for United States classic postal issues and related postal history exhibits. The new 4½ ounce cast bronze medallion, measuring 2½ inches in diameter and depicting the design of the 3¢ 1851-57 stamp to reflect the origin of the Society, was ready to be awarded in early 1996.

Meeting at San Francisco in April 1987, the Directors actively discussed and finally authorized another new award. This time, it was one which would become the highest honor that the Society could bestow. The Board approved the creation of the Distinguished Philatelist Award, a permanent scroll signed by each recipient, to recognize exceptionally meritorious service to U.S. philately. These accomplishments would be through published

research, award-winning collections, active participation in the organization and promotion of philatelic exhibitions, and sustained administrative service to national or international organizations which furthered U.S. philately. The permanent scroll would be retained by the President of the Society, but each recipient would receive a replica of the award in the form of a plaque showing the scroll as signed by the recipient. A standing committee was established to select the recipients, who were announced each year at the annual meeting of the Society. The first recipients of this award signed the scroll at the annual meeting in Denver in May 1988.

In March 1996, an upgrade and relocation effort related to the Society's cup awards was completed. The Board of Directors had decided to collect all the cups together in one location. Previously, they had been located in both Chicago and New York. Additionally, the annual maintenance and engraving of recipient names on the cups had fallen well in arrears. The cups were relocated to the American Philatelic Society headquarters building in State College, PA, where they became the prominent feature of a new philatelic display area. Each cup was restored to its new condition and placed in a lighted glass display case. Because all the names of the recipients could not be engraved on the cups, new summary plaques for each cup award, with individual plates for each award recipient, were prepared for display in the same area as the cup awards. Sufficient blank plates were available on each summary plaque for future award recipients. The cup awards have now been placed on loan to the parent organization, the American Philatelic Society, for long-term display.

The August 1995 Board meeting also reached a decision to name a new award in honor of Susan McDonald. As a companion award to the Neinken Award, which recognizes articles written about U.S. classic stamps, the new award recognizes the best article in a *Chronicle* volume (four issues) dealing with U.S. classic postal history. All authors are eligible except *Chronicle* section editors. Selection of both the Neinken and McDonald Awards are made by a committee composed of the Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle* and its section editors. The first recipient of this award was recognized at the annual meeting of the Society at the 1996 international show, CAPEX, in Toronto, Canada. Like the Neinken Award, this award is also represented by a plaque given to the recipient.

The paragraphs that follow summarize the Society awards. They are listed in the order they were created.

Stanley B. Ashbrook Cup - Awarded to authors of articles, books, or other studies concerning United States postal history from the Colonial period to 1894.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1957 Carroll Chase | 1971 Susan M. McDonald | 1985 Frank S. Mandel |
| 1958 Maurice C. Blake | 1972 David T. Beals, III | 1986 Charles L. Towle |
| 1959 Elliott Perry | 1973 Delf Norona | 1987 David G. Phillips |
| 1960 Mortimer L. Neinken | 1974 Edward N. Sampson | 1988 Theron J. Wierenga |
| 1961 W.W. Hicks | 1975 Richard B. Graham | 1989 Jeffrey C. Bohn |
| 1962 George E. Hargest | 1976 David L. Jarrett | 1990 Richard F. Winter |
| 1963 John David Baker | 1977 Charles J. Starnes | 1991 Hubert C. Skinner |
| 1964 Melvin W. Schuh | 1978 Dale R. Pulver | 1992 Alvin R. & Marjorie S. Cantor |
| 1965 Mel C. Nathan | 1979 Thomas J. Alexander | 1993 George B. Arfken |
| 1966 Lester G. Brookman | 1980 Charles Hahn | 1994 Robert J. Stets |
| 1967 Dr. Donald Patton | 1981 Creighton C. Hart | 1995 James M. Cole |
| 1968 Tracy W. Simpson | 1982 Charles J. Starnes | 1996 Scott Gallagher |
| 1969 Robert A. Hanson | 1983 Theron J. Wierenga | |
| 1970 Jerome S. Wagshal | 1984 James C. Pratt | |

Dr. Carroll Chase Cup - Awarded to authors of articles, books, or other studies concerning any United States stamp issued to 1894 including postmaster's provisionals, locals, carriers, and back-of-the-book material.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1957 Stanley B. Ashbrook | 1971 Thomas J. Alexander | 1985 Wilbur F. Amonette |
| 1958 Tracy W. Simpson | 1972 Theron J. Wierenga | 1986 Jerome S. Wagshal |
| 1959 Henry A. Meyer | 1973 Frank S. Levi, Jr. | 1987 Not Awarded |
| 1960 Richard McP. Cabeen | 1974 C.W. Christian | 1988 Rollin C. Huggins, Jr. |
| 1961 Gerald B. Smith | 1975 Thomas J. Alexander | 1989 Scott R. Trepel |
| 1962 Lester L. Downing | 1976 William K. Herzog | 1990 John A. Hicks |
| 1963 Earl Oakley | 1977 William K. McDaniel | 1991 Robert B. Meyersburg |
| 1964 Mortimer L. Neinken | 1978 Richard M. Searing | 1992 William H. Hatton |
| 1965 Hugh J. Baker, Jr. | 1979 Philip T. Wall | 1993 William K. McDaniel |
| 1966 W.W. Hicks | 1980 Robert R. Hegland | 1994 Scott R. Trepel |
| 1967 Elliott Perry | 1981 Robson Lowe | 1995 Alfred E. Staubus |
| 1968 John David Baker | 1982 Eugene N. Costales | 1996 Jonathan W. Rose |
| 1969 Richard B. Graham | 1983 Charles L. Towle | |
| 1970 George E. Hargest | 1984 Philip T. Wall | |

Elliott Perry Cup - Awarded to authors of articles, books, or other studies concerning either United States stamps or postal history to 1984, with particular weight to newly discovered information reported by and used by the recipient of original sources by newly found manuscript material or materials presently held by the United States Archives or any public or private institution.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1964 Creighton C. Hart | 1977 Walter Hubbard | 1988 Walter Hubbard & Richard F. Winter |
| 1965 Richard B. Graham | 1978 Kenneth R. deLisle | |
| 1966 John David Baker | 1979 John L. Kay & Chester M. Smith | 1989 Colin Tabear |
| 1967 Maryette B. Lane | 1980 Susan M. McDonald | 1990 Harvey S. Teal & Robert J. Stets |
| 1968 Charles L. Towle | 1981 Calvet M. Hahn | 1991 Alan H. Patera & John S. Gallagher |
| 1969 Melvin W. Schuh | 1982 Pitt Petri | |
| 1970 Robert L.D. Davidson | 1983 Cornelis Muys & Jan Giphart | 1992 Thomas E. Stanton |
| 1971 Edwin A. Christ | 1984 Thomas C. Kingsley | 1993 Michael Mahler |
| 1972 Mortimer L. Neinken | 1985 Not Awarded | 1994 Steven M. Roth |
| 1973 Morrison Waud | 1986 Floyd E. Risvold | 1995 Gordon Stimmell |
| 1974 Arthur H. Bond | 1987 James W. Milgram | 1996 Kenneth J. Kutz |
| 1975 Michael M. Laurence | | |
| 1976 John David Baker | | |

Lester G. Brookman Cup - Awarded only to a member of The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society for outstanding service to the Society.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1971 Scott Gallagher | 1980 David T. Beals, III | 1989 Louise van Ingen |
| 1972 Leon C. Forcheimer | 1981 Michael M. Laurence | 1990 Susan M. McDonald |
| 1973 Robert R. Hegland | 1982 Robert L. Toth | 1991 C.W. Christian |
| 1974 Elizabeth Pope | 1983 Jack L. Jenkins | 1992 Thomas F. Allen |
| 1975 Mortimer L. Neinken | 1984 Thomas J. Alexander | 1993 Richard M. Searing |
| 1976 Clifford L. Friend | 1985 Charles J. Starnes | 1994 Richard B. Graham |
| 1977 Susan M. McDonald | 1986 Dale R. Pulver | 1995 Patricia Stilwell Walker |
| 1978 Leon Hyzen | 1987 Robert B. Meyersburg | 1996 Richard F. Winter |
| 1979 Richard B. Graham | 1988 Creighton C. Hart | |

Mortimer L. Neinken Award - Awarded for articles about United States classic stamps published in a given *Chronicle* volume.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1985 Donald B. Johnstone | 1990 Thomas F. Allen | 1995 Lester C. Lanphear III |
| 1986 Jerome S. Wagshal | 1991 Not Awarded | 1996 Richard Cellar, Wilson Hulme, Elliot Omija, Mark Rogers & Keiji Taira |
| 1987 Scott R. Trepel | 1992 William E. Mooz | |
| 1988 Not Awarded | 1993 William E. Mooz | |
| 1989 Mike McClung | 1994 Not Awarded | |

Distinguished Philatelist Award -

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1987 Robson Lowe | 1991 George W. Brett | 1995 John Birkinbine II |
| Creighton C. Hart | Hubert C. Skinner | Scott R. Trepel |
| Charles L. Towle | Charles J. Peterson | 1996 Victor E. Engstrom |
| 1988 Susan M. McDonald | 1992 James T. DeVoss | Richard F. Winter |
| Richard B. Graham | Robert G. Stone | |
| 1989 Charles J. Starnes | Robert J. Stets | |
| Herman Hearst Jr. | 1993 Barbara R. Mueller | |
| Thomas J. Alexander | Jerome S. Wagshal | |
| 1990 Belmont Faries | 1994 William H. Bauer | |
| Richard Helbock | Robert B. Meyersburg | |
| C.W. Christian | Philip T. Wall | |

Susan M. McDonald Award - Awarded for articles about United States postal history published in a given *Chronicle* volume.

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| 1995 Colin Tabear |
| 1996 Leonard Piskiewicz |

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