

THE THREE CENT 1851-57 UNIT
Associated with APS---Unit No. 11

1 Garrett Ave.,
Rosemont, Pa.,
Sept. 30, 1948.

C H A I R M A N ' S C H A T T E R.
(C.C. No. 1)

To all respective Route Agents--Greetings:-

Since our July "blurb" a lot of things have happened. For one thing you no longer have a President! Your presiding officer has been kicked upstairs--or is it downstairs?--to the title of Chairman, due to the edict of APS, when we were accepted officially into the APS fold as Unit No. 11 (a well chosen number, by the way!), so there might be no confusion between the President of APS and the President of our Unit.

Henceforth, therefore, subject to your approval, this office will endeavor to put out a sheet to be known as "Chairman's Chatter", a rather catchy title, we thought, suggested by our hard-working Sec'y-Treas. Warren Stewart. This sheet will cover all current activities of your Unit; such as the introduction of all new members, the gathering and circulation of Want Lists, For Sales, etc., officer's and committee reports, current gossip (if any is offered)--sort of a 1948 etala "current news" edition, to be issued in between issues of The Chronicle.

Didn't you consider the 1st issue of The Chronicle a masterpiece? Modesty to one side, Editor Simpson and The Unit have been showered with compliments from many members and outsiders, including nice write-ups in the philatelic press; and its inaugural resulted in a good jump in membership. The Chronicle will continue to cover the historical and research study side of the 3s of '51 and '57; new discoveries, articles and illustrations on cancellations, systems of plating etc. It is a most worthy endeavor, entitled to the Unit's enthusiastic support. It can be our chief spark plug, and will help to rekindle the interest of old time collectors of these stamps, and attract the interest of many new ones. It will be a big factor in improving our knowledge of these 1st 3¢ USA stamps. The lore around these stamps has endless possibilities in the publication field, and deserves the light of day.

To give you a quick preview about the 2nd issue, now in preparation, "Ye Editore" Simpson writes us that it will contain articles from Elliott Perry, D.A. Grant and Leo Shaughnessy (both Unit members), an errata of Dr. Chase's 2nd edition, much from his notes, and also a leading feature of two plates of illustrations of straight line and odd shaped townmarks not heretofore illustrated in the Chase or Ashbrook books. Enuf sed. If you personally have made a specialized study of anything concerning these stamps, please feel free to submit an article or the information to Mr. Simpson, so all members may have the benefit of your experience--in a way, each of us should consider ourselves "assistant" editors.

(Please note our special bulletin, attached hereto, concerning the Publication Fund.)

The Unit's growth has been really phenomenal! As this is written, we have 70 members in the Unit. The printing of the attached membership list is being held up til the last minute to include any late entries. New members joining after the publication of this list will be announced in succeeding C.C.s, and from time to time, we will issue revised membership lists. It is interesting to note we have 25 states represented, with New York and California tied for the lead with 10 members each, Illinois and Massachusetts in close pursuit with 7 members each. It looks like the East is hardly holding its own against the mid-West and the West! State pride alone should guarantee membership activity!! To assist you in soliciting new members, we are enclosing several of our membership application forms, just printed, or if you prefer, send us the names of your prospects and we will write them.

Enclosed with this letter are the 1st listings of all Want Lists, For Sales and For Trades so far submitted by members--6 pages of member's requirements. We have endeavored to print these verbatim as submitted to us--advise of errors, if any. Some of our members do not report any items that they have for sale, but many of us do. The Unit hopes everyone will proceed to commence to "GO TO IT"--we should help the other fellow if we possibly can, and there's a lot of real fun and enjoyment in corresponding with good fellows, collectors interested similarly to yourself. Go over the lists as carefully and as completely as you possibly can.

This effort represents one of the important purposes of having this specialized group, so we can be of help and secure help from fellow specialists. You are herewith formally introduced to all members listed, whichever ones you care to write to. Price your items as reasonably as possible, subject to acceptance by the buyer, and we recommend use of registered mail. If your Want List has not yet been submitted, or if you wish to send in a revised one, please mail same to this office, make it as definite as possible, and all these will be included with our next C.C. letter. We will continue to print and circulate these lists to the extent of your desires, and we sincerely hope you have good hunting.

In connection with the subject of prices, which is a difficult one as collector's ideas of quality vary widely, we feel that it is almost impossible to set up a satisfactory standard acceptable to all. We do know, from auction experience and direct buying, that superb items are always in demand and the price for such is tending to increase. Accurately plated items bring a premium over unplated similar items. Four margin nice stamps on immaculate covers sell well. Our Ye Editor Simpson published several years ago an excellent manual on current values of both the 3¢ '51 and '57 and the relative value, considering condition, of all recut positions, double and triple transfers, cracks, etc. We understand that copies of this can still be purchased from Mr. Simpson for 50¢ each and we highly recommend it as a price guide to all members--in fact we would like to see the Unit adopt it as our official price bible. If you wish to express an opinion on this, after reviewing the manual, we would appreciate your telling us, so as to help us determine future policy.

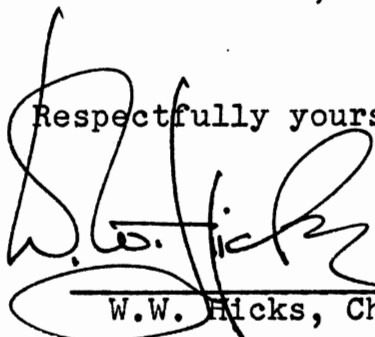
It has been a lot of fun trying to help get the Unit and its activities into successful motion, but, believe me, the time consumed in the endless correspondence and details of the job throw quite a strain on family relations! And, besides, most of us still have to work for a living! Warren Stewart, out in Portland, Ore., has been in a similar plight and we think you will agree he has done a bang up job as Sec'y--Treas., but to the detriment of his own collection, which he writes us has been terribly neglected the past 5 months. And, of course, Tracy Simpson has probably had the toughest assignment of any of us. But we wish to state that none of us regret one minute of it, as the enthusiastic response from all sections of the country encourages us to believe this Unit can, in time, become one of the finest specialized groups in philately.

Sy Colby, as Chairman of Publicity, is responsible for all the fine write-ups and notices we are getting thru-out the philatelic press, which have been one of our best membership builders. Thanks a lot, Sy, for a magnificent, well-done job. We would like to mention such other enthusiasts as Charlie Pfahl, one of our Directors, who, among other Unit activities, bought six extra copies of the 1st issue of The Chronicle to distribute among his friend collectors, and Edward Morgan of St. Louis who has written in twice for a dozen application forms, in order to get after more new members. We have had excellent suggestions and co-operation from many other members, including John Ayer, Leo Shaughnessy, Towner Webster, D.A. Grant, Alex Dumas, Richard Edmonds, C.W. Remele, Dr. Carroll Chase, Abe Rubel, Jr., Richard K. Meyer, to mention only a few--and we continue to welcome all suggestions and help from you that you can give us, or criticisms too, if you think we could operate better. With this kind of co-operative spirit prevalent, the Unit should have a most successful Winter and we hope you can successfully participate in all activities, particularly some good work on the Want Lists!!

In closing, would like to mention that we are seriously considering the starting of a mail circuit of books to be filled by members, similar to the APS circuits, except confined, of course, to either 3¢ '51s or '57s, and if we do, are you personally interested? Warren Stewart operates a similar circuit among Portland, Oregon APS members and is willing to undertake this for the Unit, if enough interest is shown.

Also, if you hear of any 3¢ collections for sale, we will gladly publicize this to members thru these columns, if you will furnish sufficient details.

Respectfully yours,



W.W. Hicks, Chairman.

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Special Bulletin to all Route Agents

Subject:- The Publication Fund.

To anyone only remotely familiar with the costs of printing to-day, it must appear obvious that our Unit has a financial problem in continuing The Chronicle on a quarterly basis, considering the meagre dues we now assess. Frankly, the 1st issue cost the Unit over \$70.00 (200 copies printed) and with non-recurring costs we believe succeeding issues can be produced at about \$50. each, or a total annual cost of probably \$225.00.

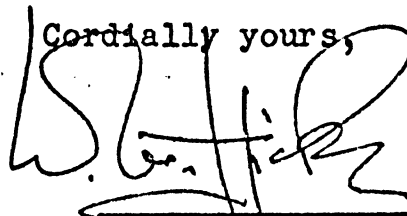
When a number of members wrote in, voluntarily, offering financial support, above regular dues, we decided to set up a Publication Fund, and up to this writing, we have received \$10 subscriptions from each of the following members--Messers Pfahl, Simpson, Stewart, Hicks, Colby, Grant, Webster, Rubel, Meyer and Shaughnessy--total to date \$100.00. We would be most pleased to include you in the fund, if you are willing to support it.

This Fund will be set aside and placed at the disposal of Mr. Simpson, as an underwriting reserve against the cost of publication and to insure that he, personally, will not be stuck, should our regular funds prove to be inadequate. There is no doubt that the Unit's efforts will, eventually, tend to increase the value of your collection, as the popularity of the 3s increase. But, aside from possible future pecuniary accument, we believe, on its own merits, that The Chronicle must be continued as our most important cog in the wheel, and it seems only fair that those of us who can afford it, should help to spread the cost more equitably.

We feel that, in assuming the difficult and time-consuming burdens of publishing The Chronicle, for the fun of it and "for free", Mr. Simpson rates the most sincere thanks of all of us, and also our whole-hearted support. Hence, The Publication Fund.

We hope you will feel sympathetic to this appeal and if so, checks should be mailed to either Mr. Stewart or myself and each additional subscriber will be announced in the next Chairman's Chatter.

Cordially yours,



W.W. Hicks, Chairman.