

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER
(C.C. No. 1)

Dear fellow Route Agent:-

Now that the Holidays are past, we hope you had a most pleasant and happy time--and also are in the mood to listen to some marvelous news from the Unit front. As per attached Page 3 of the Membership List, our numerical total is now up to 92, a most healthy growth of 22 members since the end of September, with a goodly number of additional prospects in view. Sunny California continues to lead the parade of states with 14 members--and what avid, serious specialists these Trojans are!--closely followed by N.Y. state with 13; Massachusetts is coming up fast with 10, Illinois is holding its own with 8 and our Michigan delegation having the largest percentage of growth. Welcome to Mr. Marcel Levy of Paris, France, our 1st member outside of USA.

We boastfully (and sincerely) wish to predict that our Unit, in a short time, will become one of the strongest specialty groups in philately!! No other group could possibly have as many enthusiasts as we have!

Speaking of strength, you will note as you scan the imposing list of new members that the caliber of our Membership continues on a high plane--we are attracting the best kind of collectors. And we should! In our humble opinion, the 1st 3s of the US have a greater, all-around appeal to a collector desiring to specialize than any other stamp or group of stamps--they offer opportunity to the plater, the cancellation collector, the cover collector, the date collector, etc. --and no one has to be a millionaire (yet!!) to join the parade. We logically should be the No. 1 group, as we know of no group of specialists in any of the US stamps issued prior to the 3s of '51 and '57.

We hope you enjoyed the 2nd issue of The Chronicle as much as we did. Thru this medium, considerable knowledge of our 3s, much of it buried or undisclosed or undiscovered, will be gradually disseminated to the membership. As previously stated, Ye Editor, Tracy Simpson, welcomes article contributions from you personally--similar to those in the 2nd issue from members Webster and Grant. "Share Your Knowledge" is an appropriate Unit slogan! By the way, in case you do not know, we feel we should tell you a little of Mr. Simpson's qualifications for the arduous task of editorship (being a modest man, he will never tell you too much about himself!).

He has completed all the '51 plates--2600 positions--with the exception of only one position (41 R2e). He has a prize winning cover and cancellation collection, with many of the rarities, in the finest quality. In addition to this personal knowledge of the 3s thru ownership, Mr. Simpson has also had considerable, previous publishing experience. The Unit is indeed fortunate to have acquired his services, purely voluntary, and we are sure you can look forward to many more instructive and interesting issues.

We are enclosing the Unit's financial statement as of December 15, 1948, thoroughly prepared and signed by Mr. Stewart. The Publication Fund has been a huge success! We wish to officially acknowledge and thank the following additional contributors, since the Sept. listing in our C.C. No. 1 (total then 10 contributors--\$100.00)--- Messers Anthony, Burr, Baker, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Tilden, Ayer, LeRoy Brown, Rowell, Edmonds, Dr. Gerald Smith and Schwartz--in varying contributions from \$10 to \$1.50 (total now 21 contributors, \$196.50). As The Unit is now in fairly good financial condition, thanks to these contributors to The Fund, we are about to close this Fund drive. Before doing so, we would like to include any others who wish to support this, and welcome your contribution if you planned to do so, but haven't. The high cost of producing The Chronicle necessitated this Fund and obviously The Unit must stay "solvent" to operate efficiently, and The Chronicle, above all Unit activities, rates generous encouragement.

Altho this solicitation was required for this 1st year, due to our meager dues, we believe in general The Unit should avoid such appeals and should operate on a "pay-as-we-go" basis, and beginning with our next fiscal year (July, 1949), we are recommending to the Board of Directors that annual dues should be in the \$2 to \$2.50 range. With 3 to 4 issues of The Chronicle at a total cost of about \$200.00 and other expenses around \$150.00 (conservatively based on costs to date), our 1949-50 budget is estimated at \$350.00. With 125 members (projected for 1949) at \$2.50 each, receipts from sales of Chronicles to non-members, continued initiation fees of \$2.00, The Unit will then about break even. We can't believe there will be objection to this from the membership, do you? Most members should actually realize annually much more value from The Unit than the small sum of \$2.50. However, your comments, either pro or con, are solicited.

Again we enclose a bulky, but important, 8 pages of members' Want Lists (some new ones, some revised, some reprinted), but better spaced to make the ads more readable. Many excellent results were reported from the 1st batch of Wants, and if you can possibly work on a few of these ads or more, we believe you will be highly pleased with friendships developed. From personal, as well as reported experiences, our Unit here contains a lot of nice guys, co-operative and anxious to help the other fellow (at a fair price!). Remember we are largely a "correspondence" society, with members so widely scattered, and it takes your initiative sometimes to start the ball a-rolling. We suggest, if you have not already done so, that you pick out some names and try out the process. The "give and take" will fill in many a hard Winter's evening to your satisfaction and enjoyment. In another 3 months, more or less, we will ask for more Want Lists, so start preparing yours, if you haven't yet participated. The divin' and swimmin' is gud!

Due to member demand, we are about to start a Sales Department, and have appointed R.A. #11 (J.M. Schwartz) as Sales Mgr. He has kindly agreed to serve, at least temporarily, but has requested that we ask for volunteers to take over this assignment later. In case you have had experience in handling APS circuit books, and are interested, please write us. If you are interested in receiving books, or in filling one or more books or part of a book for resale, please clip the

coupon at the bottom of this page and mail to Mr. Schwartz. A few books are already filled, ready for distribution.

Much of our membership growth has been due, undoubtedly, to member enthusiasm. Any help you can use from us is yours for the asking. One of our travelling "ambassadors of good-will" is our friend, Dr. Gerald Smith of Woodburn, Oregon and how! Having an advanced collection of the 3s, he has visited and helped many of our Pacific Coast members. This kind of good fellowship is bound to reflect in Unit growth and is most contagious. Wish we could do more of the same thing, Doctor, and congratulations.

To collectors in or near New York, or going there occasionally, Mr. Young (R.A. #54) tells us of the Miller collection on display in the N.Y. Public Library. It contains almost complete panes of the various '51 plates, including Or. Br.s, and is a good source of reference; and better lighting is promised by the Library, according to word received from our Bethesda R.A. #70, Col. Hunter.

Best of New Year's Greetings and wishes to you, and we hope you have a successful season, philatelically and otherwise.

Cordially yours,

W.W. Hicks, Chairman.

Mr. J. M. Schwartz,
4429 N.E. 78th St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Date _____

Please send me _____ blank circuit books.

Please include me in one of the circuits.

I prefer plated copies , unplated copies , covers , calendar dates , _____

Signed _____

Address _____
