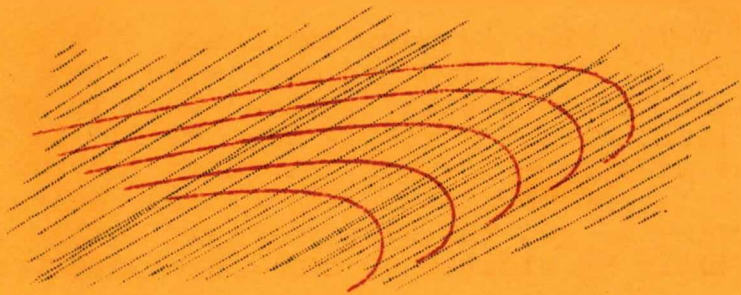


TWIN SET

BY

CARDIGAN Out Of PULLOVER



Some of the new members of the new OMPA may think that the title I have selected for this sheet is stretching things a bit farther, a bit wider, than good yarn will stand. Maybe so, but at least it ain't Irish linen. I think it up while standing outside the local Scotch Wool Shop.....

Frankly I feel that the initial title of this 'ere organisation is asking for trouble. Of course, a lot will depend on how it is to be pronounced. If one were to ask someone to join "Oompah" it is immediately obvious what reply one would receive from all the smart alocs around fandom. I must admit that I'm already thinking of the name as "Oompah" at that !

& the other thing which strikes me about this organisation is the source from which it has sprung. No other place than the absolute hot-bed of fanarchy, London. Could it be that the fen of London are only interested in organisation when they are the active element in organising ?

Fortunately, I do know from a letter of some years ago, from Vinz Clarke, that he has no objection to organisation in itself when it serves a useful purpose. And presumably from a fannish viewpoint the formation of OMPA is "a useful purpose" ?

At least, we can hope so. I've been a member of FAPA for a couple of years now and even if I have gained nothing else out of it, I've had considerable quiet amusement reading the many and varied viewpoints expressed on equally numerous and different subjects by the members.

Now, for the benefit of peoples and fen interested, this I am typing on my aged portable OLYMPIA, export model. The running of the stencils will be done on a brand new RONEO "500", hand-operated model. I'm keeping my fingers crossed and hoping that the colour change works as simply as it did when the machine was demonstrated to me. You will be able to tell....

The other side of this sheet will contain a report of any difficulties I may experience. OMPA should be honoured, in the knowledge that they will receive the first output of an immaculate and virginal machine.

As you can see, I've given the register a fairly tough & tricky job for a try-out. Then again, although I've done a good deal of dabbling with duplicator processes, I've never used a Roneo before. So I'll probably make a few errors on this for which the machine cannot be blamed.

Some difficulty I've already met in matching my spacing on the two stencils. This could be overcome by using the proper tracing plate for the job, but I currently do not have the spare cash for that.

Yes, it was easy to fit a sentence onto the "Y".

Well, that is page one done. I'm reasonably satisfied with the result. Most of the faults are mine - in fact, to be honest I imagine they're all mine. It is rapidly obvious that in spacing between "N" and "T" I missed a line, with the result that "TASY" is too high. And putting a rule down the side reveals that the first "S" and the "N" are in too far. One or 2 sheets are worse than the others, because I was playing with the register trying to get the best possible fitting. However, considering it took me exactly 9½ minutes to run 130 copies from both stencils, it ain't bad !

One hundred and thirty copies may seem a bit much for OMPA, but then I am sending this to FAPA also - I hope nobody minds, but I'm so far behind with my assorted affairs due to the move from Germany, and what not, that I'll be out on my FAPA activity requirement if I don't watch it. Hence a sheet like this will help to keep me in the running.

For the benefit of FAPA members, I might mention that OMPA stands for "OFF-TRAIL MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION", which is a new British organisation similar in purpose to, and modelled on, FAPA. Instigators of said assoc. are H. Ken Bulmer (President of the Assoc., and also known as a pro-author in these islands. He has an additional slight claim to fame as the High Nexus of Nirvana, the Unseen Fanzine); A. Vincent Clarke, for whom no introductory comment should be necessitated; and C. R. Harris - a co-hort of the nefarious (according to Tucker) Willis. Better known as "Chuck". FAPAfolk will doubtless learn more of the assoc. at a later -- much later -- date.

Here, I feel, is as good a place as any (or many) to make some mention of the "EWERPCON", held in Antwerp, Belgium, on June 31st. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend this convention, as Jan Jansen very kindly invited Joyce, myself, and our two children to stay with him during the period. We arrived (from Germany) on 30 June, and Left on 1 July for UK. The convention was opened by Jan Jansen, who made a brief speech thanking all those who had managed to come. I then opened a half-bottle of brandy and Jan made an even briefer speech thanking me. We then had a brandy, & thanked everyone again. Attendees were then invited to inspect the ALPHA Club's library - a quite suprisingly large collection including many very rare items - some s-f books printed in Flemish, for instance. The library is tri-lingual, at least, having a large selection of French, British, and American books in addition to the aforementioned Flemish items. Members can, therefore, read a book in two languages at least in many cases. After this Dave Vendelmans addressed the meeting on the future of s-f on the Continent, and used the financial position of the ALPHA club to illustrate many of his points. With the conclusion of his address came the conclusion of the brandy, and the chairman then moved the purchase of another bottle. The motion being carried, the treasurer moved out to get a bottle. On his return, the attendees were called to order, and the bottle inspected, passed, and opened and repassed with great ceremony and not far short of light-speed. I must admit that from then on the proceedings are a little hazy. I do recall that a motion was put that the next Continental convention (to be held in October '54) was proposed to be held at Den Haag in Holland, and in the absence of an alternative bid Den Haag scored an easy victory. The bottle was also defeated at around the same time, and a further expedition sent out. Unsuccessful in obtaining more brandy, they (only one, actually, but I was passed counting except in at least doubles) returned with gin. It was only shortly after this subject was opened that Jan took the floor. I wanted to share it, but couldn't find enough room. Dave and I, at this juncture, were carrying on a conversation in broken German, having foresaken English - a tongue which we can both speak with some fluency - as too darn simple. However, with the arrival of Jan's wife, coffee, and Alka-Seltzer (in that order) order was restored, and the convention closed in a general feeling of goodfellowship and incipient headaches.

Further and more lucid reports on the convention will be published in the next issue of ALPHA, I understand.

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Issued by Captain K.F. Slater (Reserve of Officers until July '59) at the sign of the Dropped Musket, in August, 1954. Peace be with all of ye, yea, even unto Tucker be there peace ! Hell, I don't want to go back in yet....

K.F.S.