

whatsit 24

68th OMPA mailing

Jan 1973.



Ken Cheslin, 36, Chapel Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge, Worcs.,
DY8 5QP, England.

Larry Nielson, USA, sent me a listing of APAs, the results of a survey he's done. While not complete it is interesting. From it I have made the following chart.

Name.	country.	numbers	finances	activity
ANZAPA	Australia			
APA-5	USA	25 (comics)	when AE asks	monthly 24pp pa.
APA 45	USA	25	\$1 pa.	quarterly.. 12pp
APA 50	USA	projected.....(USA)		
APA 55	USA	projected	\$2	qrtly.
APA H	USA	about 15	assessed	monthly 6pp pa
APANGE	USA	11ish	\$2 pa	bi-monthly 6pp pa
APA: NESFA	USA	under 60	maybe \$4	monthly
APA pi	USA	under 35	pay postage	monthly
CANADA APA	Canada	25	75c	bi-monthly 12pp
TheBigAPA	USA	(projected) 630		sixweekly
CAPA	USA	5(invitation)		monthly
CAPA-alpha	USA	(comics) 50ish	assessed	monthly 16pp
The Cult	USA	13?		3weeks
D'APA	USA	20	\$1	monthly 6pp
Elanor	USA	-25	postage	monthly 4pp
FAPA	USA	65(+wl)	\$4	qrtly. 8pp
Galactic Lens	USA	11	\$1 ?	monthly. 18pp
Galaxy	USA	30ish	\$1	semi-qrtly
Love	USA	30ish	\$1	monthly? 24pp
MYRIAD	USA	30	75c	semi-qrtly 4?
NAPA(mundane)	USA	350		qrtly
N'APA(N3F)	USA	15	\$1	unclear
NYAPA	USA	10	\$1 assessed	bi-monthly 12pp
ompa	uk	20ish	£1.25	qrtly 20pp
RAPS	USA	14	assessed	monthly 4pp
REHUPA(Robert E Howard fans)	USA	10ish	qrtly 8pp
SAPA	USA	30 (+wl)	\$2	qrtly 9?
SFFA	USA	22(+wl)	\$1	bi-monthly 12pp
SlanAPA	USA	18(+wl)		monthly
ValAPA	USA	9	\$1 assessed	monthly 4pp

I've omitted one or two listings, such as projected or dead APAs.

The OMPA £1.25 is about \$3 at current rates.

Several of the APAs above are "locality" APAs, like New York, or Denver.

I think we can disregard comics APAs, the mundane NAPA, and even N'APA, which is an APA run by the US equivalent of the BSFA.

The APAs which are doing well, eg; have a waiting list are.

FAPA, 65+ \$4 qrtly 8pp pa.

SAPA, (\$4PS?) 30+ \$2 qrtly 9pp pa? SFFA 22+ \$1 bi-monthly \$2. 12pp pa

SlanAPA 18+ monthly,

Say 30 APAs (mostly US, as might be expected) with about 600 people,

(I don't count NAPA) some of whom are in more than one APA.

Dues average(minimum) \$1,

About 15 are monthly, 4 bi-monthly, 9 quarterly.(roughly estimated)

Highest Dues....FAPA, APA NESFA, OMPA,

Highest page requirements....LOVE, APA-5, OMPA, Galactic Lens, CAPA APA.

and plenty more info if one has the time....kench.

APAs

UK 1. Canada 1, Australia 1. USA about 27.
 though more exist.

numbers.		something and under.												
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	???
1	2	6	3	5	5	1	x	x	1	x	1	1	xx	4

DUES	75c	£1	£2	£3	£4	postage	assessed	uncertain.
	2	9	2	1	2	2	4 to 6	8

pages requires yearly.		(on or under....)												
5	10	15	20	25	unknown	/	15	about monthly						
						/	4	bi-monthly						
4	6	4	3	2	13	/	9	about quarterly						

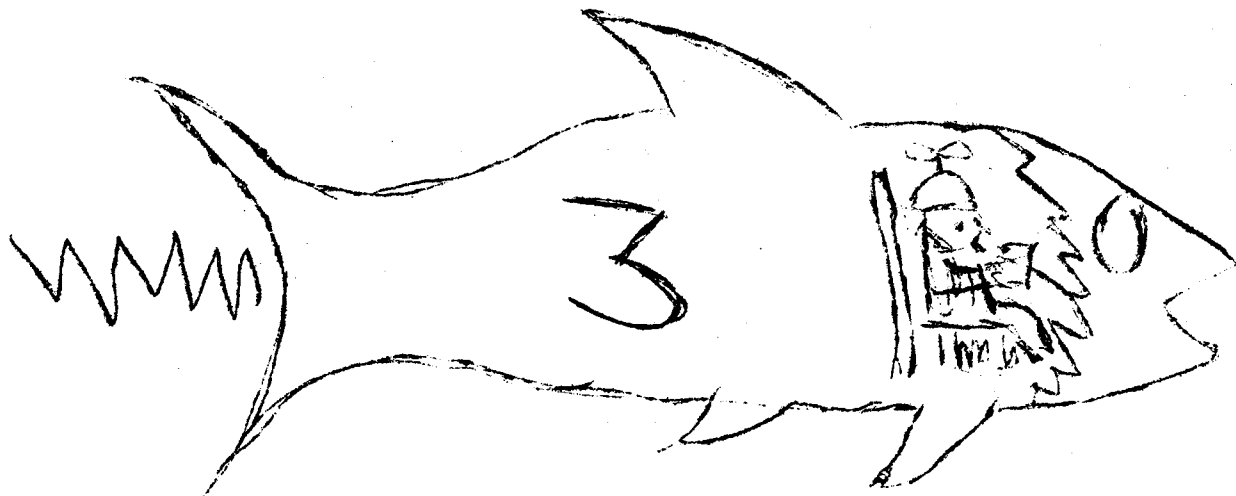
AVERAGES, (not counting NAPA)

number of members.....653 mem in 26 APAs.....25
 page requirements.....209 in 19 APAs.....11pp
 dues average about.....£1

in respect of OMPA be it noted that two things necessitate the £3 dues.
 1. page counts are higher in the mailings than average, thus the weight of bundles is higher, thus the postage is about 20p MINIMUM.
 2. we send bundles out in Jiffy bags. This protects the zines better than the usual rolling of bundles, but it does increase the weight a little, and we have to pay for the bags. (7p to 8p now)

I believe we might charge £1 for dues and just about meet postage, but not other expenses. The £1.25 we have just made the dues up to is 25p less than I suggested. We may be able to manage on this.

kench.



Mailing Comments.
comments comments comments.

1220 although rather uninteresting in content, (a criticism which can
----- be applied to zines other than one-shots) I must remark that the
illos and repro are miles ahead of the vast majority of
one shots...in fact I'm feeling that the repro and illos was
"wasted" on the written contents.

BUNDALOHN QUARTERLEY 1 not very funny..or anything.

LODBROG 6 it is a little known fact that Ragnar Lodbrok
----- spent many seasons on the island of Harris,
off the west coast of Scotland.

It was there that he aquired his famous
"hairy breeks", which were of course
primitive plus fours made of hand knitted
Harris Tweed. This material is rather
itchy when worn next to the skin, a fact which Lodbrok siezed upon
to discomfit his captives. He would wrap their otherwise naked bodies
in itchy Harris (known as harrising the enemy) until they itched
themselves to a horrid death. When asked why the hairy breeks which
he affected did not torture him in the same way Lodbrok is said to have
remarked "Ne Plus Ultra" which, (as you know) translated from the old
Norse means, "my legs are hairy".

FHVT 8 which is getting better and better in appearence; which helps a
----- lot with the material; which has always been quite good, and is
an improvement again this time.

A good cover idea, better drawn than usual...p7 illo wasn't
worth the space, but other was, and back cover.

Rintoul Booth was amusing. the comment is inadequate.

Fairy Tale..welllll. ditto the Mary Legg item
most amused at original use of non-appearing Whatsit, very ingenious.
You missed me?, how kind!
((regards to Jane & Offspring)))

IRA I see recently that some doctors have been concerned with the
damage that rubber bullets have done to certain children. This brings
up the rather interesting question of; why were the children in the
mob? Personally I feel that it would be more useful to point out that
car bombs etc., are even less conducive, and less discriminate, than
rubbar bullets.(to health).

I didn't think the moon landings were a let down,
after all this is the real thing! reading back in some
SF stories one is struck by the naievity (er....) of
most authors in regard to navigation and other problems.
still I suppose the story line was more important....
I don't think the spaceflights were a loss financially, at
present perhaps, but there have been invaluable spinoffs. There is
some case for saying that the actual flights and landings in themselves
will not pay off...eg; colonisation or trade being impossible at present.

mcs p2

FHVT8 er...FHTV..TV TV..must remember...why don't you change it to
----- Wild Rhubarb, or something then?..mutter mutter....

ENEY zines War games..sure, thats the bug..the more realistic you try
----- to make the game the harder it is to play. I have a couple
of ideas for taking care of this, both unfeasable. (either because of the
cost or lack of technology). 1,you use a computer. This works out with
the players being generals etc., and acting on info recieved, as per real > Yes
warfare. Probably used now to train officers. 2.you have this sort of
machine see, and you get into it, see, and some guy throws a switch and,
zowie; you live the part. Sort of dream. I reckon that playing with
computers, dreaming wars, playing war games, is a hell of a lot safer and
pleasant than actually having a real one.

...hmmm..now why would the dreaded Ying Tomr choose a motor-sales
company for a from...hmm..veery suspicious, very suspicious.....

I wonder how the Samuiri swords (long and short) compared to the Ghurka
knives? My dad-in-law told me that when in Egypt during the Hitler war
they were ordered to lace their boots in a certain way...another bloody
bit of bullshit, was the thought. But one night on guard duty he was
surprised by a "hello Tommy" from the region of his knee...there was a
Ghurka outfit nearby. Apparantly the Ghurkas used to go out and cut up
German sentries, their night technique was simple, they smuck up and ran
a finger over the bootlaces...if they were laced the wrong way.....
I suppose mistakes were made.

UTOPIAS, most interesting

er.....no, I don't think I could colour that illo....
I'm absolutely entranced, delighted, flabbergasted, etc., and so forth
with the Sword Flick article and its illos..really great, right up my
street, best thing in the mailing, enjoyed it all very much indeed.

VAGARY 25 nice to see a VAGARY again. enjoyed all, particularly the
----- Blood Fand. The Alderley Edge legend was the foundation for
Alan Garners THE WEIRSTONE OF BRISINGAMUN (good) and helped in that
tales continuation THE MOON OF GOMARATH. (not quite so good). I was
pleased to read a fuller account of the legend.

Our garden is very small and has no real cover for birds.
We get plenty of visitors, mostly starlings and sparrows, though we have
a regular robin, thrushes, blackbirds, various finches and other birds that
I cannot identify. Oh yes, before the winter we had a magpie who used to
patrol all the gardens round here. I've often watched their antics, but
couldn't transcribe them onto paper. Our cats are mainly remarkable for
their sillyness. They've had a month of bouncing up and down the stairs
just recently, they sound like a troop of cavalry. Pollys one trick is to
play football when the milk bowl is empty; Hairy has no trick, she just
has a loud meow..... Polly has regular "tasks", like ~~xxx~~ she has to
escort the paper girl up and down the street every morning; or she has to
go and help anyone who is using a nose pipe..they frighten but fascinate
her. If anyone has a job to do under his car in our road its ten to one
thet Polly will be there, helping. Sittin on spanners, standing nose to
nose, wearing an interested expression, with some poor bod who's lying on
his back under his car. Polly is only a small cat, but shes very brave,
or stupid or somethin. She once chased off an enourmous dog, and when
the GIANT white cat from over the fence comes round she flies at her. She
always gets beaten. Hairy falls off things; slides on her bottom off
shed roofs etc.,.....

V9-Paper Tiger. I had an idea for a cartoon about paper tigers...there is
----- this Chinese Moa type see, centre, with a crowd of other,
lesser, chinese People to the left...he is saying "Its only a paper Tiger"
indicating a sure enough paper tiger at the right, a sort of cardboard
cut-out tiger. BUT, holding the o-co tiger is a non-cardboard dragon of
immense ferocity.

Jhim used to do reviews for SPINCE under the masthead THE FANALITIC
EYE, which title I quite liked.(Fanalytic?) He's always done interesting
reviews. I agree with the sense of Jhims remarks regarding the bad
effects of the present (apparant) lack of conection between Anglo and US
fandoms. I bemoan the state of affairs myself, frequently. How did it come
about? Why? It seems to have happened while I was up in Yorkshire, '67 on.
I've speculated that it may be(at least in part) due to a certain anti-
American bias among the new or newer wave fans. Pity, pity, pity.

Terrys famous "50% rule" is unfortunately truer than the mere fact of
it mathematically. I know. I teach in an area where the 'genius' child is
no higher than 112IQ. the local average is 35!!!! There are several
reasons for this; one being that the "brighter" folks move out of the area
onto more middle class estates. When I look around me MARCHING MORONS
world looms nearer and nearer. The structure of the culture in this area
is prehistoric; though the material culture is pretty "rich" it is an
essentially barbarian one. Eg; all those barbarians who used to wander
about herding beasties, doing manly work like cutting throats, while the
women did the slogging/slaving work, have moved in on the civilised
agriculturists. Barbarians I define as day to day livers; civilised I
define as thought for the future ists. (very rough...really need a night
long con gabfest). Most of the people I know of who say words to the effect
of Power to the People have no idea what "the people" are like ((don't
stick me with any of your own value judgements re this, gentlebods)))
Most vociferous "pro-people" "liberals" are in fact middleclass; or more
intelligent (or both) or more the "concerned" types. They tend to think
that, given the opportunity, everyone else is basically of their sort,
with their longinxs and aspirations. The Educationist for instance have
a sense of values which says that Academic Standards are The Standards by
which to judge Sucess. phooey etc., but thats why a lot of children/youths
feel alienated from school. Different values. anyway...this would take too
long to expound.

Killing people is wrong is a generalisation and a value judgement.

I don't think it would have been a bad thing if every nazi
from Hitler down who shared the responsibility for murders
had been suddenly struck dead in 1945. In fact, earlier.

There are several attitudes toward people killing.

One of the most insidious is, of course, killing people
because one has a cause, or because one is "right".
yeech...enough....

the correport was a marthon. interesting the first
time I read it, but a bit heavy going looking through
it for mos...

Roger Waddington is, I'm afraid incorrect, there has
often been a shortage of willinr bidders for cons...

I rather like Doreen Parkers solution to the Irish
problem...adding, "deport Republican Irish in UK, import any NI people
who want to come to England".

too close to the bottom of the page to start talking about the
BSFA...



OMPA/
VIVIUS.

6

PAPER TIGER..... I think I sent you the zines you were short of from the 66th mailing..can you confirm?

Jan Jansen joined part way through a year, so pays part dues and owed part activity.

When NOVAcon was first organised I was under the impression that this would be a circulating convention, going to a group who bid for it. I was rather under the impression that this was still the case as late as a few months ago, NOVAcon 2. Previous to that I'd had a letter from Pauline Durgate about OMPAcon, one of the arguments being that we should not hold a convention in Brum because many people had been to the NOVAcon the last, and this, year, and wouldn't like to go to the same city. (she also said something to the effect that 70 Brumfans would prefer to go to another site for same or similar reasons) At one of the recent Brumgroup meetings I attended I brought up the subject of NOVAcons, and who would be running them, and was it circulating etc., I was told that there had been some sort of statement at or around last NOVAcon to the effect that the NOVAcon was the Brumgroup convention. They would, or anticipated, running them all. In the light of this I'm wondering.....if they have the NOVAcon each year in Brum...will no future committee of an EASTER con be able to locate a con in Brum?. the same arguments re two cons on one site in one year..? At that or another meeting a show of hands disclosed that only two (Charlie Winstone and myself) of about forty present counted themselves as fanzine fans...(hmm PW perhaps was absent?). It looks like we have the US division of fans with us, fanzine and club fans....

ERG 40 a very good cover. I've been trying to think why, in spite of the 6666- excellent execution, I felt this wasn't quite the tops...I felt that something was missing. I think it just might be the passivity of the illo. (I'm trying to be constructive Terry) although the 'plane, car and to some extent Super Soggy are clearly not at rest, yet the robot, the rightcentre alien, the dotty alien, the metal tentacles and the space suit all seem to be just standing around. The spotty alien I feel is holding that gun thing far too casually. Perhaps its because its a montage sort of illo... hnm, lack of tension; vibrancy of pose; hnm. The monster thing, the 3 other space ships and the saucer didn't register until I'd been looking at the picture for a few minutes. Taken bit by bit and repro technique the illo is good, but it doesn't seem to gell into a complete cover..... anyway hope you get as much artwork work as you need from this electrostencil firm.

Ian Maule must be a twit, or at least he is given to making rash generalisations. Failed what? Oh heck, why bother. From reviews MAYA seems to be quite good, but I've never seen a copy.

Yr famous fallacy 1..right..the average bloke has a hard time slinging a 56lb bag of spuds over his shoulder and walking a hundred yards.

Two items I found recently, one TeddTubb, t'other J.W.C early stories, were rendered less convincing by; perhaps carelessness,; perhaps the spirit or assumptions of the time they were written. JWC fault was having a space ship drop off a warning written on asbestos, the ship being heated and sterilised as it did this, which message falls to earth. Fault;- why did not the dying "hero" cut a message tape to radio warning? Radio and tapes presumably existed at the time JWC wrote. TTs booboo was having his space ships in Alien Dust lack radio equipment; explained I think by saying something about weight problems. Maybe it seemed sensible when written, but not now after the US coverage of the moon flights.....which reminds me....the basis of THE FAR LOOK story has now been cut off. Oh well, reality is more real than fiction(er..er..um..) Truth is stranger than fiction...ah how true.....

ERG 40 contI was only just thinking the other day, when reading
----- somewhere about how do you define a fan, that a real, dyed
in the wool fan is one who knows what you mean when you say "Remember
(or) ~~xxxx~~ what was the First Staple War?.

Waldos..the name of the man to the tool...not uncommon of course,
Sandwich, Wellington, Cardigan.....er..Bobby/Peeler..Macintosh, MacAdam,
Boycott, Hooligan, Vandal...hmm...

liked yr illos on pp 12 and 13, particularly latter. Lensman item was
very interesting; much appreciated..

Your Interplanetary Colony article was interesting but; (not considering
the body of yr article, just the idea) the feasibility of such a colony
cannot be unconnected from a. time, b. technology, c. cost, d. necessity.....in
any event there could not be more than a mere base for centuries to come in
our solar system. I can't see that necessity would be strong enough to
colonise Mars, even if the technology was there. Unless a colony was located
on a suitable planet, provided with machinery etc., to become self supporting
you cannot call it a colony. Besides, unless it became as easy to emigrate
to Boonstiggie, VI as it is to emigrate to Australia then any necessity such
as population pressure would not be enough...Earth would just have to burst
at the seams. Unless spacecraft become as reliable, and ply the spacelanes
as regularly and as (relatively) speedily as present seagoing ships then the
only real chance of a colony being attempted is in the case of some sort of
disaster overtaking the Earth. Then necessity might force any available
ships to become colony ships. I've read in at least one story where one of
the tenants is that only ideas are light enough to be worth carrying around
the universe by traders. I'm inclined to agree

I think it possible that the moon or Mars might be colonised in the
true sense of the word....but the money would never be spent as it would
be better spent say in reclaiming the Sahara...

Enjoyed and informed by Eric Lindsays article.(ERGmail illo good))

This Roll of Honour thing for fans like Bob Richardson, Ted Carnell
and so on...seems a pretty good idea. personally I'd rather like to see a
sort of book wherein each included fan got a page biography. Maybe this is
my history bug...feeling that it might make a good source in years to come;
but at least it would tell people why the contemporary people thought the
fan in question should be included...you'd need perhaps some selection
method..not that there are likely to be a lot of fans dying off in droves...
hmm. it would be rather ghoulish to have to choose who went in the book,
maybe something like the person is included if proposed and supported by
a dozen fans, who also write 450-500 words biography...?

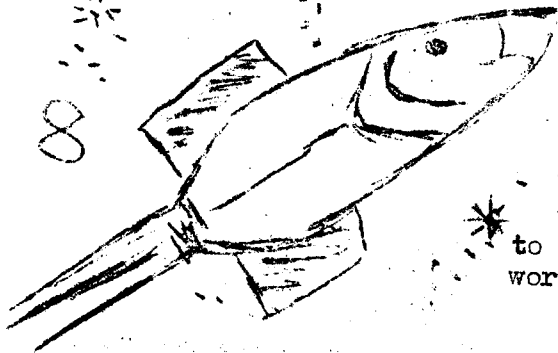
OOTT.. Combozine, do not accept a), but accept b).


----- yr CorSerpentis comment of course largely refers to those children
who can be educated to or over CSE level. However, education, academic, is
the measuring rod of success; simply because everyone who has anything to say
about educational values has measured his/her OWN success in those terms...to

allow that other, equally valid, measures of success exist must
make their success less certain....

eg; some kids will never in a
million years get up to CSE level.

But to suggest that these kids be
given curriculum work other than academic,
like anything from joinery to electrics,
hole digging to bricklaying...is jumped
upon quickmost. THEY charge that you want
to deprive the child of opportunity in the
world...((see--opportunity=sucess=academic)






COOT...who can get the most out of our academic orientated schooling? why the brainier types of course.(minority) (I'm not judging, just stating the facts as I see them) for instance in the schools that use the "discovery" method.(infant...the earlier ages are most important because thats where habits start and attitudes formed) anyhow, you get an Infant school, they let the children choose what to do. Research has shown that "working class" or "culturally deprived" children play happily with the toys, water, sand etc., "Middle class" children like to do the same things BUT ALSO pick up books more often, and begin to learn to read. (significance of parantel attitudes towards booklearning and availability and use of reading matter at home) in a year or two the MC kids are reading, the WC are still stumblin' around. Quite apart from anything else...and believe me I realise I'm skimming like crazy...the WC kid sees he cant read as well as the MC kid...and to AVOID FAILURE DOES NOT COMPETE! ergo...he always reads poorly..he shifts, developes or what havd you, to values non-academic, (even if his background hadn't been pretty larnin' free already.).

the examination system is more than a bit of a farce too.. but what Practical Alternative is there?

employers are as much to blame for this as education authorities... enjoyed the orgy..orgie. ~~1/1/1/1/1/1~~ saga.....report.

PANJAN... quite pleasant and interesting reading..but can't think of anything to say..this must be partly because now I'm hurrying to finish off the mcs. the Bertin stroy was droll. hmm...number OT pages.....you're right....its one of my many faults that I'm remiss in page numbering...

PABLO we've been looking for a bigger house, complicated by the fact that this is a bad time of year(I'm talking about the week or two before and afer Christmas) to sell....we missed a couple of quite good houses..one cost too much anyway. oh well. We need the room mostly because of The Sons...we need a room to ~~part~~ use as their play room....and we could do with another bedroom..I'm using one of ours as "my" room..its full of fan & SF stuff..plus every bit of junk that Jean can squeeze in when I'm weak enough to agree....(yeah,I'm weak.).



LURK yeeechy cover... THE CONTENTS are a differnt matter, it was very enterprising of you to get the McGaffrey speech..

I'm glad to see such a complete Eraboo list,Its a pity (I) the habit of sending in poll forms to Terry has not yet taken hold. I hope more people will do so from now on. I know that its not as easy as it sounds.. I'm continually falling into a "oh,I'll do it tomorrow"

TURK

----- frame of mind. Ah.

Amendments...I rather think that the proposals on voting are the most important....though it WOULD help if dues were paid on time..and if people resigned rather than dropped out. Today, 2nd Jan, for instance I got a letter from Darroll with the list of subs paid....and there are at least half-a-dozen people who havent paid, a couple of whom I'm fairly certain want to stay on....and the others ((one did)) havent indicated what the hell they intend to do....so B.....er them. they can have an OT but no mailing, and its up to them then.

Pete Weston was enjoyable too...(heck, you are enterprising)..... makes me nostalgic....it was mostly lack of finances that made me cut down my fanac..zines. Its the same thing that stops me going genzine now..sigh.

I didn't try the crossword..I do sometimes...I think I might get some of it...scanning it now I noticed 3 or 4...

BRobinsons remarks on education could apply to only a small minority of course.....

I wonder if Nick Shears is right about mcs....it seems a valid point... (meaty mcs as feedback, showing interest in return for editors efforts in making zine))

HELLdon't care for the cover illo., the Jeeves spaceship, and the JS
----- illos were good...so was the Rove strip.....

yr remarks about single-or-few sheet OMPAzines...well in many cases you're right that their smallness is often equalled by their poorness, on the other hand some have been most entertaining. Anyway, it would take but a slight modification of the rules to fix this;;;if enough people feel the same way..."activity is 20pp equiv qtr to per year,

installments must not be in less than 10 sides lots.

half activity must be in by the 2nd mailing of the year."

this would give a new member 6 months to get together 10pp, surely enough time?.

About associate members, the problem there, as much as anything, is to let people know that they can take out such memberships...we seem to have little contact, or be little known, to current Anglofandom....er... apart from pronouncements in MAYA and suchlike.....

Swap a bundle or two with another APA? now that might just be a good idea..I'll make a note of it and see what I can do.

You may well have a point about reducing the number of items in the Egoboo Poll. BUT, what are you doing voting for Thom Penman & Eddie Jones in an OMPA poll?. We can't run a poll voting on outsiders for the simple reason that members will not see the same genzines..it would in that case be unfair, silly etc., All the Egoboo Poll should aim to do is to give a bit of Egoboo to an OMPAN; if nobody wants one we'll scrap it. It seems to me though that this is an opportunity to give egoboo that would otherwise never be given..something you read and enjoyed, but couldn't think what to say about, could be acknowledged in this way.

Jazz Guitar interesting..must say I finished feeling that I wouldn't particularly have liked to know JR.

maybe the Joan Sharp would understand about mcs if it was explained that they are not opinions on each others zines so much as conversations in mc instead of letter form?.....

nothing else inspires me to comment...

-----end end end end mcs mcs mcs mcs end mcs-----

WHATSIT 24, Ken Cheslin, 36 Chapel Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge, Worcs.,
DY8 5QP Enrland.

sorry nowt but mcs. 10