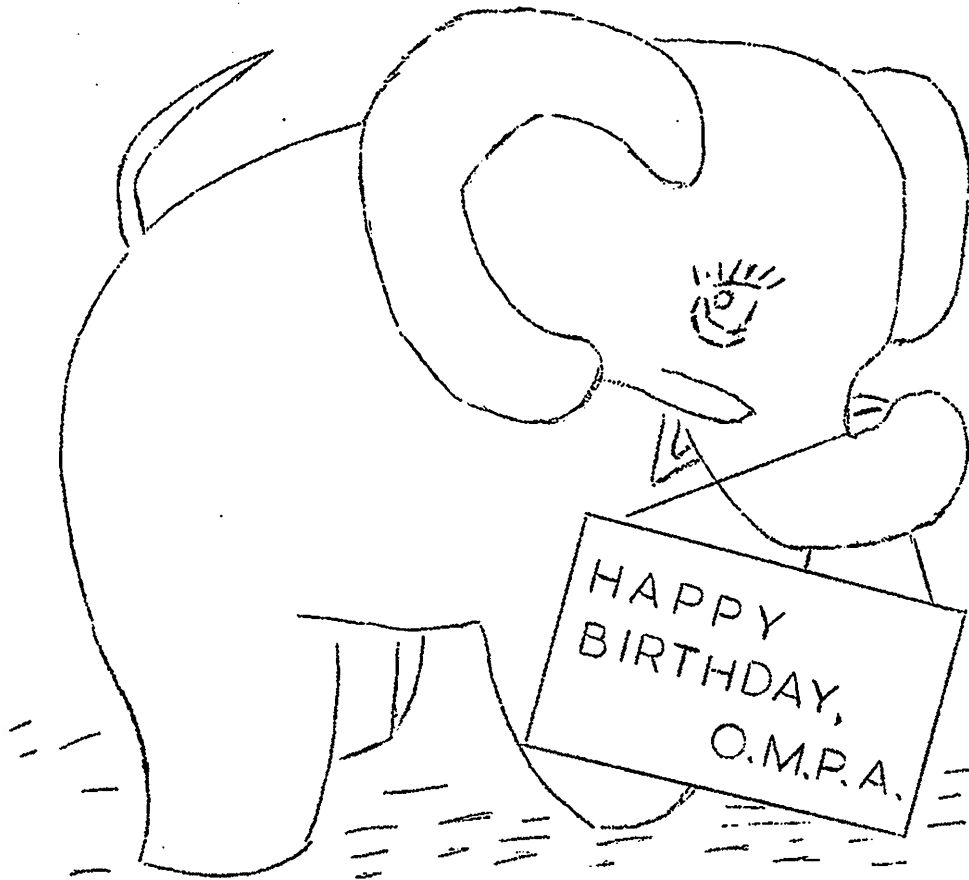


BURP!

No. 23
OMPA 41
Sept 64



TENTH ANNISH

"It was a different elephant."

-ooOoo-

Following which, I think we'll move on to mailing comments for the 40th mailing.

COGNATE 3 (Rosemary Hickey): The subscription salesman have reached us. "College students" present a card, neatly printed to show that they must sell a certain number of subscriptions by a certain date in order to qualify for a prize or a scholarship. The said date is always just a week or so in the future. The cards are, of course, changed about once a fortnight. Whilst in Liverpool we suffered one such type who went off on the spiel about the university. This was my own stamping ground (now we're back to Colin's elephant) so that it didn't do him much good. We also had one guy around one evening, followed some ten minutes later by a second salesman, followed only ten minutes later by a boy who could not have been more than ten years old. I told the boy that if his father or uncle or whoever was not out of the street inside five minutes I'd call the police (Ah, 'tis against the jolly old law to employ minors under fourteen. Ask your newspaper delivery boy how old he is sometime!).

DOLPHIN 7 (Elinor Busby). Look forward to seeing you next year. / The Shorrocks-Weedall multi-based wines are excellent. / I think that John Roles lives by the theory that with the Mersey beat history is being made and we're here at the making, somewhat on the lines of following the life and times of Jelly Roll Morton and wishing that one could have been there (I wouldn't mind a time machine for this sort of thing myself). I don't go along with him all the way, but he may well have something. Time, I suppose, will tell. John, you can write it up for the 81st mailing. / Might I point out that in Pride & Prejudice there is no character called Elizabeth Bennett? Check the second word of chapter two if you don't believe me. (Elizabeth Bennett is, of course, my wife.) It seems strange that after eleven years in fandom cringing at every letter I receive addressed to Ron "Bennet" I should now be admonishing someone for adding the second "t."

MBIN OMP-F 3 (Colin Freeman). More for other members than for you, old bean, I mention my constant amazement and interest at the absolutely natural manner in which you address your Italian ward orderlies in Spanish and they answer you in English.

MORPH 35 (John Roles): Your Rollings diary reminds me, for some odd reason, of Hemingway. (Hope you like Hemingway!) / Agree with you about Nancy Spain whose syrup I couldn't stand. Give me Ernie Pyle any day.

SIZAR 13 (Bruce Burn): My, you have been getting into trouble recently haven't you? There we go again with the misinterpretation of the printed word and all that jazz. At least, I hope that that's all it was! / Disc jockeying, ah, now there's a secret desire of mine. Keep your old fire engines. Many years ago, even before I was in fandom (ah, now he's letting cats out of the bag!), I even went so far as to apply to the B.B.C. for a jazz spot. Alas, in those days jazz was not "in fashion" and there was little demand for such a programme. Today there is too much jazz. (I hope that Archie agrees with me) There is an abundance of mediocrity. We even have jazz fans today who lap up the watery mockery of bands like Acker Bilk or Bilk or however the dear gentleman spells his name, and have never heard of Bunk, Bix, etc. Sad.

LEEWUL 3 (Fred Patten): That's exactly what I said, that the word "Airplane," is considered correct in America. / Personally I don't unscrew the top of my orange bottles before that type of visitor arrives for the simple reason that I would not want orange juice all over my carpets (if I had any carpets, that is). But

as the chief culprit with Colin's orange bottle I'm very annoyed that you've given him such an idea. / Statten was Fearn, yes. I don't think that anyone else used the tag. Or wanted to. Gridban was both Tubb and Fearn. Tubb wrote 5 Gridban novels between 1952 and 1953. Fearn wrote 12 novels between 1953 and 1954 and also 4 shorts in that latter year, almost taking over, as it were, the name from Tubb. Neither name, as far as I know, has been used since Fearn's death. This information, incidentally, was gleaned from Phil Harbottle's Fearn Appreciation & Checklist, though Phil recently wrote to say that because of even more Fearn being unearthed in old detective story mags., he intends revising the checklist later this year.

SOUFFLE 8(John Baxter):I don't think that OMPA is what it used to be, either. But I'm in 100% agreement with you that this is a personal matter. If there is any blame to be thrown, laid, spread or whatever one does with blame, then it must rest with me. One factor is indeed the unwillingness, for one reason or another, of some members to contribute more than the minimum page count of turgid mailing comments. Now, as I'm obviously guilty of this sort of thing myself, as these few pages well testify, what should I do? At the moment I cannot afford the time or money which would be involved in producing something worthwhile(also, if it were suggested that I didn't have the talent either I wouldn't argue)and yet I do not want to leave OMPA. I personally get far too much enjoyment out of reading other members' zines. Am I then a piece of OMPA deadwood? Should I be thrown out, discarded on the scrap heap of old and tired one-time enthusiasts? Or should I be allowed to remain in the fold, welcomed, as it were, with open arms, as I do, after all, produce my few worthless pages and pay my cash(which cannot even be said for everyone)? Or should I merely be tolerated?

PROCRASTINATOR 2(Bjohn):As you say, different books give different meanings for names, and as we have very recently also been name hunting, you may like to compare my list with yours: Thomas - Good company; John - Given by God; Ronald - Worthy of admiration(gee!); Brian - Strong, sincere; Bruce - positive,daring; Elinor - light; William - Resolute; Richard - Stern but just;Gordon - generous; Harvey - Bitter; Rosemary - Unspoiled; Robert - Winner over all(never play poker against Tucker); George - One who amasses a fortune; Archibald - Holy prince; Norman - hopeful; Ella - Sprightly; Joseph - An addition;Charles - Manly. It is surprising just how some of these differ from your list, though those I have omitted either agree exactly or very nearly. Ellis is given as "faltering," but Alva and Helmut are not given(as with your list). Also, my own listing does not give Lynn, nor, surprisingly considering its popularity, Colin. Tch!

VAGARY 19(Bobbie Gray): As I don't know the first thing about astrology, I tend to keep an open mind(which isn't hard as there is plenty of space between my ears), but I am inclined towards the cynical. Look, persuade me; you know me well enough to be able to form some impression as to my personality and character, or lack of same. If this astrology jazz(am I being unfair?)works, then should it not be able to be followed through in reverse? How about you giving me the time, date and place of my birth? / The withcraft research was brilliant.

BROBDINGNAG 2 & 3(Richard Schultz): If we ignore this postal diplomacy caper, will it go away?

VIPER 7(Wee William Donaho):Yes, I like the Beatles. Not enough to pay to go and see even their film or a show, etc. But I don't turn them off when they're on the radio, and I quite like their interviews. / You ask about my test survey and whether a marking key was provided with the test paper. Yes, it was. However, it was the marking key that was, to me, ambiguous, shaky etc, and it was

this ambiguity that I was attempting to isolate. The results of the survey were incorporated into my dissertation submitted for the Dip.Ed. and proved decisively that the tests in question left much to be desired (without my going into technicalities). A pity, in a way, for other tests in the same series (published by the National Foundation for Educational Research) are undoubtedly the best objective primary school tests on both sides of the Atlantic. If you're interested, I can go into further details, or you can look them up in the encyclopaedic Burros Yearbooks.

Unsolicited Egoboo Dept: Thoroughly enjoyed in the 40th mailing were the following items: Archie Mercer on creating more free time.

Bobbie Gray on witchcraft.

Al Halevy on Scientific Research Literature (hoe true).

Tom Schlueck on films.

Ken Cheslin's painted cover for Whatsit.

Terry Jeeves' bacover advert for alloy medallions.

John Roles' Rollings. (Very sorry that this is ending).

Ted Forsyth's punny story in Compact.

Arthur Thomson's story in Compact. This item was the outstanding feature of the mailing for me. I have several times suffered intense disappointment because of John Berry not visiting some fannish event in England and here we are with other people obviously feeling the same way. Gad, the man must be popular! Still, this Atom story shows that one will not take things lying down forever.

More about OMPA and The Good Old Days. John Roles mentioned that Ethel and I seemed to belong to the same category of fan, one who looks back to the old glory of bygone times and all that jazz. On a similar note, I have recently been accused by a couple of New Wave Birmingham fans of harking back, somewhat unfairly, to past times. I don't think that there is anything particularly wrong, bad or unwarranted about so doing, however. After having been a reasonable active fan for eleven years it would be annoying and somewhat futile had I no memories of fandom to cherish. And, believe me, if I mention some happening of many years ago (well, in fandom even four or five years can be "many"), could it not be that I am trying to share some memory in anecdote form? I am not gloating. I am not saying that all that is worthwhile about fandom has already happened. I am not disillusioned with fandom. Or OMPA. Of course we have happy memories, we old-timers, he says, coughing madly. We also have some pretty lousy ones if it comes to that (and surely you don't want to have us talking and writing about those?). But, the point is this: there are more good times to come, both in OMPA and fandom as a whole. In years to come I hope to have many many more happy, wild, enjoyable memories and stories to tell; more fanzines will join the ranks of the all-time greats; more fans will produce pleasurable works. Oh, I'm telling you, I'm looking forward to being in fandom for a long time yet. And to boring you all stiff with stories of the Good Old Days. Which, in the far and distant future, will be stories of today. And tomorrow.

For no other reason than one or two OMPAns might be interested in this sort of futility, overleaf is a page count of activity for each of the 40th mailing members during his or her stay in OMPA. This, of course, is based upon a quantitative count, quality depending upon a more subjective judgment.

TEN YEARS OF OMPA ACTIVITY(40th Mailing Membership only)

Member	Activity in pages for each year of membership										Av.
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	
Tom Armistead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil
John Baxter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	58	37	46
Ron Bennett	38	43	32	23	18	6	16	Nil	12	13	20
Burkhard Blum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Brian Burgess	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	Nil	12	14	15
Bruce Burn	-	-	-	27	22	53	54	64	54	26	43
Elinor Busby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	22	21	19
Terry Carr	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	36	24	Nil	18
Ken Cheslin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	125	168	129
Larry Crilly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Bill Donaho	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	124	62	12	82
Dick Eney	-	-	32	45	24	62	69	59	163	18	59
Bill Evans	-	-	-	82	26	18	16	14	27	23	29
Don Fitch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	21	14	15
Don Ford	-	27	70	48	20	16	2	15	Nil	12	23
Harvey Forman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Colin Freeman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
Bobbie Gray	-	-	44	93	59	Nil	48	118	59	44	58
Dave Hale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	37	19	35
Rosemary Hickey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15
Lynn Hickman	-	-	-	50	167	91	96	43	26	Nil	68
Dave Hullan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil
Fred Hunter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	45	22	31
Terry Jeeves	-	-	-	-	14	35	46	64	61	54	46
Brian Jordan	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	13	13	17
Ted Johnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14	12
Roy Kay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Helmut Klemm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	Nil	15
Bob Lichtman	-	-	-	-	-	22	30	48	Nil	14	23
Ethel Lindsay	27	31	40	59	24	16	86	113	94	95	59
George Locke	-	-	-	-	-	16	26	Nil	15	34	18
Archie Mercer	46	95	86	104	114	54	49	71	44	48	71
Norman Metcalf	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	48	14	Nil	19
Fred Patten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	39
Ella Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	31	26
Joe Patrizio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	20	12	16
Bruce Pelz	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	Nil	18	Nil	9
Ian Peters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil
Alva Rogers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	34	43
John Roles	34	77½	55	58	48	18	11	51	57	51	46
Tom Schluck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Dick Schultz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	69	57	62
Don Studebaker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	Nil	4
Bjo & John Trimble	-	-	-	-	-	26	Nil	-	-	47	24
Charles Wells	6	16½	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	20	2	9

E&OE. It is of course fully realised that the membership year does not always coincide with the September to June OMPA year. More statistics next time.