

The Official Organ of
The Off-Trail Magazine
Publishers' Association

NUMBER 52
DEC. 1968

CONTENTS OF THE 52nd MAILING


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Effell	2	Winstone	12 Q	12
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12 items from 10 members. Total 161 pages, equivalent to 166 pages of 10" x 8".

ADDITIONS to the 50th and 51st Mailings : NOT KNOWN.

DEADLINE for the 53rd MAILING : March 1st 1969. Please note that March is the month for the election of Officers, and proposals for amendments to the Constitution.

MATERIAL FOR THE 53rd MAILING should be sent to:

MRS. B. MERCER
c/o BANFIELD
16 ST. MICHAEL'S HILL
BRISTOL BS2 8DT
ENGLAND. 

(Should this address have to be changed before deadline, all members will be notified immediately).

DUES should be sent to the AE at : 10 LOWER CHURCH LANE
ST. MICHAEL'S
BRISTOL BS2 8BA
ENGLAND.

(This is by special arrangement with the Treasurer : see AE's Report).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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(in two parts)

July 25th 1968.

Due to difficulties this year's election was suspended. Official Presidential decree is as follows:

Beryl Mercer is appointed to the post of AE as soon as she wants it, subject to agreement from Heinrich Arenz, and in agreement with our earlier correspondence. This will make it easier on all concerned, I think, as Beryl is in the British Isles. I will retain the post of President through this year, thus making it two years, and will, provided things get a little more settled, conduct an election at the usual time next spring. By then we should be back on our feet. Until such time as there are people willing to stand for office I will act like a dictator. As soon as the people come forth, I will go back to pubbing.

Please, all you people out there, see if you can make some ~~contacts~~ converts to OMPA. We need people. Live ones.

October 1968.

Things are still not going well for OMPA. As President, I feel, for instance, that I have a right to get a copy of the mailing, and that my letters ought to be answered. As of the last (50th) mailing, I had to borrow Bill Donaho's mailing, to see what had happened, and there are several letters that have not been answered by various persons.

Withal, we are doing better. Having offered my credo of dictatorship to the membership at large, at least one member, Beryl Mercer, has risen to the occasion. I do hereby proffer and share my dictatorial powers with Beryl, on the eminently reasonable grounds that she, despite the B.S.F.A. Secretaryship and other problems, has more time than I have, that she has requested a share of the work, and, most important, that she is now AE and lives in Britain, this happy duple circumstance making it possible for her to get one hell of a lot done.

Now in my most humble manner to speak do I come before you all and request that you should do the same. That you should devote that small extra time space and add what you can to the OMPA drizzle, in the hope that it will once again become a torrent.

Finally we wish to express our personal regret, and no doubt that of the entire membership, that Terry Jeeves is leaving us; we hope only for a while. He's been a fine member, whose work I've always looked forward to, and I think he shall be missed. Our hopes are that his health will improve, and rapidly.

Don Studebaker, 1968.

December 8th 1968.

First, a brief rundown on events (or lack of them) to date:

On August 2nd I wrote to Heinrich Arenz, offering to take over as AE - for the Sept. mailing - and pointing out that the 51st (June) mailing had not arrived. About two weeks later, I heard indirectly that Heinrich had said that the 51st mailing would be distributed during the weekend of August 23rd/25th, "after which Beryl will be taking over."

On August 29th I issued my circular to all faneds who were, as far as I could tell from O-T 50, still currently members of OMPA. I also sent a few to people whose membership had lapsed, but who, I thought, might be interested in rejoining; and also to another few who had expressed interest in OMPA.

Early in October I received, in my capacity as secretary of the B.S.F.A. Limited, Heinrich's renewal sub. On the envelope he had written something to the effect of "I am back in fandom as of now. Letter SOON."

On November 16th I wrote a brief appeal to Heinrich, explaining that I was trying to compile information for O-T 52, and was finding it virtually impossible without access to O-T 51. I begged him to send out the 51st mailing, and offered to loan him the money to do this if he was having trouble in contacting Ron Bennett.

I have received no replies to any of my letters, (nor to personal ones written earlier), neither has the 51st (JUNE) mailing arrived.

You will therefore appreciate that the membership details I have tried to give cannot be guaranteed as anything like correct. As I said in my circular, I have taken it upon myself (with Don's approval) to advance all memberships as regards dues by six months. If anyone spots any anomalies in my list, please will he/she excuse me, and notify me as soon as possible with the necessary corrections.

As regards activity, I have discussed this with Archie, and have decided to follow his suggestion that, for the time being at least, I should disregard all previous page-counts, and start afresh. This means that all members who have not put a zine in this (52nd) mailing owe 20 pages before next December. Those members who have put a zine in this mailing should deduct the number of that zine's pages from 20; the remainder is what each owes for the rest of the OMPA year.

I realise that this may be regarded as being somewhat hard on the 'old faithfuls', and indulging the 'back-sliders' - but please remember that I'm an 'old faithful' myself, and that the back-sliders haven't had much encouragement to be otherwise in the last two or three years. I know, too, that this decision is somewhat arbitrary, but in view of the non-appearance of the 51st mailing, I fail to see what else I can do. If anyone has any better ideas, do please let me know. And it would be very helpful to me if everyone who submitted a zine for the missing 51st mailing could let me know how many pages his/her zine consisted of. By this means it might be possible to issue O-T 53, next March, with its details more nearly correct.

I have had several helpful letters from Ron Bennett, but he, too, is stymied to a certain extent by the lack of up-to-date information. Therefore no Treasurer's Report will appear in this O-T, though I am given to understand that the treasury is in reasonably good shape.

A warm welcome to the following new and rejoined members: Peter Roberts (whose first 'offering' for OMPA is in the missing 51st mailing); Phil Muldowney (who hoped to have a zine in this mailing, but I haven't received it to date); Chuck and Sally Crayne; Billy Pettit; Charles Winstone (glad to have you back, Chas.); Gerald Bishop; and Ann Dietz (who hopes to have a zine in the 53rd mailing).

I freely confess that I have 'bent' the rules, in order to encourage people to join (and remain in) OMPA. This has certainly paid off in at least one case: Fred Patten, officially owing 32 pages because of lack of activity, was told by me that he was welcome to stay in if he could get half that number of pages to me by deadline. On December 3rd I had an airletter from Fred begging me to wait a day or two, because he was going to send his contribution by airmail.

There has been a most peculiar sequel to this. On Friday afternoon, Dec. 6th, Archie found the Customs declaration off Fred's parcel. It was lying crumpled and dirty in the middle of the Lane, about 50 yards from our front door. Archie, seeing that the label was addressed to 10 Lower Church Lane, hurried along to another shop (not Banfield's) which sometimes takes in parcels for us. No joy. He went to Banfield's, just in case. Still no joy. So he went to make enquiries at Bristol's head Post Office. He was told to call again if the parcel did not arrive on Monday morning (tomorrow).

In something of a holy rage, I went myself to the Post Office yesterday afternoon, and raised a little mild hell. The date on this label is Dec. 2nd; I pointed out crossly that it had taken only four days to travel 7000-odd miles, and it was obviously going to take another three to be delivered from one place in Bristol to another! (It seems that there is no parcel delivery in this country on Saturdays ...)

Anyway, since I know for sure that Fred's zines are somewhere in this city, I intend to wait for them. I hope you'll agree that this is the least I can do, after Fred has gone to so much trouble and expense. And thanks, Fred, for this evidence of your enthusiasm.

Will all members whose subs. were due in September 1968, or December 1968, please send them direct to me (7/- for U.K. members, \$1 for U.S. and Canadian members). This arrangement has been approved by the Treasurer, so that I can contra my OMPA expenses against dues received, and thus keep currency conversions down to a minimum.

and now, I think, it only remains to wish all U.K. members a very happy Christmas, all members everywhere a successful and healthy 1969, and to request the help of all of you to make it a good New Year for OMPA.

++ Beryl Mercer.

CONSTITUTION

The Off-Trail
Magazine Publishers'
Association

Formed June 1954

1. FUNCTIONS. The Off-Trail Magazine Publishers' Association (OMPA) is composed of persons with a common interest in science fiction and fantasy. Its quarterly mailings distribute to its members material written or published by the members.
2. MEMBERSHIP. There shall be no more than 45 members at any one time. Membership is open to anyone who applies to the Association Editor (AE) and is able to show proof of activity in amateur publishing during the previous twelve months to the satisfaction of the current officers. If the membership roster is full at the time of application, the AE places those applicants with proper credentials on a waiting list, in order of application. A free copy of OFF TRAILS is sent to each member on the waiting list, and he must acknowledge its receipt in writing to the AE by the deadline of the next mailing in order to remain on the waiting list. Within one week of publishing an issue of OFF TRAILS announcing a membership vacancy, the editor must write to the top waiting-lister offering him the place. To obtain the place, the prospective member must send to the editor, or post-mail, 50 copies of a 6 quarto page magazine (or its equivalent) by the deadline of the next mailing. If he fails to respond, he is removed from the waiting list, and the next waiting-lister is invited to join. Membership may be lost by not paying dues or by not maintaining activity requirements.
3. ACTIVITY. Each member is required to produce as a minimum during each membership year a total of 20 quarto (10" x 8") pages or the equivalent, distributed in the quarterly mailings. This material shall be produced in at least 50 legible copies submitted to the AE, and must be the work - to an extent that satisfies the officers - of the member concerned. All publications must bear in English the name and address of the publisher, as well as the name of the magazine, its date and issue number. The AE may count the production of OFF TRAILS as his activity requirement.

There is no restriction on material as long as it comes within the postal regulations, but the minimum requirements for renewal must be original material, not reprints or material that has had prior distribution outside OMPA. Material insufficiently legible for credit, or violating the postal requirements for legality shall not receive activity credit; in the former case, however, material shall be distributed in the mailings, but in the latter case material shall be destroyed by the AE unless the contributing member recovers it in person. The AE's decision concerning the suitability or otherwise of matter for transmission through the mails shall be final.

Members may distribute post-mailings to the preceding mailing at their own expense and these shall count as activity credit except that they shall not count as minimum requirements for renewal unless they reach the AE prior to the mailing date of the fourth quarterly mailing of each member's membership year. Four extra copies of each post-mailing must be sent to the AE.

Presidential Decree issued in September 1967: Harold Palmer Piser, in view of his bibliographical activity, is granted an immediate non-contributing membership in the Association in return for the payment of double the normal annual dues.

4. FINANCES. Dues are 7/- (£1) per year and are payable in advance; they must be paid by the first day of the month of the fourth quarterly mailing of each member's membership year. On admission to the waiting list, a prospective member must pay his first year's dues. Dues may be taken in stationery, etc., at the discretion of the Treasurer. If it appears that the Treasury shall lack funds to despatch the next mailing, an equal assessment shall be levied upon the entire membership, sufficient to meet the expected costs and provide a small reserve. Members not paying the assessment shall not receive the mailing until they pay for it, within a limit of three months, after which the member shall be dropped from the Association.

5. MAILINGS. The Association Editor shall send out identical mailings to all members immediately following the mailing dates, which are the fifth days of March, June, September and December. Mailings shall contain copies of all the publications that reach the AE by the mailing date, which is the deadline, plus the current issue of OFF TRAILS.

Each issue of OFF TRAILS shall contain the following:

- (a) A list of current members, and waiting-listers if any, with a clear indication of the standing of members with regard to dues and activity requirements.
- (b) Any reports of official business.
- (c) A listing of the contents of the current mailing and of any post-mailings to the preceding mailing not already listed in previous issues.
- (d) Any ballots (these to be provided in duplicate - one copy not to be counted as part of the mailing - on detachable sheet or sheets).
- (e) Any other relevant material at the discretion of the AE.

The Constitution shall be published in OFF TRAILS at least once a year.

Any magazine (including post-mailing) reaching the AE after the first day of the mailing month must be preceded by a letter detailing its title, publisher, number, and number and size of its pages.

6. OFFICERS. The following officers are elected annually by and from the membership, and have the following duties and responsibilities in addition to those listed elsewhere in this Constitution:

The PRESIDENT has general direction of OMPA affairs. In any disagreement over membership in any situation not provided for in this Constitution, or in any disputed interpretation of it, the President's judgement shall be considered final. He shall conduct an annual egoboo poll, the ballot for which will be distributed in the March mailing and the results published in the June mailing.

The TREASURER handles the OMPA finances, which must be kept separate from his own funds. He publishes a financial statement in every June mailing. He must be 21 years of age or over, and must reside in Great Britain. (Presidential Decree issued in September 1967: Ronald M. Bennett remains Treasurer of the Association. This despite his now residing elsewhere than in Great Britain.) The ASSOCIATION EDITOR (AE) receives members' magazines and from these assembles and mails the quarterly mailings. He receives membership applications and acknowledgements to the waiting-listers' copies of OFF TRAILS. He must reside in Great Britain.

7. ELECTIONS. An election to all official posts is held annually. Candidates whose names are to appear on the ballot form must inform the AE by the deadline of the March mailing, and ballots will be sent out in that mailing even if there is only one candidate for each post. Write-in votes are

permissible. The results will be announced in the June OFF TRAILS, and the new officers will start their terms of office on July 1st. Election depends on a simple majority of votes received.

8. AMENDMENTS. Proposed amendments to this Constitution, in writing and endorsed by four members, no more than two of whom are officers, shall be submitted to vote in the March mailing. The proposers shall send a copy of the proposed amendment with signatures attached, to the President, and an additional copy to the AE. The gist of the proposed amendment must be given in the December OFF TRAILS. Amendments shall be carried if a simple majority of the votes received is attained, and a revised Constitution containing the amendments shall be published in the June mailing.

Stencilled by Beryl Mercer. Proofread and Duplicated by Archie Mercer.

A Bugleford Press Publication. September 1968.

MEMBERSHIP LIST : 52nd MAILING. (ALL DETAILS PROVISIONAL ONLY).

000 Principal Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum, London W.C.1.	00-00
5 Bennett, R. : 45 Namly Garden, Shamrock Park, Singapore 10.	m9-20
101 Burgess, B. : 20 St. Albans Crescent, Bournemouth, Hants.	d9-20
168 Charters, G. : 3 Lancaster Ave., Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland	s8-20
193 Cheslin, K. : 17A, Highfield Rd., Doncaster, Yorks.	d8-6
55 Gray, R. : 14 Bennington St., Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 4ED.	j9-17
89 Jeeves, T. : 30 Thompson Rd., Sheffield, Yorks. S11 8RB.	resigned
110 Jordan, B. : 29 Sherwood Ave., Gomersal, nr. Leeds, Yorks.	d8-20
31 Lindsay, E. : Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey	m9-20
16 Mercer, A. : 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA.	d8-20
172 Mercer, B. : " " " " " " " " " " " "	m9-0
165 Peters, I. : 292 Southend Lane, London S.E.6.	s8-20
177 Reed, M. : 5 Park Close, Longmeadow, Stevenage, Herts.	d9-10
30 Roles, J. : 26 Pine Grove, Waterloo, Liverpool 22.	d8-20
176 Arenz, H. : D-6000 Frankfurt 1, Schliessfach 5002, Germany	d9-20
164 Schlück, T. : D-3000 Hannover, Georgswall 5, Germany	s8-20
180 Barr, S. : Box 305, Nocony, Texas 76255, USA.	d8-20
185 Boggs, R. : Box 1111, Berkeley, California 94701, USA.	?-20
189 Chermak, A. : Lincoln Av.E. Mounted Rt. Alexandria, Minn. 56308, USA.	d8-20
112 Donaho, W. : PO Box 1284, Berkeley, California 94701, USA.	d8-20
61 Eney, R. : 6500 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22307, USA.	d9-5
136 Fitch D. : 3908 Frijo, Covina, California, USA.	d8-20
175 Katz, A. : 98 Patton Blvd., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11043, USA.	s8-20
190 Kusske, J. : 522 9th Av.W., Alexandria, Minn. 56308, USA	d8-20
188 McCallum, J. : Met. Sect., S.E.S., Ralston, Alberta, Canada	s8-20
115 Metcalf, N. : PO Box 336, Berkeley, California 94701, USA.	s8-20
157 Patten, F. : 8943 East Arcadia Av., Apt.14, San Gabriel, Cal. 91775, USA.	m9-4
192 Pardoe, Dr. W.D. : 95 E.12th Av., Columbus, Ohio 43201, USA	d8-20
143 Pelz, B. : Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Cal. 90024, USA.	d8-20
171 Pelz, D. : " " " " " " " " " " "	?
194 Piser, H.P. : 41-08 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, N.Y. 11355, USA.	d8-0
142 Rogers, A. : 5967 Greenridge Rd., Castro Valley, Cal. 94546, USA.	d8-20
187 Schwenn, G. : Box 1111, Berkeley, California 94701, USA	j9-20
139 Studebaker, D. : 2815 Forest Av., Berkeley, California 94705, USA.	s8-11
191 Ward, M. : 116 Broadway, Cambridge, Mass. 02142, USA.	d8-20

NEW MEMBERS

195 Grigg, J. : 4 Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middx., GB.	?-20
196 Roberts, P. : 87 West Town Lane, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5DZ. GB.	s9-12
197 Muldowney, P. : 7 The Elms, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon, GB.	d9-20
198 Crayne, C. & S. : 1050 N. Ridgewood Pl., Los Angeles, Cal. 90038, USA.	d9-14
199 Pettit, B. : c/o Control Data Ltd., 22A St. James's Sq., London SW.1, GB.	d9-10
200 Winstone, C. : 71 George Rd., Erdington, Birmingham 23, GB.	d9-0
201 Bishop, G. : 10 Marlborough Road, Exeter, Devon, GB.	d9-8
202 Dietz, A. : 655 Orchard St., Oradell, N.J. 07649, USA.	d9-20

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NB. After this Mailing, the AE intends to clamp down on those members who have evinced no interest in OMPA during the past year. ++ BM.