"You are a philosopher," said the lady, "and a lover of liberty. You are the author of a treatise, called 'Philosophical Gas; or, a Project for a General Illumination of the Human Mind'."

"I am, " said Scythrop...

(Peacock: Nightmare Abbey, ch. X)

PHILOSOPHICAL GAS

Number Seventeen: February 1973

Published by John Bangsund PO Box 357 Kingston ACT 2604 Australia for members of FAPA, ANZAPA and OMPA

So now you know, if you didn't already, where the title of this publication comes from. But perhaps I should explain why there have been four issues dated February 1973, and why OMPA and ANZAPA will not be seeing one of them.

The first bit I am blaming on Leigh Edmonds. In the last ANZAPA Official Organ Leigh listed PG14 as no.11. When I started typing the first of these February issues I remembered that he had mistaken the number, but I thought he had mistaken 17 for 11, so I thought I was up to no.18 and blithely proceeded. Yes, well. Can't really miss three issues just like that, can you, so I have whipped up three little things in the last couple of days and given them the missing numbers.

However: No.15 is two pages of irritable FAPA mailing comments, and I thought that you people in OMPA and ANZAPA wouldn't want to see those. Besides which, I have been thinking lately that it is rather silly trying to keep track of three different apazines, especially since members of all three apas eventually get to see most of the stuff I publish anyway. So in future I will only be publishing Philosophical Gas, and if you miss a number here and there it is simply because that issue went to an apa of which you are not a member. The only way you can get every issue is to belong to all three apas, and at present I believe I am the only person who does. (And I've read all this bloody stuff anyway.)

This is a special almost-all-pictorial issue. The interior pages I ran off some time ago as an experiment in reproducing photos on electronic stencils. It didn't work very well, as you can see. Mecanorma has a range of dot screens, called Normatone, and most of them are available in white as well as black. I used five of these white screens to get the results inside. I will probably use them again, but on more suitable originals next time. The photos are of: (1) Bob Smith, Shayne McCormack and Mervyn Binns; (2) Shayne, Lee Harding, Carla Harding, me and Bob; (3) part of the audience at Syncon 72; (4) the Alvis, of sad memory, in Gladstone Avenue, Northcote, about 1965; (5) Diane.







