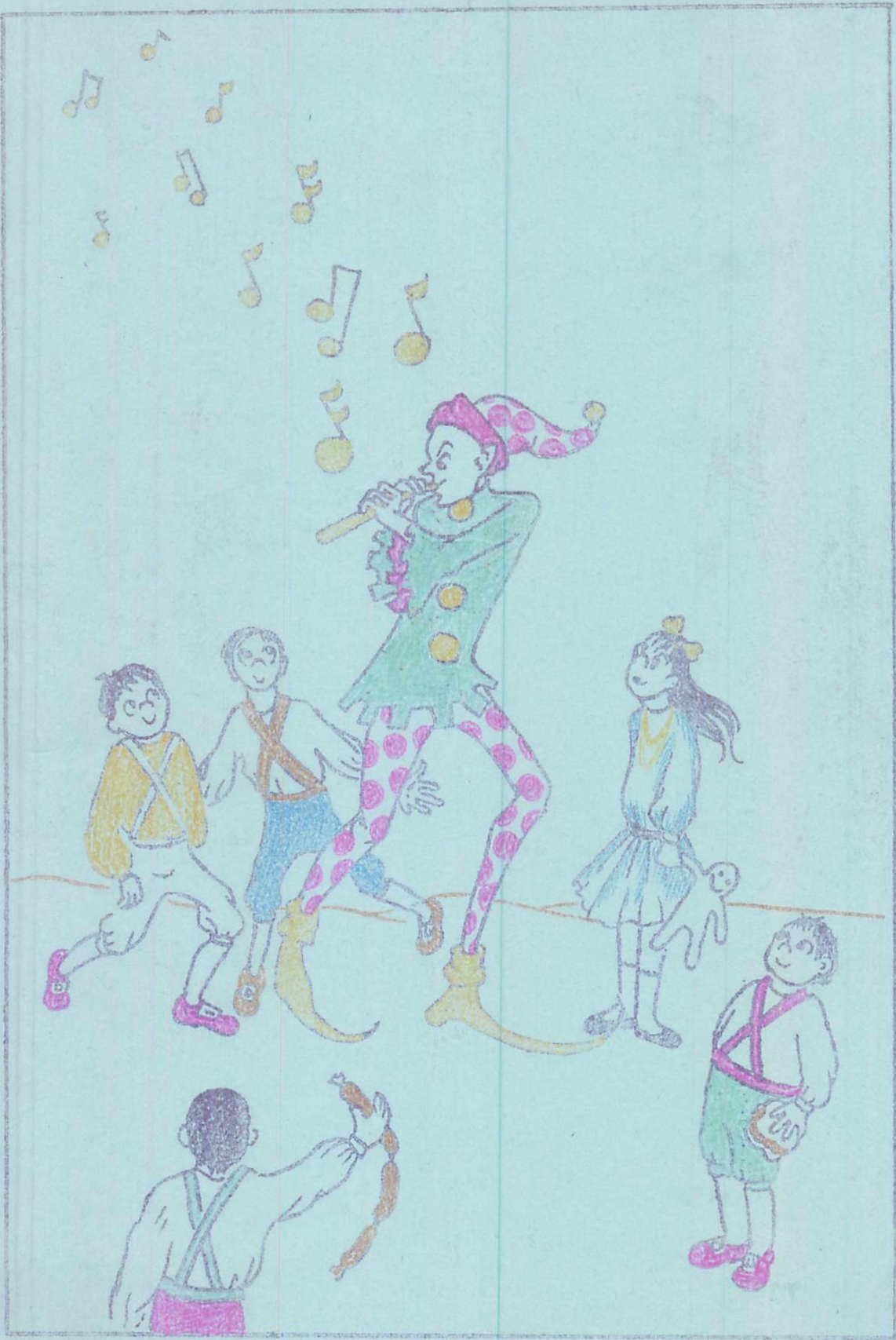
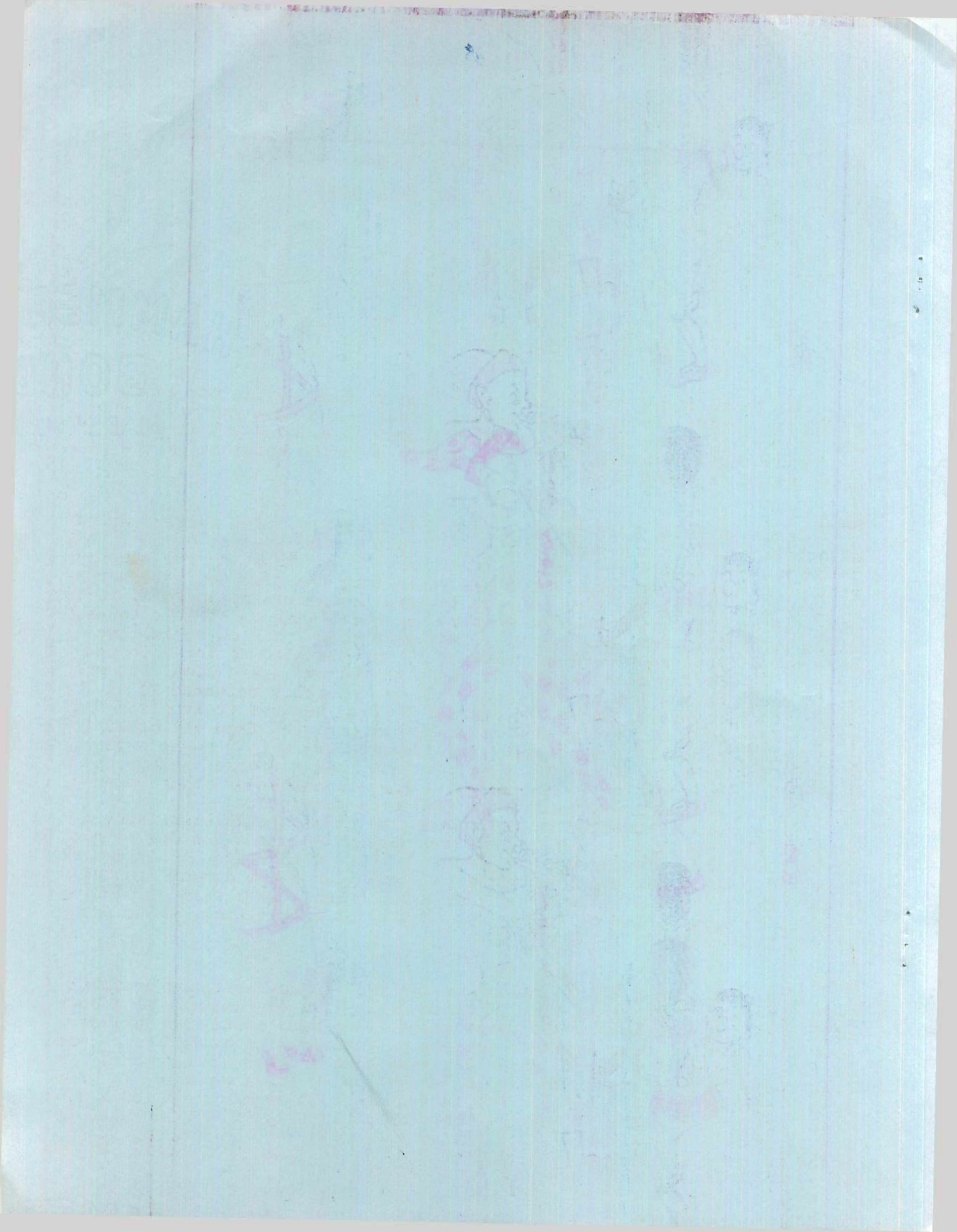


Rachana





This is RACHE #22

From Bruce Pelz,
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For N'APA 29, June 1966

APATHEOSIS

or, What'll I Join Next?

For those among you who are beginning to look beyond the confines of N'APA, toward another -- or several other -- APA that you might join, Let me give you some pointers on what's available. Mind you, these will not be unbiased pointers, as I have fairly definite opinions on the relative worth of these APAs.

FAPA

Begun in 1937, FAPA is the oldest of the SF-oriented amateur press associations. It has a membership of 65, and a waiting-list of 50+, from which you may easily see that it isn't easy to get into. At the present rate of turnover, it takes about six years from the time you get on the Waiting-List until the time you are invited to membership in FAPA. During this period, FAPA will change: members you would like to be able to associate with will drop, quality will improve, worsen, and maybe improve once more. At present FAPA is quite dull, and has been so for a couple years. By the law of averages, it ought to improve again soon, but one can't count on the law of averages. FAPA is generally referred to as The Elephants' Graveyard, Where Old Fans Go To Die, because it is often the last refuge of a publishing fan after he has gafiated from all other fan publishing, since FAPA's activity requirements are only 8 pages a year. The low activity requirements, plus the fact that a dropped member may get back in by petition if he can get a certain number of other members to sign the petition, makes for the very slow turnover.

If you are interested in getting on the FAPA Waiting-List, send a copy of your fanzine -- any fanzine you publish -- and a 25¢ fee to the current Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Pavlat (9710 - 47th Place, College Park, Maryland 20741.) But don't bother unless you plan to be around fanzine fandom for a while -- like 6 years or more. (Also, Bob's term of office expires in August, and he isn't a candidate for re-election. Write soon, if you interested.)

SAPS

The next oldest APA in fandom is the 1947-begun Spectator Amateur Press Society. Membership is 30, waiting list 29. Approximate time between application and membership is three years. SAPS runs mostly to mailing comments, and has been called a society of interlocking mailboxes because of this. Of the 30 members, about 40% have been in more than 6 years, so that there is a fairly broad base of stability -- and a tendency to stomp on new members who try telling the society what it ought to do. SAPS is a high-participation APA, requiring the same activity as N'APA (6 pages in any 2 consecutive mailings). For instance, though TEN FAPAns out of 65 voted in the FAPA Egoboo Poll, and about 7 in the last N'APA poll, 23 out of 30 SAPSites voted in the last SAPS Pillar Poll.

SAPS operates on a dictatorial system, as the OE makes all rules, subject only to a Palace Revolution of the members. If you are interested in joining SAPS, write to Wrai Ballard, Official Editor (4230 University Way NE, Apt. #201, Seattle, Wash 98105), and send \$1 Wait-list fee, which will apply to membership does the first year, if you make it up the WL. You will have to respond to the Official Organ, THE SPECTATOR, every quarter in order to maintain your place on the WL.

OMPA

The Off-Trail Magazine Publishers' Association began in 1954, and is a British-based APA. The Constitution requires that the Association Editor (=OE) and the Treasurer both reside in the United Kingdom, but over these past 12 years the percentage of non-UK members has been steadily rising. (OMPA has a membership quoted at 45 -- and no Waiting List right now.) At present the UK members have come up with some ideas to limited the number of non-UK members, but since there seems to be little interest in OMPA among fans in the UK, passage of these limiting regulations might well kill off the APA. Now, if you're a hyper-active type who likes to do lots of genzine-style APAzines and doesn't care too much about a lack of mailing comment response, join OMPA -- they need you. The March 1966 mailing was a little over 70 pages (though Bill Donaho postmailed a huge HABAKKUK to that mailing, which will boost the pagecount). There are OMPA members in Europe as well as the UK and US, so there are some diversified viewpoints available. But in general, the only worthwhile items in OMPA these past two or three years have been Archie Mercer's excellent fan-novel The Meadows of Fantasy, and the Donaho HABAKKUK. My own stuff is the minimum, I regret to say -- 12 pages a year, published in one lump for the June mailing, which is my deadline for renewal. So I don't help much, either. Maybe some of you can -- though I doubt it. Anyway, if you want to join, write to the Association Editor, Brian Jordan (25c Brocco Bank, Sheffield 11, Yorks., England), and send your \$1 first year dues to the Treasurer, Ron Bennett (52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorks., England).

SFPA

The Southern Fandom Press Alliance is primarily for fans in the Old Confederacy states. Non-Southron membership is limited to 25% of the roster. Begun in 1961, it's younger than N'APA, but appears to have both better material and a better esprit de corps than N'APA. Though a trifle in-group, SFPA isn't old enough to have set up a tradition of tromping on neos unless they really deserve it as evidenced in their SFPazines. There is a 20-member roster, and a waitinglist of about three or four. Though the non-South portion is, I believe, filled right now, the WL is short enough that even a Damsyankee should be able to get in in about half a year. SFPA is a good place for specialty effects in publication, since they require only 25 copies of a zine. Activity requirements are 6 pages every two mailings, as in SAPS and N'APA. If you're interested, send your \$1 for first-year dues to the Official Editor, Lon Atkins, 2605 Fantasia, Apt. H, Huntsville, Alabama 35804.

THE CULT

For the hardy type, who can endure both a reasonably long trip up the WL, plus all kinds of shenanigans once you get into membership, there is the 13-member Cult, which began in 1954. The members publish the official publication THE FANTASY ROTATOR, every three weeks, each of them doing the publishing in his turn. Membership requirements are the writing of a letter to at least every other FANTASY ROTATOR, plus the publishing of your own issue when your turn comes. Besides the 13 members, the top 5 WLers are designated the Active Waiting List, and must also write to every other FR, though they do not have to publish. Other WLers form the Inactive WL, and

while the AWLers must receive the FR, the IWLers receive FRs only at the whim of the individual publishers, a number of whom ignore the IWL -- myself included among the last group. Since the FRs are sent by First Class Mail as a rule, the subjects treated may be more controversial and varied than would be possible with fear of postal inspection that 3rd or 4th Class brings. Hence, it is unwise for younger fans to have Cultzines lying around for their parents to read. Of course, right now - June 1966 - it probably wouldn't make any difference if they did read them, for the Cult has been in the doldrums for a year or so, and there wouldn't be anything scandalous or objectionable in the FRs. For that matter, there is hardly anything interesting in them, either. We hope it will change, but again there are no guarantees. If you are interested still, though, send at least a 1-page letter of introduction to the Official Arbiter, Scotty Tapscott (915 E. Miller, Seattle, Wash 98105) and ask to be put on the IWL, which is about 15 people long right now. The Cult WL moves slowly, and two years is probably a minimum for membership -- and a year and a half until you get into the AWL and are guaranteed the FRs.

TAPS

The Terrean Amateur Press Society is a copy of the Cult, with a few differences. Begun in 1964/65, it has only 12 members, and publishes on the first of each month. The WL is about as long as that of the Cult, and moves at least as slowly. Applicants should send their letter of application to the grand panjandrum of TAPS (usually called the APA Manager), Arnie Katz (98 Patton Blvd, New Hyde Park, NY 11043).

INTERAPA

InterAPA, the International APA, has three mailings a year instead of the usual four, and, as I haven't seen a mailing, I have no idea of the quality thereof. It is a new APA -- a couple years old only -- and complaints of the mailings being late have filtered down from some of the members, but all APAs have that problem. InterAPA, though thought up by Kris Carey, was really begun by Dwain Kaiser, who has served as OE from the beginning to date. (I understand he will be standing down and be replaced by G.M. Carr, who quit N'APA so she could devote more time to Inter-APA). Anyway, those of you interested, write Dwain at 1397 N. Second, Upland, Calif. for more information.

APA 45

Limitee to those who were born in 1945 or later, APA 45 appears to be going to pot -- if one can believe rumours. It began with several grandious schemes, but most of them have fallen by the wayside in the interest of keeping the APA alive. Those of you who qualify and are interested, write to Rich Mann (AF 168 70 872, 3345 Technical School, Chanute AFB, Illinois 61868) for information.

MAPA and MAPA

These are specialized APAs, the one for Monster Fans, the other for fans of Marvel Comics. Details are available from their respective OEs, Tom Dupree for Monster APA (809 Adkins Blvd., Jackson, Miss 39211), and Alan Mann for MarvelAPA (249B So. Nevada, Grand Forks AFB, No. Dakota 58211). These are also very new APAs, but they have put out a couple mailings.

KAPPA-ALPHA

The real spelling of this other comic apa is CAPA- Alpha, but the abbreviation of KA (or K-A) has become standard). Begun a couple years ago by Jerry Bails, Comictim's Big Wheel and original publisher of the first real Comic Fandom fanzine ALTER EGO, K-A is now in a transition period, as Bails has dropped it and Don & Maggie Thompson of Cleveland area have taken

over as interim Central Mailers. K-A has monthly mailings, and although the activity requirements are right now in flux, it is presumed they will be set at 8 pages every six months. Only part of the membership -- not a major part, either -- is made up of SF fans, but a few -- Fred Patten, Dan Alderson, Phil Castora, the Thompsons -- do. If you're interested, write to the Thompsons (8786 Hendricks Rd, Mentor, Ohio, 44060) and send \$1 dues.

APA L

The LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, if you're really a neo and have never heard of it) conducts an APA that is handed out at each of its weekly meetings. There are no activity requirements, but participation is limited to members of LASFS, which membership costs \$1 to the club Treasurer Bill Ellern (975 North Oakland, Pasadena, Calif 91104). There are no actual members of APA L, as the copies (called Distributions) are not guaranteed to anyone who doesn't have a contribution in them. Therefore, to get APA L, you have to: (1) join LASFS; (2) contribute to the Distributions by running off 50 copies and bringing them to a LASFS meeting, or arrange with someone who will be going to LASFS meetings to be your agent. You arrange with your agent to receive your zines, take them to the meeting, and pick up your copy, and mail your copy to you (the best bet seems to be for you to send a self-addressed return manila 9x12 envelope with your zine, so the agent can shove in the Distribution and drop it in the mail. Contributors are guaranteed copies of the Distribution; copies left over after contributors get theirs are given out to non-contributing attendees; if there are copies still left over, people who have contributed in the past but who missed this particular distribution may get copies if their agents are active and grab a copy for them. APA L is a bit expensive to participation in from outside the Los Angeles area, but several people have been doing it since the APA was wormed in 1964. (It was copied from the New York Fanoclasts' APA F, since defunct.) Just don't ask me to agent for you; I have too much to do now.

ValAPA

Modeled on APA L, this is distributed at the bi-weekly meetings of the (San Gabriel, Calif) Valley SF Association. As the ValAPA requires attendance at at least one meeting of the ValSFA, Outside participation is probably not possible, but either Watch This Space, or try writing Dwain Kaiser (address above), the current Distribution Collator.

Stobcler

An invitational APA, run by permanent Dictators Dave Hulan and Ed Cox. Quarterly mailings, changeable rules according to the Dictators' whims. If you want to indicate interest, Hulan's address is Box 422, Tarzana, Calif, 91356, and Cox's is 14524 Filmore, Arleta, Calif 91332. Neofans and multi-APAs are generally rejected for memberships in this 13-man APA.

Li'lAPA

Another invitational APA, and I don't even know who -- if anyone -- runs the thing. The places are all full, anyway -- all ten of them.

That's the lot of them -- 16 of the things, counting N'APA. Now, I'm sure you will agree that that's far too many APAs. Therefore, We -- the Secret Masters of Fandom, of course -- have decided to work for the reduction of numbers of APAs. We will combine some of them and eliminate a few of the totally useless ones, winding up with only half a dozen. FAPA will merge with OMPA, SAPS with SFPA and Stobcler, The Cult with TAPS and Li'lAPA, APA L with ValAPA, MarvelAPA with Kappa-Alpha, and N'APA with InterAPA. APA 45 and MonsterAPA will be folded. Details on means of accomplishing all this will come next mailing.....Bruce Pelz. [IncuNebulous Pub. 483]