



It's a surprisingly slim issue this month. I say *surprisingly* because just a couple of weeks ago it seemed that this was likely to be the largest issue of Interregnum yet; instead, it's by far the smallest (as of this writing; perhaps a fairy zinemother will show up at the very last moment). ☺

I've found that editing an APA is a learning process. The lesson to be learned in this case is: pester, nag, and remind contributors non-stop for zines! ☺ Seriously, I will make sure to remind everyone about the deadlines frequently from now on.

Time seems to fly during the warm months; can we really be at issue #3 already? It's hard to believe, but undeniably true. The monthly publishing schedule contributes to the feeling of speed, I suspect.

* It's possible that some may wonder about the details of how Interregnum is produced (note that I said *possible*, not *likely*☺). It's a simple process, overall: The title page, editorial page(s), and cover are formatted for desktop publication using Publish-It 4.0 for Windows somewhat in advance of the deadline. Blank spaces for art are included in the layout. The documents are then printed to disk as encapsulated PostScript files.

The EPS files are then copied onto floppies and printed at any one of several local self-service laser-printing services; this costs fifty cents per page plus the rental time for the computer. The computers themselves are usually DOS machines, but the Macintosh Downloader program is also usable; unfortunately it's also fairly rare.

Laser printing is actually the most time-consuming part of the process, since it requires a drive of some distance and five minutes or more per page to print. If I were to scan my clipart and include it as graphics in the EPS files the time required for printout would rise to ten minutes or more per page. Expensive.

However, I don't usually use computer graphics. Instead, I search through the 15,000+ clipart images in the collection of Dover books I've amassed, and select the images that best seem to fit. The art is then photocopied, reduced or enlarged as needs be, cut out, and taped onto the blank spots in the laser-printed originals. The originals are then copied once, and the resulting copies are used to create the rest of the print run.

The covers are copied separately, onto cardstock. The whole thing is then collated and stapled at my house. The labels are printed, the copies put into envelopes, and the whole thing is mailed the next business day.

The world of amateur roleplaying publishing lost a major figure in May: **Glenn Blacow**, co-creator of The Wild Hunt APA and sometime contributor to Alarums & Excursions, passed away after a long illness. He will be missed.

* Letters to the Editor will be gladly received, and printed in the editorial section. No letter will be published, however, that is marked as not for publication. Obviously it is important for correspondents to mark that information clearly!

* Postage: After long hours spent calling the Post Office, I'm informed that APAs are not properly mailable via 4th class mail (Book Rate). Third class is an option. However, the price difference between 4th class and 1st is small (\$0.62); I suspect that the difference between 3rd class and 1st, compared to the delivery time, makes the use of 3rd class pointless.

However, I'll use whatever legal form of mailing is desired. Please let me know what you'd prefer.

Those who requested that their copies be mailed book rate have been charged the cost of book rate for Interregnum #1 and #2, but should let me know how they want future issues to be mailed.

* **Margin of Error:** Zines should be printed with at least a 3/4 inch margin on the binding side—the left side for odd-numbered pages, and the right side for even-numbered pages. A full one-inch margin is preferable. The margins on the opposite sides should be at least 1/2 inch wide, as should the top and bottom margins.

* This may be hard to explain, but it's helpful if zines have an even number of pages. Though the master copies are (and should be) single-sided, the copies are made double-sided. Unfortunately an odd number of pages in a zine makes it necessary to insert a blank page after the final one, in order to avoid throwing all following zines out of order. However, the blank page must be copied, and therefore paid for, as part of the set. That cost is deducted from the general fund rather than any individual.

I certainly wouldn't want anyone to write a shorter zine to avoid having an odd number of pages. However, if while DTPing a choice must be made as to the length of the document, an even number of pages will make things come out evenly, with less wasted paper.

* **DTP and laser printing services**

I've DTPed and laser-printed several zines for contributors in the first three issues. I'm not complaining; truth to tell, it can be sort of fun. I was pleased to see that my attempt to capture Collie Collier's layout style in Interregnum #2 was fairly successful.

However, since my time is limited (and becomes tighter as collation looms), ASCII zines sent to me for layout should arrive at least four days before the deadline for printed zines. I'll attempt to capture the style of the contributor, if I have a sample of previous work and enough time. Otherwise, Caveat Emptor. 8^>} 

I can also accept files created with Publish-It for DOS or Windows, or encapsulated PostScript files, on 3.5 or 5.25" disks. I should be able to accept files via email, but must admit that I haven't yet learned how to receive non-ASCII files over the InterNet. 

ASCII contributors can choose to have their zines laser-printed; in that case the cost of the printing will be charged to their account (\$0.50 per page plus the cost of rental time if necessary—not more than a total of \$1 per page). Alternatively zines can be printed on my 24-pin dot matrix printer at 360 x 360 dpi for free. For a sample of 24-pin output, look at Virgil's and Collie's zines in Interregnum #2. It's not bad (if I say so myself), but detectable at close range. 

For those who are wondering: yes, the purchase of a laser printer or other high-quality printing device is on the top of my purchase list.

* It has been suggested that the accounts of contributors and subscribers be published in every issue. A number of folk object to this however; rather than include a partial listing, I'll note the amount left in the account on the mailing label of each issue. My only concern is that I'm not sure where to place that information — I don't want to give the Post Office an excuse to screw things up.

* An InterNet alias has been set up which allows correspondents to receive information and updates about the status of Interregnum via the Net. Anyone who would like to be on that list should send email to maranci@max.tiac.net .

→ *Pete*