

The 1981-82 CHECKPOINT/ANSIBLE Fan Poll—Voting Form.

This form is being distributed with *Ansible* 25 and at Channelcon: the poll covers fannish doings in Britain from just after Easter 1981 to just after Easter 1982. All fans may vote. *Ansible* itself remains ineligible in the Best Fanzine and Best Single Issue categories. See overleaf for the categories: in the left-hand column, 5 points are awarded for a first-place vote and so on down to 1 for a fifth-place vote; categories in the right-hand column allow up to three *unranked* votes. Nice voters avoid voting either for their own work or in categories where their minds are essentially a blank (if you only read two fanzines and vote for one of them out of the depths of your vast experience, you are not being much help in determining Informed Fannish Opinion). Please return this form—or votes on a separate piece of paper, as you prefer—to Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berks, RG2 7PW, UK. DEADLINE is FRIDAY 28 MAY 1982. Be assured that your votes will remain ever so confidential.

All fannish traditions tend to be questioned from time to time. Michael Ashley (for it is he!) launched a mini-denunciation of this poll in a recent *Matrix*, generously allowing that the standard of poll winners was good and high, but frowning on the fact that the poll is conducted 'amongst a relatively small and select group of British fandom'. Well: it is and it isn't. More than 250 fans receive *Ansible* and the poll form: unfortunately a select group of elitist sods choose to set themselves apart from the multitude—quite indefensibly, of course—by actually voting. There were 38 of them last year (a bit over 15% of the 'voting pool', as compared to 12% of Denvention members who last year nominated for the Hugos). Meanwhile, Peter Roberts writes: "I was always expecting some bored and truculent fan editor to 'expose' the whole thing and suggest that I was fiddling the results or some such wickedness. That's one reason why I didn't want to turn it into something more grandiose, with awards, and scrolls, and presentations, and what have you... The main virtue of the poll is that it works." Let's hope so. It works, I think, as a low-key and fannish thing: Michael A. seems to overrate its influence and esteem for strategic reasons, so he can complain that such a grandiose institution depends on the votes of a few 'select' fans... Please do vote.

BEST BRITISH FANZINE

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____
- 4] _____
- 5] _____

BEST BRITISH FANWRITER

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____
- 4] _____
- 5] _____

BEST BRITISH FANARTIST

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____
- 4] _____
- 5] _____

NAME AND ADDRESS:

BEST SINGLE ISSUE

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____

BEST ARTICLE OR COLUMN

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____

BEST FANZINE COVER

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____

WORST THING OF 1981-2

- 1] _____
- 2] _____
- 3] _____

SIGNATURE:
