

This is **ACHERON**, the official journal of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Games Bureau, Diplomacy Division. It appears at irregular intervals. It is free to Members of the Division, 10/\$1 to members of the Bureau, 10/\$1.50 to others. This is Pandemonium Publication #235, edited and published by the Division Chief, Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116. Bureau Chairman is Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton MD 20906.

REORGANIZATION
ISSUE

2 January
1971



APOLOGY-- The last issue of **ACHERON** was dated 12 May 1970. For any number of reasons, I have been unable to get out an issue since then. In a way, that was a good thing, for I have had time to think over your comments and suggestions, and also to pave the way for a reorganization of the Division. Of this, more later. For now, let me earnestly apologize for not tending to the Division as I would have liked. I hope that I, or my successor, will do better in future.

RESIGNATION -- I herewith tender my resignation as Chief of the Diplomacy Division. This is done to pave the way for reorganization and for the first election in the Division's history. My resignation is effective 1 June 1971 (for reasons which will become clear below). (And to answer the question you will all ask, so I may as well say it now, yes, I am a candidate for re-election.)

SECTION I -- BALLOT RESULTS

Ballot 4: Replying: Barber, Borecki, Childers, Fong,* Gaylord, Key, Krigsman, Lukofka, Lindsay, Miller, Naus, StCyr, Schleicher, Turnbull, Walker. Total, 15. Bob Johnson sent a long letter, but no ballot. *Subsequently dropped from membership

Honorary Memberships:

1. Allan Calhmer is elected to Honorary Membership. Vote, 15-0.
2. Gary Gygar is elected to (Honorary) Membership. Vote, 9 yes, 3 no, 3 abstain, or 9-3 (2/3 required). This election is now academic, since Mr. Gygar, as Editor of Domesday Book is automatically eligible for membership.
3. Names of who voted how will not be released. Vote, 7 to release, 8 not to release.

Advisory Questions:

1. Vote: Appointment only, 8; Election plus Appointment, 5 (2 yrs., 2; 5 yrs., 1; 1 yr., 1; no specification, 1); Election (for 2 yrs.), 2.
2. Membership Philosophy: Wide-base, 4; Narrow-base, 8 (3 with qualifications); Other, 1; Abstain, 2.
- 3 & 4. Calhmer Rulings. This question is now academic, since a new Rulebook will soon be issued.

Ballot 5: Replying: Barber, Borecki, Childers, Johnson, Key, Krigsman, Lukofka, Lindsay, McDuffie, Monsinger, Naus, St.Cyr, Schleicher, Walker, Wells. Total, 15.

Item 1. No vote required; comments on file.

Item 2. Some nominations submitted, but none with qualifications.

Item 2A. Votes are yes-no-abstain. Beyerlein: 10-3-2, elected; Lebling: 10-4-1, elected; Reinsel, 11-2-2, elected; Rubin, 6-5-4, not elected; Smythe, 12-2-1, elected; Turner, 11-2-2, elected; Ward, 8-4-3, elected; Welsh, 8-3-4, elected. Those elected will be notified and may then join upon payment of dues.

Item 2B. None submitted with qualifications.

Item 3. What standard should be used to judge "inactivity" of members? Failure to return 2 consecutive ballots, 5 votes. Failure to return 3 consecutive ballots, 9 votes. This should not be done, 1 vote. Other, no votes.

Item 4. Should the Division fund a separate general-interest newsletter? Yes, 7; No, 6; Abstain, 2.

SECTION II -- MEMBERSHIP

Please turn to the membership list on page 3/4 of **ACHERON** 3. Here follows a list of our members (dues paid) (address included if changed or if member new):

Jim Barber, Ken Borecki, Mike Childers, P.M. Gaylord, Dick Holcombe*, Bob Johnson, Jeff Key (4611 N. Pennsylvania, Apt. 1-D, Oklahoma City OK 73112)**, Axel Krigman, Lon Lakofka, David Lindsay, Harry Manogg***, John McCallum (P.O. Box 52, Ralston, Alberta, Canada)+, Bill McDuffie, John Mensinger, Don Miller, Hal Haus, Larry St. Cyr (1516 George Washington, UMASS, Amherst MA 01002), Chris Schleicher (5122 W. Carmen, Chicago IL 60630), D. W. Turnbull, Rod Walker, Charles Wells. *On behalf of Ted Holcombe, who is presently editing PACIFIC EXPLOSION. **Key's name was inadvertently omitted from the last list. ***Zine awaiting transfer from Cliff Ollila. † New member. (Note: Gaylord now at 2035 Todd Dr., St. Paul MN 55112.). Coops--Conrad vonMetsko (4570 Wilson Ave., Apt. L, San Diego CA 92116)+.

Honorary Members: Allan Colhomer.

TOTAL: 23.

Elected to Membership: Will be members when dues paid: Doug Beyerlein, Dave Lobling, Charles Reinsel, John Smythe, Charles Warner, Bob Ward, Charles Welsh.

Eligible for Membership (with line with which associated indicated): Peter Ancoff (THE SIBERIAN), John Boshart (GRAUSTARK), John Boardman (GRAUSTARK), Dale Bosonaki (THE JOURNAL), Lee Childs (LINBURG GAZETTE), Stephen Bobker (LINBURG GAZETTE/??), Sid Cochran, Jr. (LOVELY MOUNTAIN/OREGONIAN)(?), Leonard Garland (ROMP), Gary Gygar (WEDNESDAY BOOK)(also eligible by election), Ed Hille (BROOKINGWAG)(?), Bob Frame (THE JOURNAL), Bruce Gletty (THE JOURNAL), Eric Just (THE DIPLOMAT), John Koning (SRAB), T. D.C. Kuch (LOVELY MOUNTAIN/PHYLLODORA), Larry Poetry (XENOLOGIC), Andrew Phillips (SHAFT), Louis Monyhert (FRIGARE)(?), Douglas Schaefer (OMNIFARIOUS), George Schels, Jr. (LINBURG GAZETTE/FUG EAST), Buddy Tretick (LA GUERRE), Bob Van Andel (SANTA). And my apologies to anybody accidentally left out.

ALL WHOSE ELIGIBLE ARE HEREBY INVITED TO JOIN.

SECTION III -- DIVISION STRUCTURE

1. Some comments. It has become increasingly apparent that there are some unsatisfactory features about the Division. The fact that we are not tied down by a specific constitution makes it easy to make adjustments. We will eventually need some sort of basic document, but it seems to me that our priority should be to find the structure we need first, then put it down in writing (too many groups flounder because they do the latter first).

I have tried to operate on a few basic premises. First, that in any organization of this sort, the work gets done by one or two people. Second, if he tries to do too much, nothing gets done. Third, if you limit the amount of work you expect the working cadre to do, you can expect some results. I have therefore tried to see that something gets done by attacking only a limited number of problems and keeping the membership small. I have further tried to limit the size of ACHERON. At first, I had hoped to include general Diplomacy material. In practice, however, I have only time to include Division business.

The results of ballot 4 indicate you agree with me. The membership seems in favor of a small membership, but not too small. I agree. We want an active, manageable membership. The IPW is hoping to convert its Diplomacy Society into a wide-base, mass-participation group, which is another good reason for our not going the same route.

The members, in Ballot #5, expressed considerable interest in a general-interest newsletter, such as YE OLDE BUSIE BULLETINNE BOARDDE used to be; one which would review games, give notice of address changes, advertise game openings, and so on. Some of you wished to see this in ACHERON. Limitations of space and time preclude this--and I think also we should keep more general material separate from Division business. However, because of the interest, I am going to explore what might be done to get a general journal of this sort. It may be that YOBBB will be revived, or that we can use the facilities of an existing 'zine. Any ideas?

2. A Division "Constitution". What follows is not a basic document, exactly, but a description of how the Division will be operating over the next 6 months. It represents in some respects a radical departure from past policies. For one thing,

the whole business of the Permanent Rules and umpteen categories of membership have involved me in an administrative nightmare. I think we really ought to tackle the Rules question again, from a different tack, after the new Rulebook has been issued. For the nonce, then, we are going to forget the whole confusing mess

Further, the results, in Ballot 4, on choosing a Division Chief, are surprising (at least to me). A majority, 8 of 15, preferred straight appointment. A clear majority, 13 of 15, preferred appointment with or without election. Of those who mentioned term of office, all but one preferred 2 years or more. I take it the membership is not enamoured of elections. Of course, all this was academic until I received the permission of the Bureau Chairman, Don Miller, to have elections. I now have that permission.

What follows is a description of the Division. The numbers are for ease of reference.

1. The Division Chief is appointed by the Bureau Chairman. He serves a term of two years; the first term to begin on 1 June 1971. On 1 January of the second year of his term, nominations are open. They close on 1 Apr. and ballots are sent out, due back to the Bureau Chairman on 1 May. He counts the ballots and announces the winner. Members of the Division must nominate themselves. Persons not members of the Division may be nominated by members, but must apply for membership and be accepted prior to 1 Apr. The Bureau Chairman is not obligated to select the winner of the election as Division Chief, but will probably do so. The Bureau Chairman may at any time remove the Division Chief and appoint a new one (and/or call for a new election). This system conforms to the present structure of the Games Bureau, but allows the membership of a Division to have some voice in selection of a Division Chief.

2. Membership. Any person who edits or publishes a regular or variant Diplomacy 'zine may join, as may any person who is Gamesmaster of a regular or variant Diplomacy game. Members join by paying dues. There is no other qualification. Joining the NFFF Games Bureau is, however, encouraged. Members who no longer edit/publish/GM are dropped unless a majority of the membership votes to retain them. Any former editor/publisher/GM may be admitted by majority vote upon recommendation of the Division Chief or the Bureau Chairman. Any other person may be nominated by a member (he should have made some positive contribution to postal Diplomacy--other than just playing games--and the nominating member must provide a statement of the nominee's qualifications). Such persons may be admitted by a 2/3 vote. Truly outstanding individuals may be nominated for honorary membership. Honorary members are members for life and pay no dues. Persons nominated for honorary membership are not elected if 1/10 of the membership objects.

3. Dues are \$1 per year, payable on or before 1 June. Dues support (1) ACHERON and (2) other Division activities. Included in the latter is our current project of finding homes for orphaned games: postage and printing costs.

4. Division Business will be conducted as informally as possible. Based on the comments of members and upon the results of "Division Chief Advisory" votes, the Division Chief will take action (if there is sufficient unanimity) or formulate a question for a binding vote of the membership. Not less than 4 weeks will be allowed between sending a ballot and the date due back to the Division Chief. My current policy is about 6 weeks. This allows ample time for communication and debate. Some GMs also like to poll their players. Questions decided by a binding vote may not be raised again for a full calendar year. On very important questions, the Division Chief may specify a larger majority than 51%.

5. ACHERON will contain primarily business of the Division. In no case will any issue be larger than 8 pages. Comments on issues, and other material submitted by members, will be printed on a space-available basis. The Division Chief will edit, condense, and/or paraphrase all such material if necessary to insure that all sides of an issue are fairly represented within the limited space available.

6. Expulsion of Members and censure of non-members may be accomplished as outlined in ACHERON 2; however, the Division Chief will not put forward for vote

any such proposal if the reasons adduced do not appear true and/or sufficient. This procedure may not be used for sniping.

7. For any subjects not covered above, the Division Chief will rely on precedent, the advice of the Bureau Chairman and of the members, and this general policy:

The general interest of the Division is the most important consideration; the ends are the good of postal Diplomacy, the means should be flexible and responsive.

SECTION IV -- OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Lakofka Letters. Enclosed (I hope) are two letters written by Len Lakofka, President of the IPW. One is dated 10 September 1970; the other is undated, but about two weeks later. Some of what is said is out of date, owing to my delay in getting them to you. In any event, I neither agree nor disagree with what Len has to say; I am merely transmitting these two to you, partly as a favor to a member and partly because, as it falls out, I have room this time. Members should note, however, that Len's thoughts about a "new division" should be construed as applying to the IPW Diplomacy Society. I would like to request that those who communicate with Len on this topic send me a copy of their letters. Note: Nominations called for in the 10 September letter should be sent to Mr. Borecki not later than 1 February 1971; if Len desires to extend that deadline, he will be in touch. (P.S.--The master for the second letter may be a little faint.)

2. "Inactive Members". The vote in Ballot 5 seemed fairly conclusive, so Ballot 6 will call for a binding vote on this matter. Remember that the standard is failure to return the ballot. A member who does not feel like voting on any issue could return a blank ballot without this counting as failure to return a ballot. I hope that we never need to use this provision.

3. Orphan Games. Our big project is to get these games placed. The two sets of games run by Dan Evans (39 of them!) will have to be scaled down into two smaller "tournaments", the size of each depending on how many of the original players are still interested. Other 'zines appear to be dying on the vine: STAB, RAGNAROK(?), PRIGATE, BROEDINGHAG, VERBAL CHAOS. Question: who can take some games? Who would like a batch of games (the Evans "tournament" games will have to be run as a block)? Would you, or do you know anyone who would? See enclosed ballot.

4. Derek Halson, former editor/GM of Jutland Jollies, has been nominated for membership in the Division. Derek, besides being a talented and dedicated player, enlivened postal Dippy for many months with his clever 'zine. He is still active in postal play. See enclosed ballot.

5. Ballot Deadlines. Len Lakofka has raised the question of the length of ballot deadlines. I'd like to know what you think about our policy. See the enclosed ballot.

Next issue will be longer and will give you a complete report on orphan games.

NOMINATIONS: If you wish to nominate yourself for Division Chief, or nominate a non-member, send nominations to me, not to Don Miller; Don will count the votes. All nominations in by the time of next issue will be printed. A statement of qualifications/campaign policies will be printed if sent. Statements should not be longer than 200/250 words and will be edited and condensed if longer.