

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 #291, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116. NFFF Games Bureau Chairman: Don Miller. Diplomacy Division Chief, Rod Walker. Archives Director, Walt Buchanan. Orphan Games Director, Rod Walker. United Kingdom Data Director, Don Turnbull.

ACHERON 6

2 April 1971

NEW MEMBERS. In the past month, three new members have joined the Division, and I would like to welcome them. This puts us at 38 members, which is rather larger than I thought the Division would ever be.

- 36. Perry Andrus, Loma 203-A, U.C.I., Irvine CA 92664.
- 37. Larry Peery, 750 I St., Coronado CA 92118.
- 38. Lewis Pulsipher, 334 Twin Towers, Albion MI 49224.

BALLOT RESULTS: Of 38 outstanding ballots, 25 were returned. Submitting ballots: Barber, Beyerlein, Andrus, Borecki, Buchanan, Calhauer, Gaylord, Krigsman, Lakofka, Lebling, Mensinger, Miller, Naus, Reinsel, Schaefer, Schleicher, Tretick, Turnbull, VanAndel, vonMetzke, Ward, Walker, Warden, Wells, Welsh.

Failing to submit ballots [misses under the "three consecutive and you're out" rule, \*, one; \*\*, two]: Childers\*\*, Holcombe\*\* [see below], Johnson\*, Just\*, Key\*, Lindsay\*, Manogg\*\*, McCallum\*\*, McDuffie\*\* [see below], St. Cyr\*, Smythe\*. NOTE--BALLOTS FROM KEY, JOHNSON HERE LATE, 3 APRIL.

Membership Changes. Dick Holcombe was originally supposed to represent his brother, Ted, editor of PACIFIC DIPLODEUR, in the Division. Ted agreed that if Dick did not discharge this responsibility, he would take up his membership in the Division. It seems pretty clear that this is now the case. Therefore, member #7 (see ACHERON 5) is J. T. (Ted) Holcombe, P.O. Box 268, Ft. Huachuca AR 85613. Bill McDuffie is no longer discharging his responsibilities as a Gamesmaster and editor, and it has been necessary for the Division to take action to save his games. Under the circumstances, it seems clear that Bill no longer qualifies as a Division member under the original terms of his joining (as a GM), and he is therefore dropped from the rolls. That takes us down to 37 members.

Ballot Tabulation

Item 1: Advisory, Division Dues.

Yes	No	Ab.	Division dues should be raised, if necessary to continue Division services at their present level.
23	1	4	
Yes	No	Ab.	Division dues should be raised, if necessary to expand Division services.
17	4	4	
1.50	2.00	Oth.	I would be willing to see dues raised to this level.
6	14	5	(The other included 2 (\$5.00), 1 (\$3.00), 1 (no change), and 1 (abstention).)

Item 2: A Division genzine, advisory.

Yes	No	Ab.	I would probably subscribe to a Division sponsored genzine of the type described in ACHERON 5.
21	3	1	
Yes	No	Ab.	I would probably contribute to such a genzine.
15	7	3	
Yes	No	Ab.	I think there is a need for such a genzine.
19	5	1	

## DIVISION ACTION ON BALLOTS

1. Dues. Either you guys are mostly rich or the Division has received a tremendous vote of confidence. Dues, as I said earlier, will not be raised without a specific vote of the Membership, but this vote certainly indicates we can go ahead in the expectation that if extra money is needed, it will be approved. Dues will remain at \$1 per year, due 1 June. If all the members renew, we should have a fund of some \$30-odd on which to operate. I will begin an accounting section in ACHERON, beginning with the first issue after 1 June, which will note all expenses. We've been in the red for some time, so there's no use to advertise how much.

JOHN MCCALLUM has generously donated \$5 to the Division to assist in our project of finding homes for orphaned regular games. This generous contribution has been of vast assistance and has underwritten 5 issues of GEHENNA (8-12) to date. A report on these issues will be made next issue.

2. Division Genuine. The support for this was so obvious from the beginning (the ballots running 4-1 in favor) that I began to make arrangements for such a publication. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Gary Jones, 1070 Colgate, Memphis TN 38106, will edit DIPLOGROK (that's Diplogrok).

DIPLOGROK #1 will be out the first week of May. If you have any contributions you wish to make, they are due on 24 April. Gary will trade on the traditional basis (one title, all-for-all). Subscription rates are: Division members, 8/\$1.25; others, 8/\$1.50. These rates are tentative and will depend on the actual break-even point. You may actually get more than 8 issues for your money; you will not get less. Gary should know his final rate after the 2nd issue. A single issue is 25c (this for #1; the single-copy rate will likely decrease after that).

Mr. Jones will be joining the Division, of course. The title to DIPLOGROK remains with the Division, and will be edited in the name of the Division. However, Gary will have complete editorial autonomy and intends to print whatever he gets, subject to space limitations. Priority for space within DIPLOGROK is as follows:

a. Official statements by the Division Chief or other Division Directors. Such statements will normally consist of administrative details (the deadline for the ballot is changed to \_\_\_\_\_, &c.), but may also consist of clarifications, corrections to erroneous statements, and the like--this is all subject to Gary's judgement as editor and he may refuse to consider anything "official" which, in his opinion, is not.

b. ~~Official statements~~ ~~discussions~~ by Division members on issues before the Division for vote. I hope to be able to juggle deadlines with Gary in order to make this possible.

c. General contributions and articles by Division members.

d. Other material.

These are of course general guidelines and entirely subject to Gary's editorial discretion. Gary hopes there will be plenty of room in DG, so that there will be no need to cut contributions.

Gary also hopes to reprint important material of the past, possibly publish a rating system (if somebody will compile it), and fill DG with items of general and timely interest.

Finally, let me make clear that DIPLOGROK is Gary's 'zine. If you have a complaint about something that's in it, or some other matter, the person to write to is Gary. I will simply ignore gripes of this nature. If, however, Gary fails to respond after a reasonable time, or fails to

make an adequate response, then is the time to write me. Of course, I will require carbon copies of your communications, copies of Gary's replies if any, and all other relevant data. I will then take the matter up with Gary and eventually make a determination in the matter. However, be warned: I will give serious consideration only to legitimate complaints; it is not possible for some sorehead to "get at" Gary through me. I have sufficient confidence in Gary to believe that no such incidents of this sort will occur, but (as I told Gary in a letter in early March) the door has to be left open, just in case.

#### ELECTION -- 1971

The term of the present Division Chief expires on 1 June 1971. Last January I called for nominations for the new term, 2 June 1971 through 1 June 1973, declaring at the same time that I was a candidate for reelection. One nomination was received: Len Lakofka nominated Walt Buchanan. Mr. Buchanan has, however, refused to run. No other Division member nominated any other candidate. The enclosed ballot, therefore, lists only one name. There is, however, space for a write-in. In the interest of fairness, I want to institute an ad-hoc ruling on the write-in thing. If there are write-ins, and if 20% (1/5) of those voting write in the same name, and if the individual named wishes to run for the job, we will have another election. Therefore, anybody interested in running for Division Chief is, effectively, given another month to get his name on the ballot. Considering that he has already had two months, some may think I am being overly generous, but I hope no one will object to this change in the ground rules in the interest of encouraging competition for the position.

#### REQUIREMENT OF U.K. DATA DIRECTOR.

The expected expansion of postal Diplomacy activities in the United Kingdom will probably make it prohibitively expensive to trade on any regular basis with all the shops which may be published. The same will be true of the game shops on the Continent (note, NOLSHIDESHOE already, in Belgium). It is my hope to decentralize the job of data collection for game records through Division members already on the scene. I have asked D. J. Turnbull, editor of ALBION and COURIER, to serve in this capacity for the United Kingdom. I hope to arrange at least two sets of procedures with the U.K. system whereby we can insure that copies of U.K. Dippy pubs can at least be deposited in the Archives maintained by Walt Buchanan. Second, that game statistics can be collected and forwarded to whomever maintains the number numbers. (This is at present myself, but the Numbers have no connection with any organization, and cannot, owing to the danger that their universal use might be endangered if they became connected with one group and thereby become a partisan instrument.)

#### THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION.

The formation of a new Diplomacy organization, with wide-base membership, fills a void which has too long existed in postal Diplomacy. Not everybody will wish to join the DA, and the Division cannot of course endorse, officially, any single organization\* (unless we wished to endorse all such groups). The reason I am bringing the DA up here is the fact that it obviously exists and will soon be functioning. My understanding is that the membership is rapidly approaching the optimum number of 60 with which the founders wished to begin the DA's activities.

\* Without a vote on it.

Since the DA and the DD have many similar goals and objectives, the opportunity is automatically created for beneficial cooperation between the two groups. Equally present is the danger of overlap and competition. In an effort to take full advantage of the opportunity and to nullify the danger, I have already been in communication with Edi Birsan, the DA's Director. Several points have been made:

1. Walt Buchanan, who is our Archives Director, is also on the DA Board of Directors, which will allow the Association to draw upon the Archives project. I have noted to Edi, however, that should any conflict arise in this regard, the Division would have to insist on its prerogatives, since we were the ones who started this program.
2. I suggested that the DA start a project for orphaned variant games, just as the Division has done for regular games.
3. I have offered to put Edi on my distribution list for all Division publications which come from the office of the Division Chief (GEHENNA, ACHERON, and PONTEVEDRIA). There should be a full and frank exchange of information at the executive level between the DA and the DD.
4. I have offered automatic membership to the Director and the Chairman of the Board of the DA, whenever they might be.

I have not received a reply to this communication yet. However, it is my hope that we will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities which face us. In this regard, the enclosed ballot requests your advice as to how we might best proceed from here.

THE REVISED RULEBOOK

I know I keep threatening that this will be out soon; however, the chances are now pretty good that it will be out this summer, assuming no new substantive issues appear on the horizon. In this event, we will all be faced with a Rulebook which invalidates some of our House Rules. It seems to me important that the Division take a stand on the new Rules, but what? We obviously cannot set policy for our members, but we can recommend some action, which ought to have some weight. At least we'll all know how we all feel about this. The enclosed ballot asks your opinion on this.

DIVISION DIRECTORSHIPS

Anyone who wants to do a job within the Division should apply to the Division Chief for a Directorship within the Division. Some positions we could use:

**Rating Director:** Someone who would be responsible for designing a new rating system, or selecting an old one, and compiling all data relevant to it. The results would be published on a periodic basis in DIPLOGNOK. This would be a pretty time-consuming job until it got going, after which it could be updated through the NUMENOR listings (presumably), and the new Director would have help in getting started.

**Rules Director:** We need someone who could compile the House Rules of all member GMS (and maybe all GMS) on Rules questions and procedural questions and encapsulate them in quick-reference form. This would be a handy guide for players looking for new games and could later be keyed to the new Rulebook. Again, the new Director would have as much help as possible in accomplishing this demanding job.

Prospective Directors do not need to be Division members, but will need to join if appointed. Anybody???