

# ALPHA AND OMEGA

Issue #3  
November 1983

(formerly 'Lord of Hosts')

This is the official 'zine of the Miller Number Custodian, who is;  
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I'm pleased to report that things are running quite smoothly and problems have been very minimal. The support that the hobby has given me has been super. Thanks to one and all !

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What's new ?.....This issue contains our first outside contribution; GERRYMANDERING, by Tom Swider. I hope that you enjoy it and you will give Tom some input. I also hope that this will encourage more of you to contribute to A & O . With DIPLOMACY WORLD cutting down on it's variant coverage a forum is NEEDED to discuss this part of the hobby. I'm willing to run almost anything in here on variants that is well done. I'll consider strategy articles, "My favorite variant is" type articles, maps and/or rules on new variants or revisions of old ones, or what have you. A & O can be more than a statistical report but I need your input. I only ask that you contact me first so we can discuss format, space limitations, etc. Payment for contributions will be made in the form of sub credits.

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Do you know of anyone that you think should be getting A&O ? I know there are variant GMs and players that are not aware of this 'zine. If you think you know someone who should get this , send me his/her name and I'll send out a sample to them.

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My 'Lord of Hosts' collection is now complete. (I THINK !). Thanks to Mark Berch and Rod Walker I now have 4 more missing issues. This is a total of 18 as follows. 12 by Robert Sacks, 1 by Mike Smolin, 4 by Greg Costikyan, and 1 by John Leeder. This means that Leeder's issue that he numbered as #17 is actually #18. However, there is a gap in the numbers issued between Sack's last issue and the one issue by Smolin. Perhaps Smolin published 2 issues ? Can anybody out there help me out on this ? I'm working on a project to put all of the numbers in a master book and I'd hate to leave a gap if I can avoid it.

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Does anybody know what happened to the funds that the custodians were to get from DIPCON ? I have received only a few small donations for this office since I took over and my funds are getting low. I need my share of those funds so if anybody can push and shove the DIPCON people a little bit it would be appreciated.

Hats off to Mike Mills who is running an Auction to help out the various hobby custodians. A list if the items available can be obtained for an SSAE. Send to; Mike Mills, 26 Laurel Rd, Sloatsburg, NY 10974. Deadline is november 30th, so write soon if you're looking to participate.

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Subs to Alpha and Omega are 3¢ a page plus postage. Send me a dollar or two and I'll keep you account.

Back issues of A&O #1 and #2 are available for 32¢ each. I also have Lord of Hosts #17 at 40¢ each.

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After this issue your sub balance is \_\_\_\_\_

We trade \_\_\_\_\_

This is a free sample \_\_\_\_\_

A personal note for you is on page \_\_\_\_\_

Recently assigned Miller Numbers

1983Krn16 (Blowup)Manifest Destiny,Keith Sesler. Austria:Pat Pakel, England:Philip Dancause, France:Paula Dodge, Germany:David Anderson, Italy:Pierre Touchette, Russia:Ron Brown (Can), Turkey:Fred Davis.  
 1983Lra08 (Cosmic Dip) Who Cares, Russ Rusnak. Austria:Mike Barno, England:Mark Lew, France:Jim Burgess, Germany:Kevin Tighe, Italy: Rob Landeres, Russia:Tim Winger, Turkey:Eric Kane.  
 1983Mcb19 (Woolworth II-d) Manifest Destiny, Keith Sesler. Germany: Pat Pakel, Spain:Jay Chaiser, Austria:Bob Sweeney, France:Pierre Touchette, England:Mike Keller. (and all player have a secret power)  
 1983Ngf20 (Final Conflict) Expletive Deleted, Tom Swider. Austria: Mark Leudi, Brazil:Bob Olsen, China:Glen Taylor, Pan-Arab Leauge:Mike Mazzer, Russia:Bern Sampson, S Africa:Rick Young, U.S.:Dave Anderson.  
 1983Ogf20 (Final Conflict) Expletive Deleted, Tom Swider. Austria: Bill Highfield, Brazil:Nelson Heintzman, China:Jeff Bohner, Pan-Arab: Keith Sesler, Russia:Marc Peters, S. Africa:Brad Wilson, U.S.: Eric Ozog.  
 1983Pgf20 (Final Conflict) Manifest Destiny, Keith Sesler. Austria: Nelson Heintzman, Brazil:Paul Rauterberg, China:Eric Ozog, Pan-Arab: Mark Frueh, S. Africa:Carl Russell, Russia:John Crosby, U.S.: David Anderson  
 1983Qrd08 (Blind Dip) No 'zine, Scott Hanson. Austria:Larry McCloud, England:Rodney Jones, France:Mike Ehli, Germany:James Woodson, Italy: Dan Palter, Russia:Mark Lew, Turkey:Ken Iverson.  
 That's it for recent starts, now for a recent finish.

1982Prb32 (Gunboat) Why Me?, Lee Kendter.  
 Austria:Mike Henry(Dropped spr '03) Phil Cooper (WINS), England:Steve Cartier, France:Karl Schuetz, Germany:Kathy Byrne, Italy:Eugene Paulson, Russia:Walter Blank, Turkey:David Mandalis.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	
Austria	5	6	5	6	8	12	14	19	Wins
England	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	5	
France	4	5	5	6	6	4	3	1	
Germany	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Italy	4	4	7	8	8	6	5	3	
Russia	6	7	7	6	3	3	2	1	
Turkey	4	3	1	0	-	-	-	-	

And here's an '82 start that was recently assigned a number

1982Qhp01 (1885 II) Anduin, Eric Kane. England: \_\_\_\_\_ Chisolm, France: Scott Bloom, Spain: \_\_\_\_\_ Belliveau, Sweden: \_\_\_\_\_ Charnley, Germany: \_\_\_\_\_ Wrobel, Italy: \_\_\_\_\_ Schuetz, Austria: \_\_\_\_\_ Anderson, Turkey:Jack Fleming.

The above names are all that I was given. I could guess at a few of the first names but I felt it best to leave it as is untill (If) I get an official correction.

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 This space reserved for personal notes.

\*\*\*Welcome to GERRYMANDERING, a (hopeful) subxyn to Alpha And Omega published by Tom Swider; 1183 Robinson Hill Road: Endwell, NY 13760. Phonaholics can reach me at (212) 976-2727, but I might not be in, so just leave a message.

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\*\*\*Those of you who are seeing GERRYMANDERING for the first time are entitled to a briefing. Ever since I first entered the Diplomacy hobby, I've been very interested in variants, and have a few designs to my name, most recent being FINAL CONFLICT. In making the 3rd edition rules and map of FINAL CONFLICT, I came up with this idea of a subxyn in which variant design could be discussed, resulting in G #1-3, which pertained to FC. Now that the work on FC is completed, I began to think that this concept was too good to let die. GERRY could serve as a forum to fix up those variants which have merit, but lack playtesting.

\*\*\*I talked to Lee at Byrnecon about doing GERRY as a part of the Miller Numbers report, and he felt that A&O would be a good home since he would like to see the xyn become a little more than a statistical readout. I understand that there would be some space limitations due to Lee's budget (both time and money), but I'm sure that things could be kept clean and crisp.

\*\*\*Mind you that GERRYMANDERING doesn't tolerate deadwood! What we'd like to see is some reader input on variant design. In my first years in dipdom, I felt hesitant to speak up due to the appearant presence of hobby beurocrates who seemed to know it all. Experience certainly is a good asset, but creativity is, too. New comers seem to be willing to break all the rules, which might be a good thing when it comes to variant design.

\*\*\*So that's why this is here. There are two things that need to be done. First, and most importantly, let people know about GERRYMANDERING. If there are folks who are somewhat interested in variants, suggest they get A&O and send in their 2¢ worth. Remember, NO DEADWOOD! Secondly, we need a project to work on. I'm sure there are a number of popular variants being played that have some small problems that need to be ironed out. That's not to say that I have a proposed project.

\*\*\*I remember at Origins 82 (in Maryland) Bob Sergeant brought along a nicely drawn version of his WWII b game. Although the game only went 4 gameyears, some people I had talked to noticed some imbalances. This problem was more than appearant to me, considering I had drawn China. Part of my complaints may be "sour grapes", but I felt that China and India had very few options available to them (fewer than their counterparts). The game also tended to move rather sluggish. Then again, I've been used to FC, which is only 7 man and therefore moves along much quicker. You have to admit, there are A LOT of provinces in WWIIb (perhaps too many). I don't have a copy of the variant myself, but there seems to be enough popularity being generated that it could be modified into a more satisfying game.

\*\*\*Another variant I was interested in tinkering with is The Downfall of the Lord of The Rings and The Return of the King, but it is my understanding that Rod Walker is almost finished with a revision of this variant.

\*\*\*What might be helpful is if people could send in a small (3-4) list of which variants they like, just to see which ones are popular. Lee had mentioned that Woolworth seemed to have the most number of gamestarts of all variants for 1982, but the game seems to be balanced, since the game underwent enough postal playtesting.

\*\*\*So, if you get a chance, drop me a line and let me know what variants you like, and whatever else you feel like chatting about. I'm more than willing to listen to what you have to say, and bring them up for discussion in GERRY. My three minutes are just about up, so I'll sign off for this month.