Number 20

**RECORD AND IRON

May 25,1973

**RECORD AND IRON

1. Certain persons (Don Lowry is one) have expressed the intention to use articles from uncopyrighted Diplomacy publications even if permission is not obtained from the publisher. The solution which many people have adopted (among them Len Lakofka) is to add a copyright notice such as the one above to their zine. It has always been customary for Dippy publishers to obtain permission before reprinting material, so copyrighting shouldn't cause too many problems.

2. I have given up on trying to fill the Anonymity game, and those who have registered will have fees returned with this issue. I have just confirmed that my graduate program will be three years, not four (it's part of the fellowship), so I'm not going to start any games for quite some time, in case I decide to use carbon copy sometimes and publish BI less frequently.

- Charles Reinsel recently removed Conrad von Metzke from one of the Big Brother games for personal reasons not related to While I personally think Reinsel is on his ear, and I abhor his violent, vehement, and apparently unfounded personal attacks on Conrad, that's irrelevant to the question at hand. Even if all Reinsel's charges were true, they would be no justification for removing von Metzke from the game. A gamesmaster cannot allow his personal likes and dislikes interfere with his games-If a GM doesn't like someone, he should prohibit his mastering. entrance into a game, and not let him in and then throw him out. Ironically, Charles was removed from one of Buddy Tretick's games some years ago in a similar situation; apparently he didn't learn anything. Edi Birsan and Greg Warden have both resigned from Big Brother games in support of Conrad, but unfortunately many others (Mark Weidmark, for example) have decided not to go that far. have not heard of any GM throwing Charles out of a game -- not even Conrad -- and I hope that no one does. I wish more could be done to sanction Reinsel, but for now all anyone can do is avoid participating in any Diplomacy activity Reinsel is connected with in the future. Reinsel's action is inexcusable.
- 4. IFW is still at it, with another issue of the IW and election announcement. I am told, however, that the prospects are very discouraging (if you happen to be an IFW supporter). If IFW can get through elections it may be all right for a while, but otherwise it is dead. The ballots and IW 65 and 66 were supposed to have been mailed by April 30, but I don't know of anyone who's seen them...

John Lawrey, Jr. (Olympian and Ipomoea) is closing all the openings that I've mentioned in recent BI's. Apparently those games already in progress will be taken care of through carbon copy.

New Games and Openings

SPOR 7 (James Massar, 127 N Emmons St., Dannemora, NY 12929) includes a revised map and rules for 149 BC, which was reviewed in a recent BI. James adds 1721 to his list of variant openings (31

plus \$3 returnable deposit plus sub (7/31).

Berserker #1 (Jim Ronson, 864 Ingersoll Court, Clarkson, Mississauga, Ont. L5J2S1 Canada) contains the rules for Viking Dippy. Each player (England, rance, Norway, Denmark, Sweden) begins with three units, using regular Diplomacy rules, and attempts to capture a majority (apparently) of the 25 centers on the board. The game begins in 1001. There are 17 sea spaces and 35 land spaces, so I think the game will be pretty short and violent, but prone to draws among so-called "win-only" players or "holy alliance" players (and that takes care of most players, doesn't it?). It should be good for FTF. The map is one dittoed page; there aren't really any rules.

The Silmarilli #9 (20¢ from Chic Hilliker, Box 1195, Bloomington, Ind. 47401) includes rules for Middle Earth Diplomacy II (by Don Miller). This is a very old variant, not played for a number of years even though I have heard that it was more popular than ME IV at one time. Chic is going to run a game once one of the ME IV games in TS is over. He also intends to publish the rules for all the other Middle Earth type games, eventually. Players in ME II are Arnor, Rhovanion, Rohan, Gondor, and Mordor. R seems to be disadvantaged by its position toward the center. There are 29 centers. There are few changes from regular Diplomacy rules, primarily concerning sea movement. This issue also contains "Statistics of Middle Earth IV" by Kim Peterson and Chic.

This is Be Kind to Herb Barents Month (June, too)

Dalarna II, by John Leeder (Box 1606, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada) depicts the sivation which might arise in the period following Fletcher Pratt's well of the Unicorn story. Flayers include the Emperor, Norby, Shalland, Vastmanstead, and Skogolang. The latter five revolt in succession determined by chance, while the Emperor tries to keep any one from gaining hegemony in Dalarna before he can bring in overwhelming forces (from off the board). Either I read the rules incorrectly, or no competent emperor can lose (though in a FTF game which John chronicled, the emperor managed to lose in a game ended by concession). Nost rules follow regular Diplomacy, and the number of units is approximately 30-35.

Tangelo Express #7 (Richard Hull, 4720 Cloyne Apt 2, Oxnard, Calif. 93030) contains rules for Eckert's Napoleonic Diplomacy and Imperialism VIIR, by Rod Walker. Bob Eckert's game is apparently an attempt at historical accuracy within the limits of the regular board. There are a few changes, such as addition of Egypt as a supply center, and additional spaces which are carved out of Russia. Every center is occupied at the beginning of the game: there are 5 Russians, 5 French (including Ruhr), 6 Turks, 4 Austrians, 4 English, 3 Prussians, 3 Swedes, 3 Italians, and 3 optional Moors which are otherwise in CD with Spain supporting

Portugal. Turkish units are only worth .9 on offense. that the game is balanced, but with all centers occupied it should

develop quickly.

Walker's Imperialism VIIR is a WW II scenario using regular rules and a very large board. Each player (all the regular players except Austria) begins with seven units and grows accordingly. since there are a total of 75 centers. This game was very popular at one time, but after Rod transferred the postal games to another GM they were abandoned and only recently revived. NOT a game to play FTF.

BATTER....UP

John Boyer, 117 Garland, Carlisle, PA. (designer of 1721)

"I was happy to hear that you Michigan Wargamers played my 1721 Variant. I am not arguing your conclusions, but would like to hear more detail on why you think it would be so drawish a game.

"I was surprised to hear that it was considered a drawish game. Well, I did work hard to make it a balanced game - is that what makes it a draw? If not that alone, but also geographical separation, I can see what you mean. However, like you said, it was only one game. Other games have been played and none was a Actually, you may not have played your game long enough: 3 years is hardly enough to get some conclusive results in a long variant such as this. It would also look drawish in many cases after only three years in the regular game. So, if I haven't touched upon the reasons you had, I would like to know. I am not adverse to improving the game.

"As a matter of fact, I have already decided to improve the map in a few minor ways... ((list of changes follows -- I imagine everyone who has the game can pick up the changes in Lost Horizons

or Impassable)).

"Again, I was surprised about your draw, but three years isn't much...possibly the fact that Spain and France were so close to start with, helped draw the situation. I don't know, I feel that I am correcting your wrong ideas, but I don't want you to think that I'm right just because I said so. True, I designed it, true I have other game results on hand, true, but then, one wonders if

he overlooked something.,,"

((Karl Pettis tells me that after I left the game was continued, though I don't know where they managed to dredge up replacements at that hour. The game ended in a draw among Spain. France, and England when England established a stalemate line. This only reinforces what I said. Let me repeat, though, that at the end of three game years, a six-way draw was SET. The Austrian, however, was one of those people who would rather die than draw. and she proceeded to do just that, leaving Poland and Turkey in the lurch. Three was enough; there would have been no point in playing further if Austria had chosen to draw. Three game-years is often enough for a draw of this type -- I played a six-draw of Atlantica which was set after three game years, at Zeeland last summer (the center chart may be in this issue). I don't know how much longer the game lasted after I left. I would like to hear the results of the other games you mention; perhaps at MSU the game was played later, since they had a copy. Karl?

Why is 1721 drawish? It has nothing to do with how balanced any multi-player game is theoretically a draw as long as

no single power can equal, or nearly equal, the other powers combined. Division of the board into distinct spheres, and a large number of units, promote a draw by helping to prevent any player from gaining a preponderance in one area that can quickly be extended to all toher areas. I went into this in a letter in Marcus concerning Youngstown Variant. Simply, when there are more units per country, each player has more time to react, to stop the leader. A stab is less effective because a smaller percentage of a player's force is lost (or gained). Stabs are not more violent, that is, they do not result immediately in a greater transfer of center ownership, even though there are more units in a game, because 1) one has more units available to protect from a stab and 2) the effectiveness of a stab depends more, I think, on position than on numbers. I have only my own experience to depend on; there's no way I can prove the above assertion that a smaller percentage of the force is lost. But if that is true, it helps explain why players have more time to react in a game with a large number of units per player (or a large number of players -- the effect is the same in the end).

Getting back to the first point, I refer again to Atlantica. Both Atlantica and 1721 have baords divided into two spheres, with three countries in the west and four in the east, and little interaction between them. Neither "sphere "can afford to fight internally unless the other sphere is fighting internally as well. Otherwise the united sphere will sweep over the disunited sphere. Three way alliances are common and workable; the longer a threeway alliance operates, the harder it is for the participants to In regular Diplomacy a three-way alliance is very split apart. difficult to form and hold together, perhaps because of the configuration of the board and interaction of spheres, but also because there are relatively few units per country, and if two stab one, there won't be enough left of the stabbed country to affect the game for long. In regular Diplomacy the place of the threeway sphere alliances is taken by the two-way alliances of France-England, and Russia-Turkey. If the other players fight, one or the other of these alliances will sweep the board. If both alliances operate, the game will be a four or five-way draw.

You must remember that in my opinion, most regular Diplomacy games should end in draws, and most competently played FTF games I've witnessed end so. In postal play, however, there are many incompetent players (at least two or three in the average game), plus those who might miss a crucial move through lack of interest. Misses and dropouts destroy many, many drawing situations. Other times players simply quit before they should; they don't perceive the drawing possibilities.

I hope this "compose as I go" reply is not too incoherent. Does anyone have anything to add?

Steve Langs and I made it to the GVSO gaming meeting last May 20 and had a good time winning most everything. 4000AD proved to be popular, perhaps because it is easy to learn and attractive because of the unique movement system. I tried to reconstruct a game for publication here or in Supernova, but the hen-scratchings of the other players defeated me. If any of you play 4000AD FTF I'd appreciate a record of the moves. We play with simultaneous movement, and so write them anyway; the game is faster and more interesting with simo+movement, too.

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- 54. Dick Vedder, 1450 N Cherry Ave., Tucson, Ariz. 85719
- 55. Conrad von Metzke, Box 8342, San Diego, Calif. 92102 T 56. Mark Weidmark, 528 Park Crescent, Oickering, Ontario, Canada 57. Fred Winter, Box 604, Madison, Wis. 53703
- 58. Paul Wood, 24613 Harmon Ct., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 T
- 59. Stan Wrobel, 7 Poland Village Blvd., Poland, Ohio 44514 T Plus three overseas and two probable renewals. There are too many trades, but I can't do anything about that just now.

Variant game designations...

There seem to be quite a few. At this rate we'll break the old record, I think.

1973Tdu. Ancient Hebrew Kingdom Diplomacy (AHKD). Conrad von Metzke, Rename. Judah-Robert Nielsen, Gad-Joel Klein, East Manasseh-John Biehl, West Manasseh-Mark Weidmark.

1973Uda. Myopia (or Diplomyopia). John Piggott, Ethil the Frog. E-Peter Charlton, A-Phil Jones, F-Jeff Oliver, G-John Lettice, I-Allan Ovens, R-Andy Davidson, T-Colin Hemming.

1973Vdv. Viking Diplomacy. Jim Ronson, Berserker. Denmark-John Biehl, England-Bruce Gletty, France-Rudy Wiens, Norway-Harry Drews, Sweden-Mark Weidmark.

1973Wdu. AHKD. Mark Weidmark, Thunderbird. Judah-John Morgan, Gad-Rick Kitching, East Manasseh-Jim Ronson, West Manasseh-Les Pimley.

1973Xdr. Black Hole. Conrad von Metzke, Rename. A-David Staples, E-Howard Johnson, F-Randolph Bart, G-David DeLuca, I-John Hendry, R-Harry Drews, T-Robert Nielsen.

1973Yt. Middle Earth Diplomacy IV. Chic Hilliker, Silmarilli. Angmar-Darrel Glidden, Arnor-Doug Dick, Gondor-Adam Stephanide, Harad-Kim Peterson, Mordor-Rich Swies, Rhovanion-Tom Durling.

1973Zdw. 1776. Richard Hull, Tangelo Express. America-Steve Norris, Creek-Andy Fishman, Britain-Randolph Bart, France-Bob Eckert, Iroquois-Russell Tulp.

4000 AD

I GMed the last moves before I had prepared my map, etc., and it shows. Antares has only 8-Ant (before builds), not 10. In fall that's 2(JR-1), not KR-1. There are still no replacements available for this game -- anyone interested? Spring 4002

Algol (Langs) 3(AR-1). 12-Alg, 1-Menk, 1-Aldeb Antares (Roseman) 5(LR-3)-Veg, 2(LR-2)-Thu, 1-Thu*Rut. 5-Veg.

1-Thu, 1-Rut, 9-Ant
Pavo (Stump) 3(JR-2)-Alin, 2(GR-1)-Fom. 5-Alge, 2-Fom, 3-Alde, 6-Pav
Regulus. (Wood) 7(CY-1). 2-Avi, 3-Adh, 5-Reg
Deadline for Fall 4002 is June 8 at noon at 423 N Main.

Bellevue, MI 49021.

Press not printed last time: Galactic Press, Pavo Bureau. We, the people of Pavo, in order to survive have found it necessary to expand to the other stars

of this part of the galaxy. We hope the intelligent races of the galaxy look not upon it as aggression, especially our friends the Antareans.

We are only human. We wish a humane peace for all of us. Vive

Now for this season:

72Jco

Excerpt from The Pavo Papers

Coldly, the very important but unknown man looked at the man before him. A saboteur. It had been a long and hard chase but finally the culprits of the order never received (that of 2(alge-Foma)) were finally apprehended. It was a comfortable thought but also a sad one.

He sighed. Before the war had even started acts of sabotage were being committed. Traitors and spies were everywhere. It was going to bea long war.

Orion (that's the GM in case you didn't know): Where are the 10-mile-long space ships you guys? I usually don't like press, but there's potential in this game that you won't find elsewhere. So how about some more? Steve, is this a good place for the Wizard of Wom?

72.23h

Since this is the last game-year, I have decided to delay the game so that you can negotiate, if you wish, with the new player for France, David Sleight (see address list). Also, there are no Russian PF's or U in Germany, blast it. The deadline is June 8.

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Active variant Diplomacy game listing.
66AFaa 🗸
         Imperialism VII (LOMOKOME)
66AKaa
67Naa
67ARam
         Imperialism VIIR (LOMOKOME)
68Tam
70Bbp
         Godawful Game (I've heard nothing about this in some time)
71Av
         Calhamer 5-man game (transferred from BLEFESCU to P. Bond)
         Hypereconomic Diplomacy II (SIBERIAN)
71Bcm
         Imperialism IXR (CAPHTOR (Paul Bond))
71Hcn
71 Iv
         Calhamer 5-man game (IPOMOEA?)
71 Jv
                             (transferred to Paul Bond)
71Lcp
         The Great European War (I've been unable to obtain info)
         about this one
         Youngstown Variant (SHAAFT)
71Mbu
71Rcv
         Youngstown Variant, second revision (SHAAFT)
71Scs
         "Fistel "Variant (SHAAFT)
71Tbu
         Youngstown Variant (ON LES AURA)
         Diadochi I (WAR BULLETIN)
71Uct
         Youngstown Variant (BOAST)
72Abu
         Balance of Power Variant (SHAAFT)
72Bcw
72Ccn
         Imperialism IXR (Being transferred to Richard Hull)
         War of the Rings Diplomacy I (JASTRZAB)
72Dcx
72Edb
         Youngstown Variantthird revision (MARCUS)
72Gcz
         Atlantica (BUSHWACKER)
72Hcn
         Imperialism IXR (Being transferred to R. Hull)
72Ida
         Myopia (abandoned?)
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Abstraction (BUSHWACKER)

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72Kco
          Abstraction (ETHIL THE FROG)
72Lbu-Ubu Youngstown Variant (PANDEMONIA)
72Vbu
          Youngstown Variant (YGGDRASILL CHRONICLE)
72Wdd
          Diadochi II (DER KRIEG)
72Xt
          Middle Earth IV (VOICE OF THE NORTH)
72Ydf
          Cline 9-man game (RENAME)
72Zbu
          Youngstown Variant (CRUSH)
72AAdc /
          Winter 9-man game (GARGOYLE)
          Third Age (ETHIL THE FROG)
72ABde
72ACde
72ADde
72AEcn
          Imperialism IXR (WAR BULLETIN)
72AFdf
          Cline 9-man game (RENAME)
          Jihad (DER KRIEG)
72AGdg
72AIbu
          Youngstown Variant (MAD POLICY)
72AJt
          Middle Earth IV (STENCH)
          Slobbovia (SLOBINPOLIT ZHURNAL)
Anarchy IV (BLOOD AND IRON)
72AKdk
73Adi
73Bd j
          Staples Variant (RIGOT)
730cz
          Atlantica (THUNDERBIRD)
          Legion (THUNDERBIRD) Can't win 'em all...
72AHdh /
          Scotice Scripti III (IMPASSABLE)
73Ddl
73Et
          Middle Earth IV (THE SILMARILLI)
73Fdm
          US Variant (LEBANON GAZETTE)
73Idm
(73Jdn)
          Stress (ICHiP)
          Youngstown Variant (OLYMPIAN?)
73Kbu
          Europe Variant (LEBANON GAZETTE)
73Ldo
          Moses Game
731 dp
          Dalarna II (RUNESTONE)
(73Ndq)
730cz(2) Atlantica (MAD POLICY)
73Pdr Black Hole (RENAME)
          Michigan Diplomacy (STENCH)
73Qds
          Cold War (MIRCALLA)
73Rdt
73Sco
          Abstraction (MIRCALLA)
          Removed since last listing (in November)
68Rbu Youngstown Variant and 69Abu are both over, and center charts
and information appeared in El Dorado 4.
70Dcj (Aberration IV), 71Fcd, and 71Gcd (Aberration III) were all
abandoned by Rod Walker. Tony Pandin made an effort to restart
them, but never reported the results to me.
71Kco (Abstraction) was won by Bob Stuart, Russia.
71Pcu, listed las time as abandoned, was never actually started.
26 games have begun this year. Last year 37 were started during the
entire year (this doesn't count some games both this year and last,
in England, which do not have numbers). A lot of games are filling.
so that the number of openings now is down from earlier this year;
a list of all openings will appear in BI 21.
     I've had the following center charts since last summer, when
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I've had the following center charts since last summer, when these games were played. I've decided to get them printed before I completely forget what went on in the games. I played the Atlantica game and GMed both Twin Earths games. The latter game, designed by Don Miller, is a simple variant using two sets.

Units can move only to spaces of the same name on the two boards, such as Mun I-Mun II. Centers are counted for a player's entire holdings, not each board separately.

Atlantica: Zeeland, September 72 US Ca I was very diappointed 5 6 with the game, E-G-I ganged 2 8 8 6 up on F while the other three 1 8 6 10 milled around in a triple 6 alliance. The game quickly

fell into a six-way draw. Perhaps if some of the players had been more interested, the Europeans might have caught the Americans and

managed a three-way. This is a very drawish game.

Twin Earths: Detroit, July 72	s:Ludington, Jn72
01 02 03 04 05	04 05 06
$-\mathbf{A}_{1} - 5_{1}$	6 7 5
E 3 3 4 6 6 6 6 6 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7	7 8 11 -
$(\mathbf{F} \circ (5 + 5) \circ 5 \circ 5 \circ 5) \circ 5 \circ 5$	18.421.510 7 miles
G 76 6 6 8 79 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
I - 4 4 3 (3 , 0, 4) 1 (4) 6	6 4 3
$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{A} \cup $	5 5 5
Transfer 6 7 7 7 2 2	2 2 3
A 15 6 6 8 3 4 4 2 3 4	6 6 6
$\hat{\mathbf{E}}$ 4 6 6 6 7	7 7 9
F 6 6 6 8 2 2 1 1 2 2 3 5 5	6 6 6
6 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 6 6 6 6	70 5 4 Q O N
7 (4 4 4 1 1 1	5 4 5
	3 3
\vec{n} $\vec{4}$ $\vec{4}$ $\vec{4}$ $\vec{7}$ $\vec{7}$ $\vec{10}$	3 4 4

Since I don't have much space, I'll let you figure out the totals. The first game ended in a four-way draw. The game at Ludington was conceded to England. TE proved to be an exercise in frustration for the players. There are so many units, and the added possibilities and problems of visualization, that by the end of the game the players were exhausted, though they had a good time. The draw at Detroit was not set, that is, inevitable, but it was getting late. I wasn't present for the last game-year at Ludington, but I'd guess that the players conceded the game just to get it over. There was a fair amount of stabbing in both games. This resulted in some amusing situations, with different players holding similar areas on different boards. Defense proved very difficult in such cases. At one point on defense, Austria had one unit on one board and seven or so on the other, with almost all of them shifting boards each move.

MOW: Let it be known that once again, The KING, the Prince of Darkness, and the Lord of Outer Space have challenged the Prince of Zooland to a team combat. Since our last challenge was refused (Zooland could not find anyone to stand by him), other MOW teams have formed and some matches have been played. This time the Prince promises to find enough minions..er, allies to make a team. The match will not take place until the Prince of Darkness returns from Iceland in mid-June, so we have a while to determine what games will be played. Stalingrad, 4000AD, Chess, and two-man Anarchy-style Diplomacy have been mentioned. If necessary we may call on the Southern General and the Lord of the Air for additional forces.

Who knows, perhaps someday the people of this kingdom will challenge BirSauron, Bane of Elves, and his lackeys... 1973Adi Fall 1902 Bel-StP-Vie (Sleight) F Hol-Bel, A Rum (S) HULL A Bud-Ser (NSO), A StP-Mos Bre-Con-Swe (Jordan) F Bre (H) (D, (R) off board, Gas, Pic), F Swe-Ska, F Ank-Bla, A Smy-Ank Den-Par-Sev (Wood) A Bur (S) EYNON F Nth-Bel, F Kie (H), F Den (S) F Kie, A Mos-StP, A Arm-Sev Edi-Gre-Ven (Eynon) F Nth-Bel, A Tyr-Tri, A Gre (S) A Ser, A Ser (S) SLEIGHT A Rum-Bud (MSO) Hol-Liv-Tri (Hull) A Yor-Lon, F Eng (S) KELLER F Wid-Bre, A Edi (H), A Bud (S) A Tri-Ser, A Tri-Ser Kie-Smy-Spa (Schwass?) NMR F Spasc, A Ber (H) Mun-Por-Rom (Keller) F Mid-Bre, A Mun (H), A Apu-Ven, A Ven-Tri Centers held, Winter 1902: Sleight Str. Vie, Rum, Hol 4 build 1 Jordan Bre. Con, Swe, Smy, Ank 4 even unless Bre (R) ob, in which case build 1 Wood Home, Mos, Kie 5 even 4 even unless Eynon Edi. Ser. Gre. Bul. Bel. Wen Hull Ser Tri, Bud, Edi, Lon, Bel, Møl, Lpl 5 even

Schwass Spa, Ber

Keller Home, Ven, Nap, Bre

Deadline for Autumn 1902 retreats and Winter 1902 builds
is June 8 at noon.

Rick Brooks is asked to submit stand-by moves for Schwass again, and John Cleaveland can back him

up again. This time you might get in, Rick; Schwass has been dropping his poor positions.

73.?h 1935 attacks

Britain is attacked by Germany in Austria at 5-1. Britain's PF is eliminated. No orders were received from Rus. Herb Barents (see address list) is asked to submit standby placements for Russia. Britain places an Understanding in Germany. John Caton (see address list) is the new player for the United States. Deadling for 1936 placements is June 8 at noon.

Many traders havemissed my address change. Please take

Lewis Pulsipher 423 North Main Bellevue, Mich. 49021

First class

Return requested

First class

RICHARD HULL 4720 CLOYNE APT #2 OXNARD, CALIF. 93030