

Number 8

BLOOD AND IRON

OCTOBER
August 2, 1972

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Blood and Iron is devoted to multi-player "conflict simulations,"
especially Diplomacy variants. Subscriptions 8/31, sample issue
15¢ from the editor-publisher, Lewis Pulsipher, 329 Twin Towers,
Albion, Michigan 49224. BI is affiliated with the Michigan Organized
Wargamers and its games are guaranteed by that organization. This is
Orion Press Publication #27. Back issues are 15¢ @ -- all available.
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The second BI game of historical Origins was started by carbon copy
a few days after the last deadline. Players are:

United States: Emmett W. Darbyshire, 858 #B Walnut St. Carpinteria,
Calif. 93013

France: Paul McHoull, 28 White Oak Blvd. Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Britain: Elliot Lipson; HDQS US Army Material Command, ATTN: AMCSA-BC
(Maj. Elliot S. Lipson) Washington, DC 20315

Russia: John Van De Graaf, 37343 Glenbrook, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Germany: Todd Roseman, 69 "H" St., Chula Vista, Calif. 92010.

The Bourse will be delayed until the third game starts, in hopes
of finding three more players.

Replacement players are needed for both games. So far Todd
Roseman is the only man on the replacement list (for .9h, of course).

* * *

The first postal game of any version of Origins to finish was
1972.3h, in Arena. Final score was Germany and Russia, 18, France
and Britain 14, and US 2. Long ago I decided to maintain a rating
for Origins. As long as it doesn't take much time and I can easily
obtain results I will continue to maintain the rating.

The system is very simple. A player receives one point for
each opponent whom he outscores. The winner receives an additional
point; if there is a draw, the point is divided among the drawing
players. The rating is currently: T. Morale and L. Menyhert, 3½;
W Drakert and J Pyle, 1; R. Bagala, 0. Listing in the future will
be by average, with number of games also listed.

* * *

Long ago I wondered if something analogous to the supply center
chart for Diplomacy could be devised for Origins. I came up with
a chart showing PF's, points, and control counters for each game-
year. The chart below, which depicts the first two years of 72.9h,
lists points first, followed by PF's, with control counters super
scripted.

	36	37	
US	17-2	15-6	
FR	0-4	6-0 ¹	
BR	0-4	3-14 ¹	
RU	5-0 ¹	5-8 ¹	
GE	5-2 ²	5-18 ²	

Understandings are recorded as 5PF's.
Controls are not counted in PF totals.

* * *

New Miller number:

1972Wdb, Diadochi II (db had been assigned to a YV revision, but
rules were changed to a previous revision -- see below). Graham
Jeffery (Der Krieg). Carthage-John Lettice, Egypt-Brian Yare,
Macedonia-John Bullock, Pergamum-Geoff Corker, Rhodes-John Piggott,
Rome-Andy Davidson, Syria-Bob Harris. This game is in England.

MOW

The first issue of Tim Tilson's new 'zine, Voice of the North, has been mailed out. It will include a "Demonstration" Middle Earth IV game, one regular game (gamefee only \$2.50), and possibly one Americana 1860 game. Tim's address is 200 W 9th Ave. Sault Ste Marie, Mich. 49783.

Dean Schwass, RR 1, Ludington, Mich. 49431 will GM at least one carbon copy game for Michigan residents, though there may also be spots for players from nearby states. I have no further information (thanks a lot, Bean).

Paul Den Uyl, A 117 Bryan, MSU, E. Lansing, Mich. is going to GM at least one modified Nuclear Destruction game for 10¢ per turn. I don't know whether this one is open to non-Michigan players.

New blood in Michigan: John Gregg, 3091 Orchard Hwy, Manistee, Mich. 49660; Craig Chelius, 3343 Tacoma Circle, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Wiff'n Proof Newsletter editorial address, 1490 S. Boulevard, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Dave Den Uyl's address has changed to 3636 Straits Hwy, Indian River, MI 49749. Note that Tilson's address is also new.

* * *

October is Be Kind to Herb Barents Month.

* * *

Steve Langs tells me that the following changes should be made to the WW IV map in BI 6. Philippines should be adjacent to Cel and GLSi (the cross hatching in the southern island of Phi should not be there). There should be a sea border between Tim and SPa, drawn between Pap and Que (i.e., Iri not adjacent to SPa). There should be a sea border between BaBn and Cel, this border to run between Sia and the nearest cross-hatched island (sumatra).

* * *

Conrad Von Metzke, with the agreement of Hal Naus and Charles Reinsel, has assumed the job of assigning Boardman numbers. Rod Walker, who had been assigning numbers for some time, has dropped his Diplomacy activities, including GMing. I support Conrad's action, and hope that other publishers will do so as well. It's been over four weeks since Rod assigned a number, and even longer since he published.

I hope that in the future the assignment of Boardman numbers and the record keeping involved will be split among three, or possibly only two, persons. While Miller numbers are still a small burden, over 100 Boardman numbers have been assigned already this year. I think there would be less disruption if more than one person does the job. Then if one is forced away from the hobby, there will be someone responsible for finding another person to assign numbers. Each person could take a designated area of the world, and each would have his own series of numbers to assign -- for example, one might get all A's, D's, etc, while another might take B's and E's, and another C's and F's. Or the designations could be split so that a time sequence of sorts was maintained (i.e., almost all the A's would be assigned before the B's, etc.). If and when the Miller numbers become a burden, I intend to institute a like system. I hope Conrad will do the same for the Boardman numbers once he sets things in order.

With Walker's "disappearance," eight more variant games are orphaned. Two of these are five-man games, and I hope GM's who don't normally take variants will take these. That still leaves 10 other orphans. Black Host is being held up while I try to get some information about one of the Monthly Zap games.

The IDA

The following letter has been sent to John Boyer for publication in the Diplomacy Review, the official organ of the International Diplomacy Association. I have decided to print it here as well to make sure that it reaches at least some IDA members, and to help overcome the long delay before the next issue of DR.

Sept. 30

Where is IDA going? Presumably the officers are well-informed about IDA projects, and they know what their fellow officers think about these projects; but what about the "average member"? Frankly, my impression is that IDA wants to recruit as many warm bodies as possible in order to say that it represents Dippydom at large, and not TDA or PDC or some other group. But after the person joins, forget him. Is it possible for members outside the officer group, which was constituted some time ago, to really know what IDA is doing and to participate? I fear that the answer is no. Moreover, what does IDA do for its members -- what justification is there for IDA's existence?

Let's take the second question first. Right now, to most members IDA equals the Diplomacy Review. There may be many committees working on various projects, but for now IDA has nothing to show for it but talk, and little enough of that. While DR has potential to become a unique instrument, right now it is just another genzine. With Hoosier Archives, Graustark, Atlantis, Arena, Impassable, and many other 'zines publishing (and republishing) articles, who needs another? But what should DR be, if not another article-genzine?

Here we come back to the first question. "How to play" and similar articles may be OK for fillers, but shouldn't DR be devoted to informing the IDA members about IDA projects, about activities throughout Dippydom, and especially about new ideas, and the resurrection of old ideas? How about interim reports from the committees, or at least a list of committees and chairmen so that members with strong opinions concerning a project can put their views before a committee? New members apparently cannot become members of present committees, as James Massar related in SPQR. Edi Birsan may have satisfactorily explained the situation to Massar, but the rest of us are still in the dark. How about a forum in DR for discussion of issues raised in committee reports or elsewhere? Larry Peery has the opportunity to waste space expressing pious thoughts and saying very little -- do the rest of us have even a fraction of that opportunity?

The condensed minutes of the Chicago meeting and the listing of IDA member's magazines are articles which provide information to the members, and I only wish more of the same had been included in DR 2. But why limit the 'zine listing to IDA members (and as a digression -- why weren't Blood and Iron and Supernova listed, even though I sent John Boyer the necessary information even before he made his special appeal to publishers)? In "Custom," why not specify which problems have been "judged" by the Ombudsman -- which game, which player(s), which GM -- so that Birsan's comments can be related to comments in other 'zines (e.g., Xenogogic). I hope that all instances of intervention by the Ombudsman will be listed, as well. I don't know how other members may feel, but I want to know exactly what IDA is doing. Moreover, I hope IDA will tell me what other groups and individuals in Dippydom are doing, even if they are not affiliated with or members of IDA.

Someone may suggest that the Regional Secretaries should be able

to provide information to interested members. I doubt that the RS's have time to do so, even if they have the information at their disposal. I often wonder why we have RS's at all, since they seem to have little to do, and since such systems have failed again and again in other gaming organizations. I have not even tried to work through my RS -- I can't even find out why I never received an issue of his 'zine which carried a postal game I was in (it is now over), nor obtain a replacement for the copy which was presumably lost, nor can I find out what happened to two issues of a magazine I was supposed to receive as part of my IFW membership (my RS is President of IFW). This despite repeated inquiries.

It should be much easier to supply information and discussion through DR than the RS's. Some discussion can also take place in member's 'zines (e.g., Blood and Iron and SPQR), but there is no substitute for discussion before all the members. Will DR be just another article-genzine, printing the same material, somewhat rewritten, again and again, or will it become a valuable forum for discussion and information about all Diplomacy activities?

Lew Pulsipher

Now, while I don't like the direction IDA is taking, and I don't like some of the things (or maybe I should say, most of the things) that Larry Peery has been doing (and not doing), I am opposed to indiscriminate criticism. I particularly refer to the following, which I am reprinting from Carbon 13 #31 (Fred Winter).

EDITORIAL

If your still thinking about joining any of the "Diplomacy organizations" around, forget it. This editorial centers primarily on the "International Diplomacy Organization", but that in no way means that I approve of any others. The trouble is, however, that the IDA is trying to do something ~~for~~ to Diplomacy and therefore is the most dangerous of the several organizations.

Recently, Larry Perry has been critisized for delaying his games in favor of his "pet" IDA. Players should note, however, that all the evidence points to the fact that Perry is not in fact even doing any good for IDA as its president or the Diplomacy community in general. In GRAUSTARK 273, John Boardman, certianly a person with many strong editorial opinios, but nevertheless a critical thinking and superbe Diplomacy gamemaster and publisher brings to light the fact that Perry doesn't pay hisdebts to other Diplomacy players, nor does he run his games properly. This is no surprise to me, however, for recently, I offered a trade to Perry, and he turned it down for the reason that his circulations are already to large. He did, however, say that for a "mere" \$75.00(!) I could subscribe to all his 'zines and recieve all back issues. Thanks a lot! Question: Is Larry more concerned with his IDA than Diplomacy in general? Answer, since I'm not an IDA member, I cnn't trade with him. Good night! Anyone who can support such an organization certianly should reconsider their position. Quit IDA!

I have reprinted Fred's editorial without changes in spelling and punctuation, as you can see. Peery has been criticized for his gamemastering from all sides, and at least one of his games is now under another GM due to IDA action. Whether Peery pays his debts of not is an undecided question; Boardman's "facts" have nothing to back them up but one person's word as opposed to another's. I was inclined to agree with Peery's position in the 71BG affair -- the publisher controls the game, not the GM.

Peery publishes more than any other publisher in Dippydom. He also charges \$5 per sub, usually for the duration of a particular game. That being the case, I am not surprised at the \$75 figure. His circulation is over 200; if Fred considered how much time and effort would go into that sort of circulation, with a number of zines, he might not be surprised that Peery doesn't want to trade with an undistinguished, albeit efficient, gamezine.

Finally, do not equate Peery with IDA. If you must attach the organization to someone, attach it to Walt Buchanan and Edi Birsan. Peery will be gone, but they will continue.

Fred's favorite catchphrase is "organization is the first sign of decay." While I disagree, I fear overorganization. Some persons are talking of adopting one rating system as official for all Dippydom; I think this would be a disaster, as well as unfair. And again, the Diplomacy Association is holding a "World Championship tourney." I hope that we will never descend to naming a world champion Diplomacy player; the very concept is bankrupt!

* * *

By the way, if Fred (or anyone) wants to comment on material in BI, feel free. I am willing to print almost anything.

* * *

The TDA championship tourney has many prizes; unfortunately I think the format is not conducive to determining the best player, and there are a few other things to watch for. There will be two rounds, the first seven games with 49 players, and the second made up of winners or best player in a stalemate when such occurs. This will be unfair to some of the other players in the stalemates, most likely, but there's no way around it in a seven game tournament. I prefer a format in which each player plays a number of games in the first round, like the SICL tourney (about the only good thing that can be said of it). I am not sure whether a final round proves any more than a one-game first round. Possibly the format that would be most likely to result in a win by the "best" player would be a one-round tourney, with each player participating in three-five games.

The fee is \$7 per game. Standby fee is \$5. Unfortunately, those who submit the \$7 fee after the tourney is filled will automatically be placed in standby position, with \$2 refunded. Even if you don't like it, I guess you're stuck with it.

Checks should be made payable to Chris Schleicher, who will GM all the games in Atlantis. Checks should be sent to John Beshara, however, and I assume more information is available from him, or in Wazir #4. The TDA is not responsible for the failure of the publisher or those donating prizes, by the way. Beshara's address is 155 West 68th St, NY NY 10023.

* * *

Hmmm. The ME IV game in Voice of the North is 1972Xt. The only new set of variant rules published since last issue is Hyborian Age Diplomacy by Gary Gygax, which appeared in Supernova 12. I will review that nextish. If you're looking for openings in one of the "What if" variations of Origins should try John Boardman, 234 East 19th St., Brooklyn, NY 11226, and Joe Antosiak, 3637 Arden Ave., Brookfield, Ill. 60513.

In the chart on page 1, the years should be 35 and 36, not 36 and 37. Don't know where I got that idea...

Richard Hull, 4720 Cloyne Ave. Apt 2, Oxnard, Calif. 93030 is starting a regular Diplomacy zine. Gamefee is \$3, repro is xerox. Richard has not played postally, but has gamesmastering experience.

72.??h 1935A

Tentative moves have been received from all players for this game. Thanks to Barry Eynon for submitting standby placements. The final deadline for changes in initial placements is October 21 at noon at the address below. Note that this is 1935A, not 1936A. I have not yet received a designation for this game from Edi Birsan.

72.9h 1937A

United States (Campion): Au-3, Rh-2, Po-1
 France (Hendry): Ge-3, Rhi-5
 Britain (Caton): Rus-5, Ger-7
 Russia (Eynon): Ger-11(1 from Rus), Bri-7(7 from Rus)
 Germany (Birsan): Ger-5, Aus-10, Rhi-5

	Al	Au	Ba	Br	Cz	Fr	Ge	It	Po	Rh	Ro	Ru	US
USA		3							7	2			
FRA	C						3			5			
BRI		2				4	U+7		1	2	2	5	
RUS			C	7			11						
GER		10	C		C		7		6	10	5		

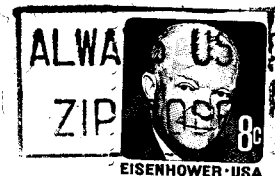
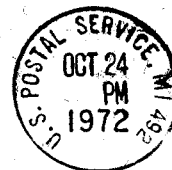
As always, I appreciate comments from the players which throw light on the course of the game. Deadline for 1937B attacks is October 21 at noon. If you do not intend to attack, send orders anyway so that I can be sure you are still in the game.

OPENINGS: There are two people registered for the third Origins historical game, probably the last historical game to be opened in BI. When it is filled I intend to move to variants of my own design. Remember, since players in the first two games have to sub anyway, this game is open to them for a \$1 position deposit and a 50¢ fee. Anarchy IV needs one or two more players, depending on whether a probable. Anonymity III, Diadochi II, and the Demonstration game are filling more slowly. Three more persons are needed for the Bourse to be held in conjunction with the third Origins game.

ERRATA: At the end of the piece concerning Nine-Man Dippy last issue, I gave the address for Fred Winter but inadvertently substituted Fred Davis' name. My apologies. Fred Winter's address has also changed: Alpha Phi Delta Rm 18, 640 N Henry, Madison, Wis. 53703.

Lewis Pulsipher
 329 Twin Towers
 Albion, Michigan 49224

return requested
 first class



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

first class