

BUSHWACKER

VOL. XVI, No. 7

(20th on Runestone Poll)

AUGUST 1987

This is the 188th consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy* zine dedicated to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and whatever else comes to my mind. Brought to you by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Phone: (301) 461-1885. Phone calls accepted daily between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m. Eastern time, except between 6 and 7 p.m. Since there is no guarantee that I'll be home, please submit all your orders by mail, except in emergencies.

*Diplomacy is a registered trademakr for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md. The zine is named for my comic strip character, "Bushwacker," whom I created back in the 6th grade, when I didn't know how to spell properly. That's his picture on the masthead.

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GAME FEES: \$9.00 Flat Fee for newcomers; \$8.00 for current readers. STANDBY FEES: \$5.00 for newcomers; \$4.00 for everyone else. No sub requirement to keep track of. For your Fee, you receive copies of the maps/rules for your game(s), plus receipt of BUSH for the duration of your games, providing you don't drop out. Mensa Diplomacy SIG members receive an additional \$1.00 discount on these fees.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are available for non-players, at 12 issues for \$6.00. A subber who wants to get into a game can apply to unexpired part of his sub to the Game Fee. Sample copies are 50¢. We also Trade with many other publishers on an all-for-all basis.

We need Standbys for Character Dip, Balkan Wars and Turnabout. We have a special offer of a Balkan Wars standby slot for just \$2.00 (cheap).

This issue contains reports on VACATION DIP III (1985R rm39), TURNABOUT (1986C ca02) and BALKAN WARS III (1987A pb06), plus the starting lineup for CHARACTER DIP.

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REMINDER ON THE MILLER NUMBERS

The most important thing in this issue is a reminder that there is only one Miller No. Custodian in North America. He is: Fred G. Hyatt, 60 Grandview Pl., Montclair, N.J. 07043. He has not authorized or appointed anyone else to issue Miller Numbers in North America. He is recognized as the MNC by the Custodians of all of the World's Variant Banks in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany. In addition, all of these variant banks use the classification system initially devised by Rod Walker for the NAVB, and originally published in what was called the ARDA CATALOG (now the NAVB Catalog). Virtually all established publishers use this system for their Postal variant games. Any publisher announcing the name of some other person as "MNC Under the Covenant" is spreading false information, which could be harmful to the variant subhobby.

1987 RUNESTONE POLL LEADERS

An incredible outpouring of 441 ballots from all corners of the Postal hobby has assured the validity of the 1987 Poll. That is about one-third of the entire hobby, based on 1986 census figures. Obtained entirely by mail, this is double the 211 votes cast last year, making hash out of the argument by one small facet of the hobby that the Poll is unimportant or inaccurate.

The Top Finishers on the North American Zine Poll Are:

1. 2. 3.	COSTAGUANA BLUNT INSTRUMENT PRAXIS	Conrad von Metzke Bruce Geryk Alan Stewart	9.27 9.12 8.89	1 () (New)	<u>Votes</u> 92 68	Notes 2nd hi vote
4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	EUROPA EXPRESS DIPLOMACY WORLD HOUSE OF LORDS REDWOOD CURTAIN CANADIAN DIPLOMA: MAGUS OVER THERE ZINE REDISTER	Gary Coughlan Larry Peery Dick Martin Kevin Tighe	8.77 8.62 8.45 8.43 8.42 8.32 8.31 8.05	4 (+1) 2 (-2) 6 (+1) (New) 17 (+10) 24 (+16) 10 (+1) (New) 8 (-3)	64 85 124 32 32 64 53 70	Folded Hi vote

Editor in 7/87 ADDRESS, respectively, have also folded, but only after the voting began. Accordingly, votes were accepted for these publications, but their folding apparently severely affected their standings. TRAP dropped 38 places (biggest drop) to finish 41st, while NFA fell 23 to finish in 32nd place. The #5 1986 finisher, EXCELSIOR, folded for about five months before returning, and as a result fell 16 places to 21.

There are five repeats out of last year's Top Ten, three newcomers, and two zines which have worked their way up into the Top Ten. (Older readers will remember my comment last year that CANADIAN DIPLOMAT ought to have been voted much higher than the #24 it received). We almost lost COSTA, but it returned after three months. Congratulations are in order to all of the top finishers, but especially to Bruce Geryk, Rockie of the Year, for his fabulous BLUNT INSTRUMENTS. Incidentally, I understand that B.I. will be produced only quarterly or semi-annually from now on.

The biggest numerical rise was for Melinda Holley's REBEL, which climbed 22 levels to 17th place. KK/WHITESTONIA rose 17 to 23rd place. The second biggest drop was Elmer Hinton's KAISSA, down 36 places to 64. This may have folded. The end of the parade was brought up by Mark Keller's HAI JIKAI (66th, 2.28) and Robert Sacks' HANSARD (67th, 2.03). Keller has apparently folded his zine.

Oh, and BUSHWACKER was rated 20th, with a score of 7.05, down from 14th place in '86. The amazing thing is that BUSH received 77 votes, the fourth highest total in the Poll. Thanks a lot, guys, especially for all those 7, 8, 9 and 10 votes! I would have rated myself 19th, behind EXCELSIOR (21st), and ahead of two other zines on the list. The Diplomacy SIG newsletter, DIPLOMAG, made the list for the first time, finishing 49th with a score of 4.98. Not bad, considering that this is almost entirely a business-like newsletter aimed mainly at novices.

by Steve & Linda Courtemanche,

The Top Three Subzines were High Inertia (8.35) (+4)/ Humboldt (8.20) (+8) and The

Megadiplomat (8.00) (-). Only 21 subzines made the main list this year, which required being listed on at least 5 ballots. There has definitely been a drop in the

number of subzines in the past two years. There were 39 on the main list in 1986.

Bruce Linsey suggests that subzines may be fading away, as some fold and others are

converted in full-fledged zines.

The	Top Ten North Am	erican (: <u>e</u> 'M	·	
		Score	Votes	Last Year's Rank	Notes
1.	Andy Lischett	9.61	15	4 (+3)	
2.	Lee Kendter, Sr.	9.40	5	(New)	
3.	Dick Martin	9.39	34	(New)	
4.	Gary Coughlan	9.37	8	1 (-3)	Folded
5.	Jeff Richmond	9.23	19	7 (+2)	
6.	John Boardman	9.22	33	38 (+ 32)	
7.	Dave Carter	9.17	27	6 (-1)	Folded
8.	Steve Langley	9.14	16	16 (+8)	
9.	Kathy B. Caruso	9.12	10	13 (+3)	
	Fred Davis_	9.07	16	24 (+14)	

51 people made the main list, which required a minimum of five votes. John Boardman made the biggest jump forward (32 places) after an off year. Another big leap was made by Greg Ellis, who climed 22 places to finish 13th. Conrad von Metzke fell 32 places from 12th to 44th, apparently due to his three-month layoff. I'm sure that will be a temporary glitch. Other publishers who folded or whose schedules became very erratic, such as Steve Knight, Elmer Hinton, Steve Hutton and Mark Keller suffered similar falls. Presumably, voters will forgive an editor for being late, but not a GM.

There were also separate listings made for the Favorite Zines of Publishers, Canadians, and "Non-North Americans." COSTAGUANA and BLUNT INSTRUMENTS: remained 1-2 on all of these sub-polls. On the Publishers! list, ZINE REGISTER and POLITESSE replaced CANADIAN DIPLOMAT and OVER THERE in the Top Ten.

Twenty-nine Overseas votes were cast, from nine different countries (17 from the U.K.). On this breakdown, CATHY'S RAMBLINGS, with its British roots, finished third, and ZINE REGISTER, likewise of British background, came in fifth. BUSHWACKER (blush) finished fourth. See, it pays to fly to London and buy a few rounds at the Red Lion Pub! It may also help to send Trade copies to several Overseas publishers.

The Most Improved Zine Award went to Melinda Holley, publisher of REBEL, which rose 22 places. The Carter-Hutton Award for Best Canadian zine goes to Alan Stewart, for his publication of PRAXIS.

The Most Improved CM Award goes to John Boardman. After 24 years, John is finally getting the hang of this-here game! Best CM Rookie of the Year award goes to Jeff Zarse, who started his own zine, RANDOM THOUGHT, and finished 12th in the CM Poll.

On the next-to-last page, the <u>Lifetime Scores</u> are given for the 20 currently published zines having the best Runestone Poll records going back to 1977. On this rating, the Top Six zines are Diplomacy World, Graustark, Fol Sie Fie, Bushwacker, Diplomacy Digest and Europa Express. See, all it takes is to publish for at least seven years to work up a good score! Six of the seven oldest zines made this Top 20 list. COSTA-GUANA would have been only 21st, as it did not publish from '79 to '83.

There are many other interesting facets of information in this 88 page report, called THE CREAM SHALL RISE #3. To obtain your copy of the 1987 Runestone Poll results, write to: Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., #3, Dalton, Mass. 01226. If you voted in the Poll, the cost is \$1.00. If you did not vote, please send \$2.00.

Almost forgot. The winner of the German Diplomacy set was Steven Clark of Chicago. He was one of the 55 people who correctly predicted that COSTA would finish first in the Poll, and so had his name put in the hat for the drawing. 50 voters guessed that DIPLOMACY WORLD would win, 46 guessed EUROPA EXPRESS, and 22 BLUNT INSTRUMENTS.

REPORT ON ORIGINS '87 (July 3-4-5, 1987)

The entire Origins Convention was enormous. It occupied the entire block-long Baltimore Convention Center, and spilled over into the adjacent Hyatt-Regency Hotel and Days Inn. I was told that about 135 tickets were sold for the Diplomacy Tournament, and 25 for the SkinnyDip Variant on Friday night. However, only about 84 people (12 boards) played in the First Round of the Tournament, and fewer came back on Sunday for the Second Round. I heard one figure of "1750" for total attendance at Origins, but that didn't include any Sunday visitors.

The Diplomacy Tournament was played in one section of the Constellation Ballroom in the Hyatt. If all 135 people had shown up, there would have been insufficient room, but the space was adequate for twelve boards and the scorers' tables. There was also open space available in adjacent areas. We had a section of Room 317, a very large room, for SkinnyDip. While two other tournaments were going on in the same room, we did not interfere with each other. With the assistance of Bill Young, we had put out three SkinnyDip boards on separate tables, and had plenty of room left over for a scorer's table and negotiations.

Unfortunately, only 16 people showed up to play at the starting time, so we had to ask two people to volunteer to step down. Had we had 18 players, we might have tried three boards of six players each, but with 16 we could only go to two full boards. One player received a refund, and one agreed to stick around as a standby. I would have liked to have had three boards, to provide more variety. With two boards, it was too easy for players to keep track of what was going on on the other board. Also, the 11 p.m. curfew prevented either game was coming to a conclusion.

Both games ended in 4-way draws, Board #1 ending in F '04, and Board #2 in F '05. Only one Power was eliminated in each case (Austria in #1, and France in #2). I think if play had continued for another two years, two or three more countries would have been eliminated, particularly a 2-Center Germany in #1 and a 1-SC Turkay in #2. I was surprised that more countries were not eliminated, but I can see two reasons why this didn't happen. First, most of the players were not that familiar with the board, and may have made conservative moves in 1901. Second, while it's true that no one startedout with more than two units, neither did anyone's enemy have more than two! While a two-Center country in Regular Dip is in real trouble, in Skinny-Dip the opposition did not have the strength to clobber them quickly.

Suggestions were made to carry the boards over to the hotel and continue the games in open areas, but several players were committed to leave at 11 p.m., so after much debate (often the most interesting part of a Dip game), both ended in 4-way draws that were fairly logical. However, the 2-Center Austria in Game #2 should not have been included in the draw, except for his powers of persuasion. If he had held out against the draw, the game would have ended in a 6-way draw, and the people on Board #1 would have won all the marbles. Logically, Board #2 should have ended in a 3-way E-G-R draw, which would have given the 6-Center England a 9.6 score and the tournament championship. Players were to receive 8 points for a 3-way draw, 6 points for a 4-way, plus one point for "Best Country" and .1 for each SC. The leaders were:

Maurice Page Bill Stapel Paul Kenny Brady Richter	Russia England Turkey Germany	#2 #1	7.6 7.6 7.5 7.5	1st Place (tie)/ Best Russia 1st Place (tie)/ Best England 3rd Place (tie)/ Best Turkey 3rd Place (tie)/ Best Germany	
Richard Lonn David Lorenzetti Tom Swider Steve Huntsberry	France Austria Russia England	#2	7.4 7.2 6.5 6.2	Best France Best Austria	(more

We had 12 boards the first day and 5 the second, with 2 rule-book victories, both on the first day. There was one game where the two leading players convinced the others that under tournament rules they ame wan on the game was nowhere the game was nowhere the rose. Then there was the board where the 4 smaller powers insisted on 50ing to adjudication on a claim that they could exclude the 2 larger powers from the draw; they failed - next time 1'11 insist on the 20 center minimum for claims of joint victory. On another board where the claim of victory was obvious to everybody except the defending powers. I turned to the 28th center (only 80% is required for joint victory, and they admitted the claim.

Dar Mathias asked Scardman about the legality of a possible move while I was out - he got a negative ruling and didn't try it. Since I (& Dick Martin who was wandering through at the time) would have ruled the other way, I present the Mathias paradox for public discussion.

ENGLAND: F LON-Ning, F Skag S Lon-Withs, F Nwgs S Lon-Nihs. PRANCE: A Bel-Lon, F HithS C Bel-Lon, F EC S Bel-Lon GERMANY: F Den S FRE F Nihs.

Boardman reasoned that Belgium is not adjacent to London, but the North Sea is. The convey is an attack out of the North Sea, insufficiently supported.

I was not convince; by that reasoning. I would hold that the attack is via convoy (special rule), not from the North Sea which is an unnecessary assumption. In my painton the rulebook provision, "An attack on a convoying fleet which does not dislodge it does not affect the convoying governs, and I would therefore allow the move without a better argument to the contrary.

Note that a convey farough the English Channel with support from the North Sea against at attek from London would succeed.

To the results, Where two names are given, one took over for the other. "(One day)" means the score is for one game only; if the player had played both days the score would have been better.

MAX Austria 26.5:2½ Bob Addison 20 center victory

BEST

20 center victory
12 center 5-way draw
14 center 2-way draw with survivors
18 center 2-way draw with survivors
18 center victory
15 center 5-way draw with survivor
13 center 2-way draw with survivor the second day, Joseph Licata Jin Yerkey Jim Yerkey Cris Skrabut Bill Thompson Frank Jones Best England Best France Best Germany Best Russia Best Turkey Best Italy

Mr Yerkey's Best Eussia was the only best country earned the second day, and it was earned in the top board which included Mssrs Addison, Thompson,

(One day)	(One day)	Schwartz)
Steve Schmalz Cris Skrabut Bill Port James Skinner Donald Baker	David Norris Richard Wheet Ryan Moats	Jim Morgan Paul Kenny (David Frank Imberti
16.176 15.234 14.671 13.993	13.854 13.627 11.0524	12.752
First Place Second Place Third Place		
Jim Yerkey Bill Thompson Bob Addison Joseph Licata Frank Jones	William Fecke Ken McKusick Carl Willner	Thomas Dermoga Colin Heyir Daniel Maikias
28.259 27.812 26.989 26.989	26.921 22.427 21.380	20.253 18.434 16.833

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[continued from page 7]	in	Michael Lowry/Robert Sargent (One day)	Blake Keown	Pat Green	Jeff Robertson	James Robertson	Laurie Jones	Scott Walker	Thomas Hamill	Philip Gardocki	Brad Wilson	_	Ed Barlow		John		Dick 1	James Carros		Neil Moran			Charles Rosenberg	-	_	Levin Connolly	,		Roberto Sanchez			Fred Calderone	0
Contin	12,583	12.458	12,133	11.172	10,883	10,583	10,521	9.765	9.749	9.627	9.235	9.104	8.475	8,3124	8,059	7.867	7.832	7.479	7.417	7.067	986	6,235	6.212	5.765	5.730	5.650	5.294	4.882	4,600	4.3124	3,851	3.467	

4. The Seminar: Between 12 and 17 people were present at various times. The seminar was scheduled against the Origins Awards ceremony, so the many game publishers and designers were for the most part not available. Games discussed were Avalon Hill's Britannia, Faskforce Games' Vicerovs, Milton Bradley's forthcoming Shoun, Panther Games' Shanchal Irader and Marlords of the World, West End Games' forthcoming Amber, and the current Midrard. Fred Davis described Character Dip and Steal Away Home, and contern was a Talscussion of Electronic-mail Diplomacy. Marketing and convention arrangements were discussed; companies with major diplomatic games (such as Avalon Hill) should be encouraged to market the games as a line, and to target college bookstores.

5. The Hobby Negting: Up to 25 people (including Fred Davis, Dick Martin, Robert Sacks, Tom Swider, and Dick Warner) attended at various times, but attendance fell of rapidly when a topic that only fred Davis wanted to discuss came up - the meeting had arranged the agenda to consider it last. The meeting rejected considering practically all other hobby disputes. During the discussion of Davis' claim for the credentials of the NAVB recognized "Miller Number Custodian", several involved parties boycotted the discussion, staying outside talking until the topic had been talked out.

(1) The NAVE Catalog was announced available for sale, and several other handouts were made available.

(2) Dick Warner explained the Marycon foul-up; there were scheduling problems with 2 other convention; there was construction; the organizers were suffering from burn-out. Marycon looks good for next year with 5 people working on it; refreshments will be beer & pretzels.

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- (3) It was the unanimous consensus of the meeting that there should be multiple diplomatic conventions but only one (per year) called "DipCon".

 (4) Davis displayed the mires which the best that there is a line of the conventions of the meeting that the mires which the conventions of the meeting that the mires which the conventions of the meeting that the mires which the conventions of the meeting that there is a line of the meeting that the meeting that
- (4) Davis displayed the prizes which were being voted on nationally. One publisher complained that he never received a ballot for publication. There were complaints about voted awards for best player, and the non-overlap of the Dragonsteeth and Calhamer Foint rating systems.
- (5) Sacks asked for suggestions/volunteers for Director of Orphan Games, Editor of the 1988 k30 Zine Directory, Deputy Registrar of Projects, and Vice Registrar of k30. For the most part there were no volunteers and suggestions, coupled with reminders that the meeting did not want to consider credentials disputes. Davis tried to claim that Walker was Director of Crybar Games and had to be reminded that Walker was competing title and was involved with games other than orphans. The meeting tried to demand that Sacks continue as Lditor of the Zine Directory (as they had in previous years); then Davis tried to claim that Billenness was Editor of the Zine Directory and had to be reminded that Billenness was Editor of the Zine Directory and had to be reminded that Billenness
- (6) Reople wanted to know who was going to run Diplomacy at GenCon Grigins 88 in Allwaukee. It was noted that all 3 members of the new DipCon Administrative Committee were local to San Antonio; in the past the DipCon Society had avoided such a concentration.
- (7) some of the players who were doing well in the tournament complained about the awards. For an extra \$1 or \$2 per player they suggested plaques instead of certificates. The economics of the situation and the prizes were explained without satisfying the complaints. Simple plaques not engraved (such as MaryCon gives out) were suggested. Instead of xeroxed certificates, something printed or "something that looks respectable" was requested. It was suggested that we publicize the reasons why we are not using convention provided plaques and give plaques which only state Hobby Services Tournament with the year and city.
- (8) Davis insisted on presenting the claim of the NAVB recognized "Miller Number Custodian" to an audience that consisted of only tournament players (as all postal players boycotted the discussion). A complete and extensive review of the history for last (2 years took place. Davis justified past Variant Jank combinations against the then UNVB Director, Will Haven, because he was unpopular, and against the then Miller Number Custodian, Greg Costikyan, because he insisted on assigning Miller Numbers instead of the Variant Bank numbers. He attempted to claim that Sacks had been appointed as ENC by the IDA, and that Enven was both self-appointed and appointed by Sacks all three claims were immediately denounced as false. Claiment.

The meeting decided that there should not be a fee because the Tournament provides the money, and the custodian is (supposed to be) a volunteer providing a service, which he would not be if he charged a fee. The meeting accepted that Leeder was declared out of office before he handed over to Kendter, and rejected the NAP recognized line and any agreements they had made with each other to disregard the covenants. The meeting requested that both sides get together and agree to hand over the office to a neutral party (Dan Mathias later volunteered) who would abide by a covenant acceptable to the people who receive Miller Numbers.

Sacks corrented that the Variant Banks refused to agree that a covenant would ever be binding, and that he could not agree to a covenant without the no fee declaration. There was some confusion as to whether this was a prohibition against voluntary contributions, which it wasn't. Davis

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refused (but later agreed to refer the question to his side - his letter of reference misrepresented the decisions of the meeting and the facts and was accompanied in some cases with a letter with more misrepresentations which argued against the proposal). Nobody bothered to ask what Julie Martin, the new Miller Number Custodian under the Covenant, might think. At the end of the meeting Davis announced he would denounce Dick Martin and House of Lords for announcing Julie Martin as Miller Number Custodian under the Covenant, and vowed a fight to the death.

(9) Dick Martin, who had returned on the conclusion of the Miller Number Custodian credentials argument, complained the Bruce Linsey was disallowing ballots in his poll which ranked Martin O and was insisting that people continue to vote until they got it right.

If I hadn't heard Davis' death threats against the Martins I wouldn't have believed them. I also had difficulty believing all the falsehoods and damaging admissions Davis made to the meeting (as did the meeting) and in his subsequent letters. Davis, or other persons, threatened a GM for using a Martin-assigned Miller Number, claiming among other things that such a game could not be rated. The patent rature of this falsehood should be obvious when you remember that variant games aren't rated. I do not believe that these are isolated incidents. I would like to know who else Davis and his cohorts have been threatening, with complete details. This kind of misconduct has no place in the hobby; only if we can get a complete picture of the wrongdoing can we begin to decide

In the meantime I think or Davis owes myself, the Wartins, and a number of other persons a public apology. Your letters to him and me on the subject would be revealing.

an appropriate response.

SACKS

These were the eight people who participated in the two draws. It should be noted that the England on Board #1 was included in the draw because of his strategic position, which was superior to that of the 3-Center Italy in the same game. Obviously, the gentleman was also a good diplomat!

One thing we noted in SkimmyDip was that the Russians obtained a great advantage by being able to build an "extra" unit in Moscow in Winter O1. This free build gave both Russias a head start from which they were never stopped, two out of the top five Powers on the SC count being Russias. It has been suggested that Russia be unable to build an A for its Moscow SC until at least Winter 1902. Also, Italy had little success (there was no "Best Italy"). It may be necessary to restore Tunis as a neutral SC to give Italy something to go for. It was also suggested that the provinces of Norway and Sweden be combined, to give England a shot at a SC (Sweden), since Norway is not a SC here. Alternately, Norway could be made a SC. Another suggestion was to reverse the starting French positions, putting the F in Paris and an A in Phose (Mars.).

I will discuss all of these possibilities with the variant's designer, Lew Pulsipher, to see if the game can be improved for next year. Many people agreed that this was a good, <u>quick</u> game to play at a Con, or whenever there wasn't time for a full game.

The main Diplomacy Tournament saw one Rulebook Victory, by Jim Yerkey - as Italy! Those of you who have attended or read about MaryCon know that Jim is one of the premier FTF players in the East. He doesn't play Postally, so his reputation is not too widespread, but Jim ought to be up for considerarion on any Best Player list.

The top finishers were:

First Place: Jim Yerkey 40.523 (All these gentlemen are from Maryland!)
Second: Bill Thompson 28.259

Second: Bill Thompson 28.259
Third: Bob Addison 27.812

The Best Countries were: Austria - Bob Addison; England - Chris Skrabut; France - Bill Thompson; Germany - Joe LeCoitre (sp?); Italy - Jim Yerkey; Russia - Jim Yerkey; Turkey - Frank Jones.

Robert Sacks and John Boardman GM'd the Tournament, and seem to have done a very good job. The complete results will be published elsewhere shortly, if not already released by this time. Many of the old MaryCon crowd came to Baltimore since there was no MaryCon this year. I saw only a small number of BUSHWACKER readers, though.

Dick Warner came up from Mary Washington College, and amnounced that there definitely would be a MaryCon next year, on their campus in Fredericksburg, Va. It will probably be held the weekend of June 3-4-5, 1988. This year, they would have had to hold MaryCon the same week as DipCon, and too close in time to DixieCon in North Carolina and Origins in Baltimore, so they decided to take a year off.

Next year's Origins will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., in conjuction with GenCon. I am hoping that the MadLad people will be able to run the Dip Tournament. Sacks has already announced that he will not be able to attend.

There was the usual "Diplomacy Hobby Meeting," presided over by Mr. Sacks. There were the usual fireworks, as he tried to defend his act of appointing Julie Martin as a competing (and conflicting) "Miller No. Custodian under the Covenant." There was a very small attendance at the meeting, since it was scheduled in conflict with the Game Awards meetings, and then was up against the other fireworks show outside. There were no volunteers to help him with his other projects, all of which, except for "Known Games Openings," are merely duplicates of projects already being satisfactorily performed by other people in the hobby.

(more)

I displayed the plaques to be awarded to the winners of the Miller, Walker and Koning Awards. I also described the "Character Dip" and "Steal Away Home" variants in some detail, and sold some copies of the N. American Variant Bank Catalog. Sacks gave an interesting talk on the new game, "Britannia," by Lew Pulsipher, which is concerned with Britain from about 43 A.D. to 1100. It is not clear to me whether Britannia is or isn't a Diplomacy variant, but it sounds interesting.

Incidentally, the small profit from the SkinnyDip Tournament is to go toward the expenses of operating the North American Variant Bank.

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WINNERS OF 1987 HOBBY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Don Miller Memorial Award for Meritorious Service to the Hobby was won by Bruce Linsey, for his handling of the 1986 Runestone Poll and the publication of the publishers' handbook, called Once Upon A Deadline.

The Rod Walker Literary Award was presented to J. R. Baker for his Dippy Doodles cartoons in DIPLOMACY WORLD and elsewhere. This marks the first time that this award has been given to anyone for anything other that streight writing. Incidentally, this was no fluke. Despite there being seven nominees for this award, J.R. won by a goodly margin. I'm sure everybody has enjoyed J.R.'s cartoons, although he makes use of the dreadful stars and anchors instead of the wooden blocks As Prescribed by Calhamer. But, then, you can make a much cuter cartoon character out of a star than a wooden block.

The John Koning Memorial Award for Best Player of 1986 was won by Randolph Smyth. I don't know whether this was because Randolph has more Postal wins than almost anyone else still active in the hobby, or because he's won at least one game playing each Great Power. Randolph is the first Canadian to win one of these Awards, which indicates the hobby is thinking in continental terms. There were also seven nominees for this slot, so this win was against some heavy opposition.

Speaking of internationalism, two Englishmen were nominated for these North American Awards this year; Simon Billenness (who now lives in New York) for the Miller Award, and MaldSmith for the Best Player Award, for having won the 1986 DipCon Tournament. (Malc now lives in Norway). So, this is not a parochial thing. All you have to do is to do something big in America, no matter where you live. Of course, then you have to get somebody to nominate you!

Bruce Linsey is the second person in the history of these Awards to win for a second time, having won the Walker Literary Award in 1985. The 1985 and 1986 winners of the Miller and Walker Awards were ineligible for nomination for those specific categories for this year, but there are no restrictions on eligibility for other Awards. There are no restrictions on nominations for the Best Player Award. Of the three Awards, I'd rank the Miller Award as the most prestigious, since it covers all aspects of hobby service. Congratulations to all three of you.

As Treasurer of the Awards Committee, I've had the perpetual and individual plaques engraved with the winners' names, and I will be mailing them out shortly. Anyone caring to make a contribution for the cost of the plaques and mailing may send me a check, made out in my name, indicating it is for the "Awards Fund."

* * * * *

OUR SYMPATHY goes out to Larry Peery, whose father passed away in San Diego in early July. This sad event caused a slight delay in the appearance of the next issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD, but the copies should be arriving about the same time as this issue.

CHARACTER DIP (rm49) (BUSHWACKER #20) 1987 AF YM 49

WINTER 1900

We have seven starting players and two standbys for this game, so here we go. We'd like to have more standbys, since whenever I have to call for a backup move if someone NMR's, I'd have to tell the Standby the "Character" of each piece. This is something I hadn't thought about until I made the country assignments. It means I'll have to rotate calling for standbys, instead of calling on the #1 standby regularly until he gets into the game.

I think that after 1901, I'll make it easier on myself by not calling for a standby to submit back-up moves after a first miss. This would mean that if a player really dropped out, his units would hold for two consecutive seasons. However, this may be a lesser evil than giving away the "Character" of a country's pieces to a standby who did not get into the game. However, if anyone NMR's in Spring 1901, I will use neutral orders and call for a standby immediately.

If anyone has to resign from this game for any reason, please do so with a final set of orders, or give me a phone call or postcard notice ASAP, in order to be fair to the other players.

Please make one addition to the "Character Dip" Rules. After Card #19, "Free Unit," add to end: "(Not dealt at start of game)". I've decided that it would not be a good idea to have any Free units on the board at the start of the game. (There can only be two such units early on, anyway). O.K., so now all of you know that nobody was dealt a Card #19 on the first round.

Here is the starting lineup:

FRANCE:

ENGLAND: Ralph Baty, 4551 Pauling Ave., San Diego, CA. 92122

95 Dundanald
Doug Williams, 22 Lount St., Barrie, Ont., CANADA IAM 384 T4

GERMANY: Jack McHugh, 730 Union St., #6, Allentown, Pa. 18101

ITALY: Brad Wilson, P.O. Box 126, Wayne, Pa. 19087. (Change of address).

AUSTRIA: Den Palter, 999 Central Ave., #300, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598

RUSSIA: Jeff Zarse, Hinman Box 284, Hanover, N.H. 03755

TURKEY: Robert Cheek, 14341 Franklin Ave., Tustin, CA. 92680

#1 Standby: David Rice, 23259 Evergreen Rd., Hillsboro, Ore. 97124 (Russia, in Winter 6)

#2 Standby: Jeff Suchard, 9912 Star Dr., Huntington Beach, CA. 92646

The two California players have been placed at opposite ends of the board. The two Pennsylvanians are fairly close to each other, but Germany and Italy do not have that much interaction in the early stages of a game.

Each player will receive a list of the "Characters" of each of his starting units with this issue. Note that the standard starting units are used. Note your A's & F's are numbered, in order to keep track of them. New units will bear titles such as 3rd Army and 4th Fleet. Players will build their units first, in the Winter seasons, and I will then send them the character numbers for each unit with the Winter reports. Thus, Winters will always be played separately.

BUSHWACKER, AUGUST 1987, Page 8

I hope that there will be a lot of diplomacy relating to the nature of the powers of the various units. Remember that you do not have to disclose these characteristics at first if you don't want to. For example, an amphibious piece may stay in one sphere, or a piece able to move two spaces might move only one, until the time is ripe to strike. If you do not wish to disclose a unit's strength on an early move, such as the ability to move at double strength, you can submit orders saying to "move (unit) as an ordinary unit for this move." Also, units like Casattack, Minelayer, and Annihilator do not "do their thing" unless ordered to do so. If any of you would care to let me know, what you're claiming to own, I'd enjoy reading about this.

Note that after 50 cards have been dealt, I will take <u>all</u> of the cards, used and unused, and shuffle them up for further use. So, it's theoretically possible for there to be more of certain units on the board than the number of cards for such pieces, if some have survived from earlier times. Don't forget that you have the option here of retreating a unit OFB if you want to get rid of its powers, in hopes of getting a better unit the next time around. It will be interesting to see how often that happens.

Because this is summer vacation time, I will give you a double deadline before the Spring 1901 orders are due. This will be September 30, 1987. Remember, you must show the <u>number</u> of your Army or Fleet each move, so we can keep track of them. Good luck!

* * * *

CUSTODIAN CHANGES. The International Subscription Exchange Service, U.S. Branch, is now being run by Simon Billenness, 630 Victory Blvd., Apt. 6F, Staten Island, N.Y. 10301. He has replaced Steve Knight, who has folded his zine, IT'S A TRAP, and, apparently, left the hobby. Anyone wishing to sub to a British zine has merely to contact Simon. He'll tell you the price in dollars, which you will then send to him. When enough subs have accumulated, Simon will settle the foreign exchange on a mass basis with his opposite number in the U.K. This makes it easy to get a sampling of what they're saying "across the waters," and vice-versa.

The ZINE BANK, formerly run by Simon, is now in the hands of Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave., #T-2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Send Ken \$1.00, and he'll send you a sample of recent American zines. Publishers having leftover copies of their press runs may wish to ship a few of them to Ken each month, to keep the Bank restocked. You may get some new subscribers that way.

The BCARDMAN NO. CUSTODIAN has a change of address. Steve Heinowski's new address is: 51500 Portman Rd., R.D. 2, Amherst, Ohio 44001. It's possible that some of Steve's mail may not have been forwarded, so if you haven't heard from him, it may be advisable to write again.

* * * *

DIPLOMACY IS A BEST SELIER. I noticed in THE GENERAL that for the Avalon Hill year ending April 1986, Diplomacy was their seventh highest-selling game. This was up from 11th place in the previous year. Super Sunday and Wizard's Quest were the year's biggest sellers. On the All-Time A-H Best Seller List, Diplomacy is ranked at 14th, just behind Midway. Outdoor Survival and Facts in Five are A-H's all-time best sellers (Victory Game sales are counted separately). So, it looks like there's no danger of Dippy going out of print.

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BULGARS AND SERBS WIPE OUT RUMANIA. GREEKS STAB ALBANIA, BUT ARE STABBED IN TURN BY TURKS, WHILE ITALIANS SURPRISE BOTH.

BALKAN WARS III - 1987A pb06

(Headline above)

(3) BULGARIA (Dousette): (4) CREECE (Cheek): (3) RUMANIA (Geryk): (2) ITALY (Baty): (3)	A Valona Digs Trenches (H) /d/, may (R) to Skopje or OTB. F N. Adriatic-S. Adriatic. A Montenegro-Tirana. A Sofia-Constantsa. F Varna (S) A Sofia-Constantsa. F Con (S) GREEK F Smyrna-Aegean. A Scutari (S) F Constantinople. A Epirus-Valona. A Salonika (S) A Epirus-Valona. F Smyrna- Aegean. NMR! A Croatia (H). F Galati (H) /d/, (R) Bessarabia or OTB. (Academic, as unit will be removed from board). A Trieste (H). F Corinthian Sea-Crete. F South Adriatic (S) A Trieste.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART, BALKAN WARS III, WINTER 1912: GAINS, LOSSES

ALBANIA: BULGARIA:	Montenegro, Tirana, YKIPKA (could (R) (into Skopje) 3 Home, Constantinople, CONSTANTSA,	2 (-1) <u>or</u> 3 () 6 (+2)	Remove 1 or No change Build 2
GREECE: ITALY: RUMANIA: SERBIA: TURKEY:	SCUTARI Salonika, Smyrna, VALONA, ATALYS 3 Home, CRETE CONSTANTSA, GALATI 3 Home, Bucharest, GALATI. (Could lose Skopje to Albania) ATHENS, SCUTARI, CRETE	3 (-) 4 (+1) 0 (-2) 4 () or 5 (+1) 1 (-1)	No change Build 1 Remove 2, OUT No change or Build 1 Remove 1

PRESS:

SERBIA to Italy: Your real estate offer is inviting.

TURKEY to Italy: Okay, let's see some action. ((You saw some! - Ed)) TURKEY to Greece: Die, Greek dog, and take your silly sayings with you.

ALBANIA to Turkey: Good luck.

ALBANIA to Greece: You tried to be honest; therefore, I assumed you were lying.

is, I hope you are lying!

ALBAMIA to Italy: I'm not being defensive! You're being defensive. Don't you think

GREECE: I am already so popular that someone who vilifies me becomes more popular than I am!

The ALBANIAN player is requested to notify me of the destination of his dislodged A Valona by Aug. 10th, so I can inform Serbia. Note that if the Serbiah A Constantsa is removed, Serbia would still have a build coming even if she loses Skopje. The rules call for a combination of seasons even under these circumstances, so I can only advise you to be prepared for almost anything. DEADLINE for both WINTER 1912 and SPRING 1913 orders will be MONDAY, August 31, 1987. Your SPRING orders may be made contingent on the nature of the Albanian and Serbian Retreats.

The Telephone deadline will be Sunday, August 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. So long, Bruce. Sorry to see you leave so soon.

VACATION DIP III - 1985R rm39

FALL 1909

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Bill Young (GERMANY) has returned home to: 959 Penn Cir., #C411, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406. Brad Wilson (FRANCE): P.O. Box 126, Wayne, Pa. 19087. (Brad says this is "more or less permanent.") Wayne is an outer suburb of Philadelphia.

ONLY ROLE CHANGES HANDS DESPITE GREAT BATTLES. CERMANS MARCH SOUTH AND EAST. TURKS PULL OFF FABULOUS CONVOY FOR FRENCH. RUSS AND TURKS WORKING IN TANDELL.

AUSTRIA (Rice): VF Eng. Channel-MAO. VF MAO (S) VF Eng. Channel-MAO. (0)(2 units)ENGLAND (Chang): RUSSIAN F Norwegian See-Barents, per play of Card #34. F Brest and (7)(7 units)F Irish Sea (S) AUSTRIAN F Eng. Channel-MAO. A Belgium-Burgundy. F Denmark-Worth Sea. F Ireland (H). F Wales (H). A St. Pete (S) CERMAN A Moscow.

FRANCE (Wilson): VA Syria-Tuscany! ((C) by Turkish F's). Gets new VA Persia as (0)(1 unit)Russia plays Card #76. ŒRMANY (Young):

F North Sea-Norwegian Sea. F Norway (S) F North Sea-Norwegian. (9)(9 units)A Warsaw-Ukraine. A Moscow (S) A War-Ukraine. A Prussia-Warsaw. A Berlin-Silesia. A Munich-Tyrol. A Bohemia (S) A Munich-Tyrol. A Calicia (S) A War-Ukraine /d/, (Annihilated).

ITALY (Hoffman): A Piedmont (S) A Tuscany-Venice A Tuscany-Venice /d/, (Annihilated). (4)(5 units)F Marseilles (S) A Piedmont. VA Spain-Portugal /d/, (R) Gascony (1 short) (only space open). VF Hebrides-Iceland: RUSSIA (Cheek): Plays Card #76, which builds a new VA for France in Persia. A Venice (5)(7 units)

(S) TURKISH A Tyrol-Piedmont. VF Gulf of Lyon-Marseilles. VF Portugal-Spain(sc). A Ukraine-Gelicia. A Vienna (S) A Ukraine-Gelicia. A Sev (S) TURKISH A Rumania. F Norwegian Sea moved by English to Barents Sea.

TURKEY (Kenny): VF MAO (H) (Frozen) /d/, (Annihilated). F N. Africa MAO. F's (12)(13 units)Eastern Med., Ionian & Tyrr Sea all (C) FRENCH VA Syria-Tuscany. F Rome (S) FRENCH VA Syria-Tuscany. F Western Med (S) RUSSIAN F Portugal-Spain(sc). A Budapest (S) RUSSIAN A Vienna. A Tyrol-Piedmont /d/, (Annihilated). A Serbia-Trieste. A Rumania (S) RUSSIAN A Ukraine-Galicia. A Armenia (S) RUSSIAN A Sev. A Smyrna (S) A Armenia.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART, VACATION DIP III, WINTER 1909: GAINS, 104845

AUSTRIA: (None) 0 (--), No change ENGLAND: 3 Home, Brest, Ireland, St. Pete, Sweden 7 (--), No change FRANCE:

0 (--), Add VA Persia to board 3 Home, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Moscow, GERHANY: 9 (--), Build 1 (1 annihilated) Norway, Warsaw

ITALY: Piedmont, Harseilles, Paris, ICELAND, AND 4 (-), 2 Annihilated, but no (will play 2 short in 1910). room to build

Sev, Portugal, Spain, Venice, Vienna RUSSIA: 5 (-), No change TURKEY

3 Home, Buda, Bulg, Greece, Naples, Rum, 13 (+1), Build 2 (1 annihilated) Serbia, Sicily, Trieste, Tunis, ROME Italy

Austria, France/& Russia now have 2 Vacation units each. England, Germany and Turkey now have no Vecation units. No change inthe total of 38 SC's.

PRESS:

FALL 1906

TURNABOUT DIP - 1986C ca02

WORLD COMES CRASHING DOWN ON SPAIN AS IRISH AND DUTCH ARRIVE TOGETHER. SLAVS AND BALKANS BEAT UP ON MIDDLE-EAST.

Note I erroneously called the last move "Spring 1905." It was actually "1906." Only two players caught this error.

BALKANS (Dousette): A Switz-Languedoc. A Milan (S) A Switz-Languedoc. F Naples (S) (7)

A Milan. F Central Med-Tunis. A Austria-Hungary. A Belgrade (S) A Austria-Hungary. A Turkey-Caucasus.

BENELUX (R. Brown): A Languedoc-Barcelona. A Aquitaine (S) A Lang-Barcelona. A Riga-(8) Warsaw. A Prussia (S) A Riga-Warsaw. A Rhineland (S) A Prussia. F Finland-Novgorod. F G of Bothnia (S) F Finland-Novgorod.

IRELAND (Reges):

A Stockhold-Archangel.

F Morocco-Algeria. F MAO-Lisbon. A M adrid (S) F MAO-Lisbon.

F North Sea-Scotland. F Belfast (H). F Bay of Biscay-MAO.

F Cork-NAO.

MID-EAST (Stewart): F Black Sea-Turkey. A Persia-Mesop. A Damascus-Jerusalem.
(L) F Jerusalem (wc)-Alexandria.

SCANDINAVIA (Cheek) (1): A Archangel (M).

SLAVS (Cruickshank): A Novgorod-Riga. A Warsaw-Kiev. A Hungary-Galicia. A Mesop. (S)

(6)

BALKAN A Turkey (NSO). F East Med-Jerusalem (wc). A Jordan (S)

F East Med-Jerusalem (wc).

MMR. F's Gulf of Lions, Libya & Tyrr. Sea all (H). A Barcelona
(H)/d/, (R) Andalucia or Leon. F Lisbon (H)/d/, (R) Morocco,
And or Leon. F Scotland (H).

BUPPLY CENTER CHART, TURNABOUT, WINTER 1906: GAINS, LOSSES

8 (+1), Build 1 3 Home, Austria, Milan, Naples, HUNGARY, BALKANS: LANGUEDOC, TYPKTY 9 (+1), Build 1 3 Home, Copenhagen, France, Rhineland, BENELUX: Stockholm, BARCELONA, WARSAW, LANGUEFOR Cork, Dublin, England, Iceland, Oslo, Vineland, 10 (+3), Build 3 IRELAND: BELFAST, ALGERIA, LISBON, MADRID, SCOTLAND (Room to build only 2) Alexandria, Damascus, TURKEY, JEJUSALIM, 3 (-1), Remove 1 MID-EAST: 1 (--), No change Archangel SCANDINAVIA: Kiev, Riga, Muscovy, Rumania, JERUSALEM, MESOPOTAMIA, WANKAY, WANKAY 6 (--), No change SLAVS: Libya, SCOTLAND, BANCETONA, ZISBON, MADRID. 2 (-4), Remove 4 SPAIN: alayata, avlyast

PRESS:

18 43C

BENELUX to Slavs: Your first stab came in Fall 1903. Then, in Fall 1904, you hung me out to dry after I had forgiven the first stab. I don't give anyone the opportunity to sucker me a third time.

BENELUX to Spain: The Mad Dutchman is interested only in seeing a bullfight.

SCANDINAVIA to Benelux: Whatever needs to be maintained by force is doomed!

CM's Note: In answer to an inquiry, players are reminded that the only time an A/F can support its A's landing is if it stands still. A fleet involved in an ordinary Convoy (i.e., "Fast Ferry") cannot support its army ashore.

Rall Young. 959 Penn Cir. #C-411, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406, is requested to

BUSHWACKER, AUGUST 1987, Page 11

RUSSIA to ENGLAND: Force is only a desire for flight. It lives by violence and dies from liberty.

GM's NOTE:

We now have a <u>unanimous</u> agreement in this game for a reshuffling of the Event Cards deck after this Winter. The same party also changed his vote from "No" to "Yes" on Proposition 2, which was to switch over to the new set of cards, which are slightly different from those in the old deck. (The main difference is that several of the cards have been switched from specific to generic application, plus there are about three new cards. There are duplicates for 38 of the cards, instead of just one.)

As the vote now stands, it is 6-1 in favor of Proposition 2. Unfortunately, I cannot locate my tally sheet showing the name of the other person who voted "No" on #2. I would have written privately to him if I could remember who he was. So, I will make a public appeal to that player to please go along with this proposal. It's very awkward for me to have to keep two sets of cards for this game; one for the original game, and one with the changes. All you have to do, sir, is to say nothing (if you so wish) by the next deadline, and I will then go ahead and dispose of the old cards, and use only the new ones when I reshuffle the deck. This will make it possible to test out the new cards in the same game, as well as to concur with the wishes of 6 of the 7 people in the current game. If any of you need another copy of the amended list of cards, I'll be glad to send you one. Thankyou.

Anyway, we're going to try to play both WINTER 1909 and SPRING 1910 together, since most of the potential builds are in "quiet" areas. Separation of seasons will be granted if two players so request. The following cards were played in 1909: 27, 34, 51, 76 & 78.

Your next Event Card is: #____.

DEADLINE for WINTER 1909 and SPRING 1910 is MONDAY, August 31, 1987. Telephone deadline will be Sunday, August 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Players in all games are reminded that we will be out of town from Wed., August 19, thru Wed., Aug. 26th, so please contact us before or after those dates.

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The TURNABOUT Game (1986C ca02) will be carried on an insert going to players only, as we've run out of space here.

* * * * *

There was going to be an article in BUSH going into greater details on the subject of the Miller No. Custodianship issue. However, the response to the Memo of July 8th, which I sent out to many hobby leaders, including all Variant Bank Custodians and several other variant buffs, was so overwhelmingly in support of Fred Hyatt as the MNC that any further exposition on my part might be deemed to be overkill. If anyone cares to see a copy of my Memo, please send me 50¢ and I'll make you one. I hasten to point out that since that Memo was written, 98% of us consider the issue is closed.

All players are asked to be sure that your GM's show Hiller Nos. for the Variant games somewhere in their game reports. A proper Hiller No. will have one or two capital letters after the date, followed by two lower-case letters. Please advise the MNC if your game does not display such a designator, so that one can be assigned.

FLASH! The Summer issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD (#47) has just arrived in our mailbox. This is an All-Variant issue, including a complete synopsis of every variant ever published in D.W. thru Issue #40. There is also a lot of background information on the history of the variant sub-hobby. My Leadership Rule module and two other variants are included. Larry Peery has an article on what he calls the "Big Five" of the variant leaders (Don Miller, Dan Alderson, Lew Pulsipher, Rod Walker and (blush) Fred Davis). The complete results of the Runestone Zine and Gi Polls are also included. Even if you don't ordinarily sub to D.W., you may wish to obtain a copy of Issue #47 for your permanent files. To get one, send \$4.00 to Larry at: P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA. 92102, and specifically ask for a copy of #47. A four-issuesub costs \$12 in the U.S., \$14 in Canada, and \$16 for Overseas readers. (U.S. funds only, please).

There is a terrific plug for the North American Variant Bank in this D.W. I just hope that everybody doesn't start sending in an order at the same time. I'll be out of town for a week in August, so, if you submit an order, please have patience.

* * * * *

See you next month!

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#

P.S. I gave you the wrong address for Mark Frueh last month, on the Hobby Services Donation Form. It's: 4320 Wallace St., St. Louis, Mo. 63116.

BUSHWACKER c/o Fred C. Davis, Jr. 3210-K Wheaton Way Ellicott City, Md. 21043 U.S.A.