



# BUSHWACKER

VOL. XVI, No. 9

(With N.A. Variant Bank Report)

OCTOBER 1987

This is the 190th consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy\* zine dating back to March 1972. It is dedicated to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and whatever else comes to mind. Your Editor is: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. That's just west of Baltimore. Phone: (301) 461-1835. Phone calls accepted between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m. daily, 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 trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. The zine is named for my comic strip character "Bushwacker," whose picture appears on the masthead. At the time I created him, I could neither spell nor draw properly. I still can't draw.

\* \* \* \* \*

GAME FEES: \$9.00 Flat Fee for newcomers; \$8.00 for current readers. STANDBY FEES: \$5.00 for newcomers; \$4.00 for the rest of you. No sub requirement to keep track of. For your Fee, you receive copies of the rules/maps 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. All of these rates are subject to increase after the first class Postal rates go up to 25¢ an oz. after Christmas. OVERSEAS Subscriptions are \$8.00 for 12 issues. Sample copies are 50¢. We also Trade on an all-for-all basis with many other publishers.

No Game Openings right now, but we can use Standbys for Character Dip and Turnabout.

This issue contains reports on VACATION DIP III (1985R rm39), TURNABOUT (1986C ca02), BALKAN WARS III (1987A pb06) and CHARACTER DIP (1987AF rm49).

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## NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK NEWS

I received the completed draft copy of the 1987-88 NAVB Catalog around August 29th. I completed the proofreading and returned this to Bruce Geryk in Chicago around Labor Day. I was later able to add another dozen newly arrived variants to the list. The final master copy of the Catalog will be printed in Chicago on October 5th, on a laser printer. I will then bring the master to my printer here in Baltimore, to have the copies made. I am hoping to keep the price down to the \$3.00 I've charged in the past, but won't be able to give you a firm price until the printer gives me the overall cost. If all goes well, I plan to begin accepting orders for the new Catalog on October 31, 1987. (I will be out of town between 18 and 28 October; hence the delay).

Because this project has taken much longer than initially anticipated, this will be called the "1987-88" Catalog, since I would not expect to be preparing another

edition for at least another 18 months. This will include everything which I was able to classify by September 17, 1987.

Miller Number Custodians and Variant Bank Custodians will be receiving free copies of the new Catalog ASAP. Others are requested to wait until mid-October to place their orders. Tell you what I'll do. Anyone who orders a 1987-88 Catalog on or before November 10, 1987, may have a copy for \$3.00, regardless of the final price I may have to charge for it. We'll call this the "pre-publication price."

The NAVB Catalog will run about 34 pages, plus front and back covers, and may have a spiral binding. I'll have further details in the next issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SPACE ITEMS

June 1, 1989 is now the scheduled date for the launching of the Hubble Space Telescope. This will be on Shuttle Flight #31. That happens to be on my birthday, and will be very close to marking my father's 100th birthday.

In the first seven months of 1987, the USSR launched 59 spacecraft, the U.S. five, and Japan two. The Soviet space mission to Phobos will depart in 1988. This will be followed by a mission to return Martian soil samples to Earth laboratories.

The July 13th issue of NEWSWEEK reports that the irregularities in the orbit of Uranus which led to the discovery of Neptune in 1845 stopped around 1900. Neither Neptune nor Pluto were found to be responsible for some of Uranus's strange movements. Some astronomers now believe the perturbations were caused by a 10th planet, which orbits the sun at right angles to the rest of the Solar System, thereby affecting the movements of the outer planets only once every couple of hundred years. If the so-called Planet X exists in a right-angle orbit, instead of the ecliptic plane, this would explain why it hasn't been discovered yet.

Incidentally, several astronomers are now suggesting that Pluto be "demoted" from the classification of a planet to that of a special type of asteroid. Having a moon (Charon) is no longer a criterion for major planet status, as it is now believed that several of the asteroids have moons, or, more scientifically, companions. This will bring the design on Chicago's Adler Planetarium back to accuracy. Built in 1930, it shows only eight major planets. As kids, we sometimes commented on this "error." Appears they were right, after all.

Note in your future book that 9,800 years from now, Barnard's Star, the fastest moving star across our line of sight, will be only 3.85 light years away, and will be the nearest star to the sun. It will be "travelling" so fast that it will cross a distance equivalent to the diameter of the full Moon every 76 years. However, it will still be invisible to the naked eye, as it's only a red dwarf star.

then  
Barnard's Star will pass swiftly, and Alpha Centauri will/continue to be the closest star in our skies for many millenia. The Alpha Centauri system, which is a triple star, will approach to within 2.9 light years in 38,000 years, and will shine with a magnitude of -1.11. That will only make it the second brightest star in the heavens, since Sirius is also coming closer, and will have a magnitude of -1.69 at that time.

I'm sure we will have flown out to meet Barnard and "Far Centaurus" long before the years shown above. The above two paragraphs are taken from Isaac Asimov's book, Counting the Eons, Doubleday, 1983.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE NEWS

My Canadian correspondents inform me that a rotating strike of the Inside Canadian Postal workers will begin on October 1st. This means that the mail will probably eventually get through, but there may be significant delays in its receipt. I will mail this issue of BUSHWACKER out normally, as there has been no embargo placed on Canadian mail. Canadian players are free to phone in their orders and to ask me for the game reports by phone. I only request that you wait until two days after a deadline to do so. (i.e. Don't call before November 2nd re the Oct. 31st deadline games). Otherwise, you'd have an unfair advantage over the players receiving their results by mail. I hope that we will be able to continue the games without interruptions.

One issue in the Canadian showdown is that of setting up privately run post offices throughout the country. Fifty such franchises are planned by next March. I didn't know that Ronald Reagan's "contracting out" fever had spread north of the border!

\* \* \* \* \*

### BASEBALL WARZ

Well, unless the Mets pull a rabbit out of the hat, we will have missed all four of the Division Championships. In the AL East we'd picked the Yankees to win, and now they'll be lucky to finish third. It appears 99% certain that Toronto will win the division. We'd picked them to finish second.

The AL West was won by Minnesota, which we'd picked for fifth. Our favorites, the Kansas City Royals, will finish second after being way back for most of the season. We'd picked Cincinnati to win the NL West. They collapsed in September, but at least they will finish second. The division winners, San Francisco, were fourth in my future book. In the NL East, we'd predicted St. Louis would finish second, behind the N.Y. Mets, last year's World Champions. The Mets had a terrible start; then climbed into second place around July 4th, but haven't been able to catch the Cardinals as of this writing.

I'll predict St. Louis will defeat San Francisco in the NL Playoffs, while Toronto will easily dispatch the Minnesota Twins in the American League. <sup>(right)</sup> So, the World's Series will come to Canada for the first time. My money will be on Toronto, as I think the BlueJays are the best team in baseball this year. Just hope it doesn't snow on the ballgames. Toronto's new indoor stadium won't be ready until 1988.

As we write this, we got only one prediction right. The Houston Astros, last year's NL West champions, will finish third in that division. The surprise teams of 1987 were the Detroit Tigers, nearly winning in the AL East; and Minnesota winning in the AL West. The biggest collapse was that of the L.A. Dodgers, picked for second place in the NL West by many, including me, and barely finishing out of last place. The collapse of the 1986 AL Champion Boston Red Sox was predicted by nearly everyone, although I did not expect them to drop all the way to fifth place.

The highlight of the season for me was Paul Molitor's 39-game hitting streak. We saw him get hit #29 here in Baltimore in August.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Reprint of the Month

(From WAR & PEACE #49, by Derek Caws): "Thought of the Month: Youth is the time when you make funny faces into the mirror. Middle age is when the mirror gets its own back." ((Ah, yes, who is that guy in the mirror?))

BALKAN WARS III - 1987A pb06

FALL 1913

ITALY TAKES THE LEAD, BUT ALBANIA SURVIVES IN EXILE. GREEKS RECOVER ATHENS AS  
TURKEY BIDS FAREWELL TO WORLD. BULGARS KNOCKED DOWN A PEG.

ALBANIA (Hess): A Skopje-Sofia. F S. Adriatic (S) ITALIAN F Tirana-Montenegro.  
(3) A Valona-Tirana /d/, (R) to Skopje (only space open).  
BULGARIA (Dousette): A Constantza (S) A Sofia. A Sofia (S) A Constantza /d/, may (R)  
(6) Mac, Oltenia or OTB. A Varna and F S. Black Sea (S) A Constantza.  
GREECE (Cheek): A Plovdiv (S) A Sofia. A Constantinople (S) A Plovdiv.  
(3) A Epirus-Valona. A Salonika (S) A Epirus-Valona. F Athens (S)  
ITALY (Baty): A Salonika.  
(4) A Bosnia-Montenegro. F Tirana (S) A Bosnia-Montenegro. F Aegean  
SERBIA (Kenny): Sea-Crete. A Trieste (H).  
(4) A Bucharest (S) ALBANIAN A Skopje-Sofia. A Nish (S) ALBANIAN A  
Skopje-Sofia. A Trans. (S) A Bucharest. A Bessarabia-Constantza.  
TURKEY (McHugh): A Belgrade-Montenegro (NSU).  
(1) F Corinthian Sea-Athens.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Paul Kenny (SERBIA), effective Oct. 1, 1987: 262-D Garfield,  
Collingswood, N.J. 08108. (This is a permanent address).

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, BALKANS WARS III, WINTER 1913: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

ALBANIA:	Skopje, SOFIA, <del>MONTENEGRO</del> , TIRANA	2 (-1),	Remove 1
BULGARIA:	Plovdiv, Varna, Con, Constantza, Scutari, <del>SOFIA</del>	5 (-1),	Remove 1
GREECE:	Salonika, Smyrna, Valona, ATHENS	4 (+1),	Build 1, can only build in Smyrna
ITALY:	3 Home, Crete, MONTENEGRO, TIRANA	6 (+2),	Build 2
SERBIA:	Bel., Nish, Bucharest, Galati	4 (--),	No change
TURKEY:	ATHENS	0 (-1),	Remove 1, OUT

PRESS:

ITALY to Albania: Sorry, I changed my mind. You did, too, so I guess we're even. Right?

GREECE to Turkey: Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should.

GREECE to Italy & Others: If you trust no one, you can not come to harm; that is a sure thing.

SERBIA to Italy: I would make a real estate purchase but right now I can't come up with a down payment.

SERBIA to Albania: Some Neutral you turned out to be. With neighbors like you, who needs enemies? Unfortunately, I have them.

BELGRADE to Montenegro: Nice going. You probably used the wrong strategy against Italy. You should have tried retreating to Rome.

SERBIA to Greece: Wit is the spice of conversation, not the food. (I found this in a Chinese fortune cookie).

DEADLINE for WINTER 1913 and SPRING 1914 orders will be SATURDAY, October 31, 1987. Telephone deadline will be Friday the 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Try to get your orders in a little early, as we expect our doorbell to be quite busy on Hallowe'en.

I think another Press release may have gone astray, for which I apologize.

VACATION DIP III - 1985R rm39

ENGLISH AND GERMAN FORCES MOVE OUT FOR CONFRONTATION WITH TURKEY. AUSTRIANS TOUCH DRY LAND. RUSSIAN POSITION CRITICAL FOLLOWING GALICIA BLOWOUT.

There was strong disagreement with the proposal for a Three-Way Draw between England, Germany and Turkey. Everyone voted. So, we will get a chance to try out some new cards after the Fall 1910 moves.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Bill Young (GERMANY), effective October 19, 1987: 200 E. Schuyllkill Rd., Apt. I-6, Pottstown, Pa. 19464.  
Paul Kenny (TURKEY), effective October 1, 1987: 262-D Garfield, Collingswood, N.J. 08108. (This is a permanent change).

AUSTRIA (Rice): VF MAO-Portugal. VF NAO (S) ENGLISH F Irish Sea-MAO.  
(0)(2 units)  
ENGLAND (Change): F Irish Sea-MAO. F Ireland-Irish Sea. F North Sea (H). F Wales-Eng Channel. F Brest-Gascony. A Burgundy (S) F Brest-Gascony.  
(7)(7 units) A St. Pete-Siberia.  
FRANCE (Wilson): VA Persia-Syria. VA Tuscany-Piedmont.  
(0)(2 units)  
GERMANY (Young): F Norway-Barents Sea. F Norwegian Sea (S) F Norway-Barents Sea.  
(9)(9 units) A Bohemia-Galicia. A Warsaw & A Silesia (S) A Bohemia-Galicia.  
A Ukraine (S) A Boh-Galicia. A Moscow (S) A Ukraine. A Tyrol-Vienna /d/, (R) to Bohemia (per Right-Hand Rule). A Berlin-Prussia.  
ITALY (Hoffman): A Gascony-Spain/d/, Marseille (S) A Gascony-Spain. VF Iceland (H).  
(4)(4 units) A Piedmont-Venice. (R) Paris (only space open).  
(playing 2 short)  
RUSSIA (Cheek): VF Gulf of Lions-Spain(sc). F Barents Sea-Siberia /d/, (Annihilated).  
(5)(6 units) A Sev (S) TURKISH A Rumania-Ukraine. A Galicia-Bohemia /d/, (Annih.).  
A Vienna (S) TURKISH A Trieste-Tyrol. A Venice (S) TURKISH A Trieste-Tyrol.  
TURKEY (Kenny): F Western Med (S) RUSSIAN VF Gof Lyon-Spain(sc). F Tyrr. Sea-Tunis.  
(13)(13 units) F Rome-Tyrr. Sea. F Eastern Med. & F Ionian Sea (C) A Smyrna-Apulia.  
A Smyrna-Apulia. A Trieste-Tyrol. F N. Africa-MAO. A Budapest (S)  
RUSSIAN A Vienna. A Rumania-Ukraine. A Con-Bulgaria. F Ankara-Black Sea. A Armenia (S) RUSSIAN A Sev.

PRESS:

TURKEY-Gotland: Where do you get those cards?  
ANKARA to Italy: I still like you. Let's be friends.

TURKEY to Russia: I am not giving up Centers for you to retreat to. Had you not spread yourself so thin in the beginning, you wouldn't have a German unit in Moscow.

RUSSIA to Italy: Personality, too, is destiny.

RUSSIA: It is only the wisest and the very stupidest who cannot change.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL has been made for a German-Turkish TWO-WAY DRAW. Please include your votes on this with your Fall orders. Since this is the second vote, anyone who fails to vote will be counted in the "YES" column.

DEADLINE for FALL 1910 orders is SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1987. The phone deadline will be Friday, Oct. 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. If the draw should pass, the Fall orders will still be used to determine the final statistics.

NOTHING QUITE CARRIES THE PUNCH OF DIPLOMACY WORLD...

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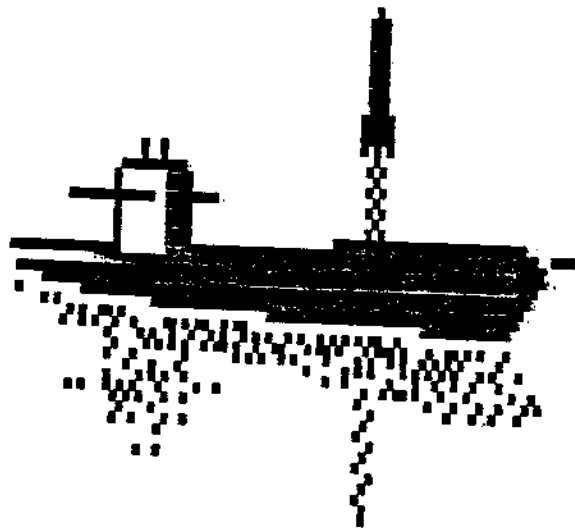
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If you aren't already a DW family member now is an excellent time to join us as we prepare to publish our 50th anniversary issue next spring. We're planning a very special issue with lots of special features, contests, etc with prizes for DW readers.

A sample issue is US\$4.00, a one year sub with a bonus issue is \$15.00, a two year sub with a free copy of the next BLACK AND BLUE BOOK hobby directory is \$30.00, or a three year sub with a free DW Anthology volume is \$45.00. Overseas rates are US \$20.00, \$40.00, and \$60.00. Subscription price includes first class mail in North America. This offer expires 1 April, 1988.

Join the world-wide DIPLOMACY WORLD family as it explores our fascinating hobby and keeps you informed of what's going on in all areas related to DIPLOMACY.

Send your check to: DIPLOMACY WORLD, Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102, U.S.A.

IRISH DANCE JIG ON ARABIAN SANDS. BALKANS AND BENELUX CRACK SLAVIC HEARTLAND.  
ARABS VISIT SIBERIA. SPAIN STILL AT SEA.

THREE-WAY DRAW proposal fails. Six of the seven players voted. I was surprised at how many of the players would have approved of the draw so early in the game. There was opposition, mind you, but not quite as much as I'd expected. Obviously, more diplomatic negotiations are required. Remember, in any and all future votes, anyone who does not vote will be counted as voting "Yes."

BALKANS (Dousette): F Tunisia-Central Med. F Naples (S) F Tunis-Central Med. A Belgrad-Rumania. A Hungary & F Sofia (S) A Belgrade-Rumania. A Milan (S) A Languedoc. A Languedoc (S) A Milan. A Caucasus-Kiev.  
(8)  
BENELUX (R. Brown): F Novgorod-Riga. F G of Bothnia (S) F Novg-Riga. A Warsaw (S)  
(9) (8 units) BALKAN A Caucasus-Kiev. A Prussia (S) A Warsaw. A Barcelona (H).  
A Stockholm-Lapland. A Rhineland-Copenhagen. A Aquitaine-France.  
IRELAND (Reges): A Cork boards F NAO, A/F NAO-High Ocean Box, A disembarks Arabia.  
(10) (9 units) (remains aboard A/F). F Dublin-Bay of Biscay. F Belfast-NAO.  
F North Sea (H). F Lisbon-Western Med. F Algeria & F MAO (S)  
F Lisbon-Western Med. A Madrid (S) BENELUX A Barcelona.  
MID-EAST (Stewart): A Persia-Siberia. F Alexandria-Jerusalem(wc). F Turkey-  
(3) Black Sea.  
SCANDINAVIA (Cheek) (1): A Archangel (H).  
SLAVS (Cruickshank): A Riga-Minsk. A Galicia-Rumania. A Kiev (S) A Gal-Rumania /d/,  
(6) (R) to Don per Right-Hand Rule. A Mesop-Arabia. A Jordan-  
Mesop. F Jerusalem(wc)-Alexandria.  
SPAIN Rice): F Tyrr. Sea-Milan. F Gulf of Lions (S) F Tyrr. Sea-Milan.  
(2)

# PRESS:

SCANDINAVIA (in exile) to Spain: How the past perishes is how the future becomes!

ON THE HIGH OCEAN: Spurred on by reports of beautiful Spring weather and favorable exchange rates, thousands of Irish Military personnel decided to take a holiday in the Mid-East. It was not immediately known if more tourists will visit in the future.

BENELUX to Spain: I expected to see a bull fight, not a slaughter.

DEADLINE for FALL 1907 is SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1987. Phone deadline is Friday, Oct. 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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ABOUT THOSE CANADIAN DIPLOMACY SETS. The publishers of the Canadian sets (Waddington's) let their supply run out several months ago. According to the Games By Mail people, "they've been telling us for months that it will be back in print 'the end of this month.' Realistically, we assume it will be ready soon, to get it out for Christmas sales." Waddington's assures everybody that the reprint will still include the original one-piece map and WOODEN BLOCKS. So, if you've ordered a Canadian set, please be patient.

If you want a Canadian set, with WOODEN BLOCKS, we suggest you wait a bit longer now, to see how the Postal strike develops. Then, you can order your set from: Games By Mail, P.O. Box 98, Sta. "D", Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6P 3J5. The price is \$23.40 in U.S. dollars. They will accept personal checks.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARACTER DIP - 1987AF rm49 (GAME STARTS!)

SPRING 1901

ENGLISH & GERMANS MOVE NORTH, AUSTRIANS AND FRENCH MOVE SOUTH, RUSSIANS GO TO HEAVEN. TURKS SUFFER FIRST SETBACK DUE TO USE OF SPECIAL POWERS. ITALY CALM.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Jeff Suchard (AUSTRIA), 2601 Warring, #13, Berkeley, CA. 94720.  
Doug Williams (FRANCE), 95 Dundonald St., Barrie, Ont., CANADA L4M 3T4.

Rule Addition: Amend Card #8 instructions (Move to "Heaven") as follows:

Add two asterisks ("\*\*") in front of "8." At end, show: "\*\* No Power may have more than two such units (Heaven) at any time."

Note: One Player asked whether a new Character would be drawn for a unit after it had used its special powers. No, the assignment of a unit's Character is permanent. Once the unit has "blown its cover," the only way to change it is to have that unit dislodged or annihilated, so you can build a new unit at home, and draw another card. So, if you don't like the Character of a certain unit, you could try to get your ally to help eliminate it. Some allies might be very willing to help you with this!

I hear rumors that the diplomatic correspondence now flowing reports an amazing number of plain, ordinary units are on the board. Isn't it strange that so many #20 cards would have popped up? (Snark, chortle). I'll enjoy hearing from you on how this has affected your diplomacy, for better or worse. Please save notes on any particularly ~~referrals~~ brilliant stunts for your end-game statements.

ENGLAND (Baty): 1A Liv-Edi. 1F London-North Sea. 2F Edi-Norwegian Sea.

(3)

FRANCE (Williams): 1A Paris-Gascony. 2A Mars-Burgundy. 1F Brest-MAO.

(3)

GERMANY (McHugh): 1A Berlin-Kiel. 2A Munich-Ruhr. 1F Kiel-Denmark.

(3)

ITALY (B. Wilson): 1A Rome-Naples. 2A Venice (H). 1F Naples-Ionian.

(3)

AUSTRIA (Suchard): 1A Vienna-Budapest. 2A Bud-Serbia. 1F Trieste-Albania.

(3)

RUSSIA (Zarse): 1A Moscow-Heaven (Card #8). 2A Warsaw-Ukraine. 1F St. Pete-  
G of Bothnia. 2F Sev-Black (Card #2).

(4)

TURKEY (Cheek): 1A Con-Bulgaria. 2A Smyrna-Armenia. 1F Ankara-Black Sea.

(3)

OFFICIAL GM NOTE: I am fully aware that one party in this game is playing under his "Playing Name," for reasons which seemed reasonable to me. There has been no deception of the GM. If you need more information, I will provide it

PRESS:

LONDON: I request we all gather for a peace conference in Geneva. We ought to be able to settle our differences like men, and not squabble about little dots. I propose we give them to the Americans.

PARIS (Reuters): As much as France is impressed with the characteristics bestowed upon her glorious armed forces, geography has played a hand in it, and made these characteristics practically useless! A big raspberry to the GM.

BUSHWACKER: Just get yourself annihilated buddy, and I'll be glad to deal you a new card. Blame the cards, not me, for your drawing three 20's.

(more)



TURKEY to England: We'll use the old Triple Bypass Plan!

DEADLINE for FALL 1901 orders is SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1987. Phone deadline will be Friday, October 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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I'd like to thank everybody who wrote to me with information about the games BRITANNIA and VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC. BRITANNIA is definitely not a Diplomacy variant, but may be a lot of fun for people who like negotiation-type board games. The game's author, Lew Pulsipher, wrote to tell me something about the game, including the fact that it was specifically designed for four players. The three and five-player rules were tacked on by the publisher in order to increase sales appeal. It may be something you'd want to try the next time you can only get four or five people together.

Two people wrote lengthy reports on VITP. Mark Gorski advised that it uses a system similar to that of an earlier and simpler game, WAR AT SEA, which covers the European theater during W.W. II. In fact, there is a kit available which enables you to merge WAR AT SEA and VITP into a single giant game. Mark says they're good games for novices, especially if you're a naval buff. (And simple enough for someone like me, who dislikes games with hundreds of cardboard counters). I saw WAR AT SEA in my local quality game store, where it sells for just \$16. They did not stock VITP. I haven't bought either one yet. If I do, I'll let you know my opinions.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### KING FOR A DAY

We have some extra space here, so I'll tell you about my recent spell of good fortune. In May, I attended the annual meeting of the Social Security Alumni Assn., an umbrella group for everyone who has retired from an SSA post. I had not intended to go, as most of the attendees are real old-timers who tend to reminisce on the early days (1937-1950) of the agency, before I came aboard. However, the lady in charge of the Red Cross Blood Bank volunteers told me, "You'd better attend, as they're going to present certificates to all you volunteers." So, reluctantly, I went. Darned if I didn't win the door prize, a beautiful oil painting by one of the retired Division Chiefs. I had to pay to get it framed, but it does very nicely fill a blank space on our new living room wall that badly needed a picture.

Then, in August, we received free tickets to the Maryland State Fair from Channel 67, the local PBS station, for having served on their phone bank last December, during one of their phone-pledge money raising periods. This was for Sunday, Aug. 30th, which was Volunteers Day at the Fair. We had a wonderful time. Around 3 p.m., they had a drawing from among the approximately 5,000 cards the volunteers had dropped in a drum as we entered. My name was one of just 15 drawn for a free ride on the Maryland Independence, the Governor's new yacht. So, on Sept 15th, Inge and I drove down to Annapolis, and were welcomed aboard the converted 55-foot sub chaser that now serves as the water conveyance for The Guv and the upper crust of Maryland politics and society.

I could get very easily accustomed to the lifestyle aboard the yacht. As I said to another visitor, "Now we know how the other 1% lives." The inside cabins are air-conditioned, the fantail had awnings and comfortable seats, and the sundeck on top was just great on what was one of our last warm days of summer. They serves us a delicious lunch featuring Maryland crabcakes. The yacht carries a chef, not a cook. Since I'd just paid my quarterly Md. income taxes, I felt that I had a small share of ownership of the boat. The 4-hour cruise on Chesapeake Bay did make the payment of those taxes easier to take.

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They say good luck comes in series of threes, and I should now play the State Lottery. However, I think I've had about as much good luck as I'm entitled to for this year.

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I hope to be seeing all of you San Diego County people in the fourth week of October!

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# # # # #

P.S. CORRECTION just received. There is NO CHARGE, other than enclosing a SASE, when requesting a copy of Postal Diplomacy game openings in PONTEVEDRIA. Scott Hanson has been producing PONTE on a quarterly basis up to now, but it will hereafter be produced by Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave., T2, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. PONTE has been carrying notices only of Regular games. There was to be a companion flyer, called BARRATARIA, to list Variant games, but it appears that this never resumed publication after Rod Walker ceased publishing. Ken, would you consider carrying notices of Variant game openings in PONTEVEDRIA?

# # # # #

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