



BUSHWACKER

VOL. 18, No. 10

(Your (Almost) Monthly Variant Zine)

NOVEMBER 1989

This is the 213th consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy* zine dedicated to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and anything else which comes to mind. Edited 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. Orders should be sent by mail, except in dire emergencies, but please phone promptly if you discover an adjudication error.

*Diplomacy is a registered trademark 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," whose picture adorns the masthead.

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GAME FEES: \$9.00 Flat Fee for newcomers, or \$8.00 for the rest of you. Similarly, the STANDBY FEE is \$5.00 for newcomers or \$4.00 for current readers. Players and Standbys do NOT have to maintain subs. For your money, you receive copies of the rules/maps for your game(s), plus BUSH, for the duration of your game, unless you drop out. Note that a Standby signs up for a specific game of his choice. Mensa Diplomacy SIG members receive an additional \$1.00 discount on these fees. OVERSEAS Fees higher.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for non-players are 12 issues for \$6.00. OVERSEAS SUBS re \$8.00 for 12 issues, by sea mail. SAMPLE copies are 50¢. We also TRADE with many other zines on an all-for-all basis. Traders may enter a game for a considerable discount, which can be arranged on an individual basis.

This issue contains reports on CHARACTER DIP (1987AF rm49), ATLANTICA III (1988ARes01) and ANCIENT EMPIRES III (1989IR ac10). It also contains the conclusion of VACATION DIP III (1985R rm39), and an update on FIVE ITALIES.

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STRIKE DANGER LOOMS IN GREAT WHITE NORTH

There is a possibility that the Canadian Post Office may go on strike again in a few weeks. At the present time, there are only two Canadian players in BUSH games; Ron Brown as USA in Atlantica III, and Doug Acheson as France in Character Dip and Canada in Atlantica. These players may wish to send me preliminary orders for their countries ASAP, and/or appoint temporary backup players for them in case a strike lasts more than a week or two. Please phone in your orders if necessary. I may suspend action in Atlantica if things get bad, since there are two Canadians involved, but I very much want to keep Character Dip rolling, since we seem to be coming to a climax very shortly.

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Glenn Overby is running the North American Variant Hobby Poll. See the enclosed copy of MONDOJ #15 for details. Apparently, you can vote for yourself, your zine, or a game which you have designed. The deadline is Dec. 22, 1989. Only N. American zines and people, and variants designed in America, are eligible, but Overseas readers may vote. I have suggested to Glenn that next year he add a new category for variants designed within the past two years. For example, I feel that my "Abstraction" is one of the better designs on an all-time list, but the hobby may be more interested in what has been created in 1988-89.

MILLER NUMBERS 'ROUND THE WORLD

The hobby now has MNC's for variant games in the French and German languages in Europe. The Francophone MNC, covering games in France, Belgium and the French-speaking parts of Switzerland, is: G.A. (Jef) Bryant, Rue Jean Pauly 121, B-4300 Ans, BELGIUM. Jef produces his zine, DIPSOMANIA, in both English and French versions, and is Custodian of the Belgian Variant Bank. He took a couple months off from publishing to get married and go on a honeymoon (some people come up with the darndest excuses for skipping an issue!), but is now back in harness.

The German BNC, who will also soon be their MNC, is Thomas Franke, Rummelweg 5, D-2900, / Oldenburg, WEST GERMANY. Thomas is also planning to rewrite the German text for the Diplomacy Rules. (The Rules enclosed with the Parker Bros. sets sold in Germany are pretty bad). He'll handle postal games run in the Germanies, Austria and German Switzerland.

I'm not sure who will be responsible for Miller Nos. for games starting in Holland or Scandinavia. I do know that neither of these gentlemen has signed any Covenants. Here is the breakdown of Boardman and Miller Nos. worldwide, to the best of my knowledge. Please correct me, Custodians, if there are any errors here.

Boardman Numbers (for Regular Postal games):

North America: USA: A-AZ, HA-IZ, KA-LZ, PA-QZ, TA-UZ (260 numbers)
Canada (eff. 1989): CA-CZ (26). Prior to 1989, there was no distinction between Canadian and USA games). Total of 286 for N. America.
British Isles (incl. Ireland): BA-BZ, DA-EZ, GA-GZ, JA-JZ, NO-OZ, RA-SZ (208)
Continental Europe: Francophone: FA-FZ, MA-MZ (52)
Germanophone: VA-VZ (26). Total of 78 for Europe
Australasia: XA-? (Includes New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia and South Pacific).

Miller Numbers (for Variant Postal games):

North America: A-Z, AA-AZ (52), + (I believe) HA-IZ (total of 104) + ~~TA-UZ~~
British Isles: BA-FZ (130)
Australasia: ~~XA-AZ~~ (26) (78)
Continental Europe: (unknown at this writing) (GA-CZ, LA-LZ, SA-SZ)

I understand that there has been some inadvertent mixture of American and Australian MN's in 1989. Hopefully, this will be corrected for 1990. We will update this information as the reports come in.

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INTERNATIONAL GAME OPENINGS

International Regular Diplomacy: John Cain, 76 Banool Rd., Balwyn, Victoria 3103, AUSTRALIA, in his VICTORIANA. I believe the International game will be run on a double deadline. 3 spaces left. To get started, send him \$5.00.

Another International Regular Game: Peter Sullivan, in C'EST MAGNIFIQUE. 4 spaces open for players from America or Australia. Peter has just moved to: 27 Farrer St., Darlington, Durham DL3 6RG, ENGLAND. 6-week deadlines. I suggest you send him \$10 to get started. Your zine will be sent by air mail.

How to pay for Overseas subs and Game Fees: Use the International Subscription Svc. U.S. players send their checks to: Paul Gardner, 20 Spruce St., Brattleboro, Vt. 05301. Canadians send their cheques to: Randy Grigsby, 93 St. Vincent St., Barrie, Ontario L4M 4S5. These gentlemen will contact their U.K. and Australian counterparts,
(cont. top of Pg. 4)

THE CREAM SHALL RISE #5 gives us "the rest of the story" in the 1989 Runestone Poll. There is a vote breakdown for every zine, subzine and GM, plus a graph showing how each zine fared between 1977 and 1989. A tremendous production of 102 pages, well worth the \$5.00. To cite BUSHWACKER for an example, it received 26 votes of "7" or higher, and only two votes of "1" or "2". No 0's this year. ("0" and "1" votes are considered to be "grudge" or "hate" votes). Those two low votes may seem unimportant compared to the 37 "good" votes received, but they probably account for much of the zine's drop from 24th to 31st place. Similarly, while I received 6 votes of "9" or "10" as a GM (thanks, guys), the one vote of "3" which I got served to drop me from 9th to 12th place.

It's interesting to see that the Top Seven zines of Publishers were the same as the Top 7 on the Runestone Poll itself, with just a few changes in positions (e.g., CIA rising from 7th to 5th, and Carolina Cmd. falling from 3rd to 6th, which are statistically unimportant changes).

However, the 26 Canadian voters surprised everyone by voting first place to CATHY'S RAMBLINGS, followed by CIA; with 3 Canadian zines, TGD, NORTHERN FLAME and FOL SIE FIE finishing 3rd to 5th. I was happy to see REBEL finishing 6th, with CAROLINA COMMAND 7th. Only 3 of their Top Ten, CIA, NORTHERN FLAME and CCC were on the Poll's Top Ten.

A new feature this year is the "Controversy Percentages" for all three categories. This refers to how split the votes were between "good votes" and "grudge votes". I'll skip the math and say that a zine or GM with a score of 40 or less has a Low controversy factor; one from 41-50 would be Medium, and 51+ would be High for "Controversy" or disagreements on its rank. Using these three categories, which are of my own devising, based on Eric Brosius' article, 40 zines fall into the Low category, 22 in the Medium, and just 10 in the High category. BUSHWACKER and DIPLOMAG, both scoring "39," are in the high end of the "Low" category. Among the most controversial zines (Controversy being defined as disagreement over where it should be ranked) were DIPLOMACY WORLD, LORD OF HOSTS, PASSCHENDAELE, VERTIGO, KGO and the KGO ZINE DIRECTORY. (The latter is shown with "Chris Carrier" as publisher, but since Chris' version didn't appear until the end of June, I think most people were voting on the Bruce Geryk version of 1988. I knew I was, as I voted in April. The Geryk KGO-ZD was ranked 69th out of 72, one step higher than Sacks' KGO proper.)

Using the same classification, 29 GM's are found to be "Low" in controversy. Three of us, including myself, fall into the Medium category, with scores of from 46-48. Two GM's abilities, Simon Billenness and John Boardman, were found highly "controversial."

Bruce Linsey has also again presented his list of the Top 40 people in the American Postal hobby. I had just finished making up my own informal list of the Top 28 names. We agree on most of these. We both had the same first 17 people on our lists.

I inadvertently forgot to include Paul Gardner on my list, while Bruce has overlooked Lee Kandter and Vince Lutterbie (the new Orphan Custodian). I also included Bob Olsen on my list, not knowing he's virtually retired. So, let me drop Olsen as #18, and put Paul Gardner in the slot instead. Bruce has included Mark Nelson, who lives in England, on his list, as #22. I would not include anyone living outside of N. America on my list, even though they write a lot for U.S. zines. (Sorry, Mark).

There's one bit of amusing Alphense & Gasten behavior on our lists. Bruce and I have both given up responsible posts in 1989. Accordingly, I demoted myself 8 places from #12 to #20, but I left Bruce at #13, down 10 slots. Bruce dropped me only 2 places on his list, from #12 to #14, while graciously lowering himself 24 lines to #28. I guess the proper place is about halfway between.

I deliberately did not print my list in BUSH in '88 or '89, but if anybody wants a copy, just send me a SASE.

Copies of THE CREAM SHALL RISE are available from Bruce Linsey at: P.O. Box 1334, Albany, N.Y. 12201, @ \$5.00. Eric Brosius now takes over as Runestone Poll Custodian for 1990.

ISE (Cont. from Pg. 2)

Doug Rowling and Andrew England, and use your funds to offset funds coming from these countries for subs/game fees in American games. At the end of each year, the figures nearly come out even, thus obviating the need to process the monies through the banks, where we would suffer outrageous handling fees.

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CORRECTION OF THE RECORD

I have stated, not in BUSH, but in conversations, and perhaps in private letters, that I believed Robert Sacks had been unemployed for nearly two years. This was based upon a statement made by Mr. Sacks himself, in front of a large audience, in July 1988, at Baltimore's AtlantiCon, to the effect "I have been unemployed since last November." (I was informed around August 1989 that he had just returned to work).

Mr. Sacks has written to me to state, in part, "During the period that Carrier claims I was unemployed I grossed about 40K in 1½ years of 'free-lance' consulting.... I have not returned to work, but to regular employment."

I'm glad to set the record straight. Robert did not have to go on Welfare, which would have put him in the same boat with Michael Hopcroft (shudder). I won't print the rest of Sacks' letter, but I will mention that in it, Robert came up with a new definition of breaking and entering. Referring to the incident in which Carrier, accompanied by some New York hobbyists, attached a copy of the Midsummer issue of KGO-ZD to his door-knob with a rubber band, Cur Robert states "your henchmen tried to break into my apartment." He concludes that I am a "dangerous" person. Good golly, Miss Molly! Me? Dangerous? And masterminding the actions of Carrier, Linsey, etc., who are only my henchmen. I feel like the Wizard of Oz, seated on my throne. Remember, everyone, the next time some advertiser attaches something to your doorknob, have him arrested for "breaking in."

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RECOMMENDED READING: "Miller Numbers 1981," by Mark Berch, on pp. 2-4 of DIPLOMACY DIGEST #122, Sept. 1989. This explodes Sacks' claims to appoint MMC's in 2½ succinct pages. All of this material has been covered time and again in the hobby press, but apparently has to be repeated for the benefit of hobby newcomers, who otherwise might be misled by Sacks' continuing barrage of claims to be the rightful controller of who is or isn't the MMC. In a normal debate, once an issue has been decided, most people move on to other topics. But, Sacks insists on publishing his allegations, thereby requiring other people in the hobby to divert their efforts from other useful projects to counter his claims. Too bad. (For a single copy of DD #122, send 60¢ to Mark L. Berch, 11713 Stonington Pl., Silver Spring, Md. 20902).

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CAUTION - POSTAGE DUE. We have noticed a sudden increase in the arrival of "Postage Due" mail. In the past, there was little checking of mail sent from large or medium-sized cities, as the Post Awful was too busy to check it. They were always stricter in mail from rural PO's. You could usually get away with going slightly over the one ounce mark for domestic mail in the cities. However, it appears they must have installed new machinery to check on weights. The other day, I received an item from a big city that weighed exactly one oz. on my postal scale, yet had been tagged with a "Postage Due" stamp. (My scale is old, and tends to be slightly generous in showing weight). Looks like we're all going to have to be more careful from now on.

BASEBALL WARZ - 1989 ROUND-UP

Well, we did get a few of them right, this year. We did predict that Oakland would win in the AL West. In the AL-East, Milwaukee, picked by many to finish first, went into a tailspin and finished 4th. I picked winning Toronto to finish 2nd, but I did say "either Milwaukee or Toronto could win." I correctly picked Boston to finish 3rd, and the Yankees 5th. I had picked the Mets to repeat in the NL-East. Who could have expected the Chicago Cubs to come from 4th to nose them out? I'd picked the Dodgers in the West, and San Francisco to finish 4th, instead of vice-versa. I knew the Dodgers were getting old, but didn't expect a total collapse in just one year. I did correctly predict that San Diego would finish 2nd. They were still mired in 4th when I was out there for DipCon, but they made a good stretch run, finishing just 3 games behind the Giants. All-in-all, I placed 8 teams correctly, including the last-place finishers in both NL divisions (but they were easy).

My biggest misses were Baltimore, from 7th to 2nd, and the Cubs, from 5th to 1st. Being both an Oriole and Cub fan, I was very happy with both of these incredible surprises. I note that Cal White got all of the winners correct except for the Cubs in his NORTHERN FLAME Prediction Contest. I'm looking forward to seeing who won.

In the Playoffs, I was rooting for the Cubs and Toronto, both underdogs. I was disappointed to see both Playoff series end in just 5 games.

I had expected the World's Series to be all over long before this issue went to press, but Mother Nature had other plans. As I write this, the Giants are down two games to Oakland, but I'm still rooting for the Giants. I guess the real "miracle" of this Series is that Candlestick Park was built so well that it didn't collapse with 58,000 people inside. Everything else is trivial beside that. Cubs fans, who have waited 44 years to get into a World's Series, will have to wait another year.

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COMMENTS ON THE DIPLOMACY QUIZ. Don Del Grande furnished me with some of the answers to the Diplomacy Quiz presented at DipCon. It seems that August 15th is "Berchmas," the birthday of Mark Berch's son, Joshua. And November 5th is Kathy Caruse's birthday. I ask you, do questions like that belong on a test that's supposed to be concerned with Diplomacy? Had the quiz appeared in a Postal Dipzine, such items might have been relevant, but this Quiz was presented at an open tournament, where several of the players were strictly PTF people. The questions should have related to the game, not esoteric hobby trivia. Let's hope things are down better next time.

Anyway, happy birthday, Kathy. Welcome to the club of those of us on the wrong side of 40.

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THE FIRST DIPCON XXIII NEWSLETTER has already appeared. The joint production of David Hood, Tom Nash and Ken Peel, issue #1 appeared at the end of September, giving information on details of the Con being held in Chapel Hill, N.C. June 22-24, 1990. This includes the projected Con schedule and travel directions to getting to Chapel Hill via Raleigh/Durham. Con fee will be \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. The two-page flyer makes clear there will be a lot of emphasis on the WORLD DIPCON II aspects of this event, aka DIXIECON IV. Some publishers may reprint this in its entirety. If not, I'm sure you can get a copy if you send a SASE to David Hood at 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, N.C. 28711.

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CHARACTER DIP - 1987AF m49

WINTER 1908
SPRING 1909

TWO-WAY DRAW FAILS. ENGLISH RAISE THREE MORE UNITS.

		Current Strength
ENGLAND (Baty):	Build 8F Edi, 10A Lon, 11A Liverpool	16 (+3)
FRANCE (Acheson):	Build A Paris	8 (--) (was 1 short)
AUSTRIA (Suchard):	Build A Vienna	8 (-3) (was 1 short)
RUSSIA (Bargender):	No change	1 (--)
TURKEY (Cheek):	No change	1 (--)

PRESS:

FRANCE to ???: So, somebody's going for the win, eh?

GM Note: Robert Cheek's Winter 1908 orders were mailed a week prior to the Sept. 21st deadline, but did not arrive until two days afterwards, so there is no MDR charge. The orders were for "1F Ankara-Armenia," but 1F was already in Armenia. Therefore, these orders had no effect on the game.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1909 will be TUESDAY, November 28, 1989. Telephone deadline will be Monday, November 27th, at 9:00 p.m. Those players building new units will receive information on their "Characters" with this issue. Oh, and there was more than one vote on each side of the Draw proposal.

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ANCIENT EMPIRES III - 1989IR ac10

WINTER 265 B.C.

O.K., the votes are in. Optional Rule #1, Barbarian Armies, was approved by a vote of 5 to 1, with one NVR. Optional Rule #2, a special Winter 265 Build season, was defeated by a vote of 2 in favor and 4 opposed, with one NVR. So, we're all set to go.

The first move, SPRING 264 B.C., will be due on TUESDAY, November 28, 1989. Note we now have a Miller No. Phone Deadline is Mon., Nov. 27th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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FIVE ITALIES UPDATE

Here are the names and addresses of the players, as I now have them:

Lee Kendter, Jr., 264 Spruce Ct., Bensalem, Pa. 19020 *
Tom Nash, 5512 Pilgrim Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214
Glenn Overby, P.O. Box 36983, Grosse Pointe, Mich. 48236 *
Malcolm Smith, Statsrad Ih lensvei 66b; N-2010, Strømmen, NORWAY
Brad Wilson, P.O. Box 126, Wayne, Pa. 19087
#1 Standby: Ed Green, 126 (Rear) Whiting, Fullerton, CA. 92632 *

* = Paid in Full

If everyone will get their Game Fees in by November 25th, I will make the country assignments in the next issue. Because of the upcoming Christmas holidays, I may give you a double deadline for your first move. In lieu of any date mentioned in the rules, we will start with the traditional SPRING 1901 opening. O.K., we're off, and may the best Italy win!

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VACATION DIP III - 1985R rm39WINTER 1918, Part IIGAME ENDS IN THREE-WAY DRAW FOR ENGLAND-GERMANY-TURKEY.

After 18 game-years and four and 1/3 years of real time (this game started on 5/14/85) the curtain is finally coming down on BUSHWACKER's longest game. Congratulations to Fred Chang (England), Bill Young (Germany) and Paul Kenny (Turkey) on their Three-way Draw. The only original players left are Kenny, Robert Cheek and Brad Wilson, although Brad had 6 NMR's during the approximately 52 move periods. However, since Bill Young came into the game in Spring 1903, he is practically a starting player. Since no one is out of this game unless they make two consecutive NMR's, all of the other four players survive. As Craig Reges (Austria) and Al Bargender (Italy) both owned 2 SC's, we can consider that they tied for fourth place.

I'll print the Supply Center Count below. Next month, I'll print which Event Card was issued to each Power throughout the game, in case the players want to check this against their own records. The players are all invited to prepare End-game statements for next month. I especially want statements from the three winners.

VACATION DIPLOMACY III SUPPLY CENTER COUNT (1985R rm39)

	1901	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
AUSTRIA (David Rice):1.	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	2@	2@	4th (tie)
(Craig Reges):																			
ENGLAND (Russ Wallace):2.	5	7	8	8	8	8*	8	7	7	7	8	8	8	10	10	10	11	11	-(Draw)
(Fred Chang):																			
FRANCE (Brad Wilson):	5**	4*	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GERMANY (Paula Dodge):3.	4	5*	5*	7	8	8	7	9	9	11	14	12	13	10	10	10	8	10	-(Draw)
(Bill Young):																			
ITALY (Gary Floyd): 4.	3	4	5	5	5	5	6	4	4@	4@	3*	3*	2	3*	3*	3*	2	2	4th (tie)
(Jeff Hoffman):5.																			
(Al Bargender):																			
RUSSIA (Robert Cheek):	6	5	7*	6	5	5	6	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TURKEY (Paul Kenny):	5	5	6	8*	9	10	10	12	13	13	13	16*	15	16	16	16	17	16	-(Draw)

1. Rice resigned, Sp. 1913. Replaced by Reges, Sp. 1913
2. Wallace NMR'd out, Sp. 1907. Replaced by Chang, Sp. 1907
3. Dodge NMR'd out, W. 1902. Young took over, Sp. 1903
4. Floyd resigned, Sp. 1904. Hoffman took over F 1904
5. Hoffman NMR'd out, F 1913. 1914 played by Dan Wilson, who was cut off from the hobby by circumstances beyond his control. Replaced by Bargender, F 1915.

Each Power began with one Vacation unit located in an otherwise impassable space. The number of such units on the board varied from 8 to 2 through the course of the game. At the end, there were only 2 Vacation units, one ea. owned by Austria and France. These units gave strength to Powers otherwise down to a few or no SC's. There were 35 Supply Centers at the start. This rose gradually to 41 by 1918, as additional spaces were made into SC's by the play of Event Cards. By 1918, the V.C. would have been 21.

* = playing 1 unit short. @ = playing 2 units short.

GM's Comments: After getting off to a terrible start under Paula Dodge, Bill Young turned Germany's fortunes around, and by 1911 was probably on his way to a 2-way Draw with Turkey. Turkey had overcome Austria and Russia to gain mastery of the East. Fred Chang's England seemed stuck at 7 or 8. Then, in 1912, Turkey's ally Italy (Jeff Hoffman) got to play Card #90, write orders for another country, against Germany. This caused Germany to lose 4 SC's and Turkey to gain 3. This also gave Fred Chang's England a chance to catch up with his German ally, and made the 3-way Draw inevitable.

GM's Comments (cont.) It was interesting to see how Austria, under both David Rice and Craig Reges, managed to hang on, with the use of a couple of Vacation units, and actually regain control of a couple of Supply Centers. Austria almost regained a Home SC, but was blocked in Bohemia and annihilated. France and Russia were less successful in their efforts to survive without Centers. Italy under both Hoffman and Bargender did a terrific job of holding on to a few Centers.

I see now why the original game was designed to last only 11 years. It's virtually impossible to wipe anybody out. It is also obvious that Event Cards #30 and #90 are too powerful. They have been dropped from future versions of Vacation Dip (which I've named "Vacation Dip IV" - rm66). The other cards added some unusual moves to the game, but I don't believe any of them affected its progress nearly as much as the use of #90. I hope the players had some fun applying some of special events they received. The game did last too long. Several people, including your GM, became bored as it seemed no one could actually win the thing. I think the new rule preventing players who do not own SC's or units from voting on game-ending proposals will speed things up. My personal opinion is that it should have ended in a 3-Way in 1914 or '15.

End-game statements due here on November 25th. 'Twould be appreciated if any lengthy statements could be typed for direct printing.

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ATLANTICA III - 1988AR oa01

JANUARY 1871

YANKS TAKE WINTER VACATION IN FLORIDA. CANADIANS MOVING TO EUROPE. ITALIANS MOVE WEST. FRENCH RETAKE PARIS. GERMANY GROUNDED.

Note: This season was almost delayed. John Galt's Palo Alto residence was hit by the earthquake, and his records were jumbled. Fortunately, I was able to give him enough information over the phone to enable him to reconstruct his files. Also, I had informed George Kilmer (GERMANY) that I had somehow lost his tentative orders for January 1871 last month, and I'd asked him to submit another set. To date, I haven't heard anything more from George. I was debating on whether to hold up the game, but decided that since he had been advised to submit new orders, the onus was on him, not me. So, we're going without any German orders.

ENGLAND (Wilson): F Hebrides-Norwegian Sea. F Iceland (S) F Hebrides-Norwegian Sea.
(4) F Irish-Hebrides Sea. F Skag-Sweden.
FRANCE (Galt): A Burgundy-Paris. A Brest (S) A Burg-Paris.
(2)
GERMANY (Kilmer?): NMR. F's Kiel, London, Norway, Sweden and Spain all (H). A's Berlin,
(11) (10 units) Munich, Picardy & Switz. all (H). A Paris (H) /d/, (Annihilated).
ITALY (Kendter): F Western Med-Spain(sc). F Tyrr Sea-G of Lions. F Naples-Tyrr Sea.
(10) A Marseilles-Gascony. A Piedmont-Mars. A Tyrol-Piedmont. F Gulf of
Cadiz (S) GERMAN F Spain(sc)-Canary Is. (NSO). F Portugal (S) F Gulf
of Cadiz. A Mauretania (MS) A Morocco.
CANADA (Acheson): A Wis.-Ontario. F Nfld-Grand Banks. A Halifax (H). F NAO-MAO.
(7) F North Sea (S) ENGLISH F Skag-Norway (NSO). F Eng Chnl (S) FRENCH
A Brest. F MAO-Bay of Biscay.
U.S.A. (R.Brown): A Chicago-Wis. A Wild West-Minn. F Ia.-Mexico. F Bermuda-Jax'ville.
(11) A Magnolia (S) F Bermuda-Jax'ville. A Charleston-Ga. F Myrtle Beach
Bermuda. F Canary Is. (S) F Myrtle Beach-Bermuda. F SAO-Bahamas.
F West Atlantic-Azores. F New York(sc)-West Atlantic.
C.S.A. (Palter): F Hisp-Caribbean. F Jax'ville (S) F Hisp-Gulf of Mexico (IMP) /d/,
(3) (R) Gulf of Mexico (only space open). F Bahamas (S) F Jax'ville.

(more)

ATLANTICA III (cont.)

PRESS:

CANADA to European Powers: I feel that I could be a bit of a power-broker here. I can also be bought!

WASHINGTON: Mercy bow-coup ah noz amez de France!

ABOARD CSS ALABAMA: Having seen our blockade runners fail to arrive in Baltimore on the last turn, this turn's post is being assigned to our two best ships, Shenandoah and Florida, while Alabama tries to run interference. Hopefully, one copy will arrive.

ITALY to World: Let's end this with the four-way draw. There isn't much play left in it. Playing more turns won't change the outcome.

GM: As you've already concluded, neither the Concession to USA nor the 4-way Draw G/I-Can/USA gained even a majority of the votes, let alone unanimity. Not everyone voted, but since this was the first round of voting here, NVR's were counted as "No." We now have a new proposal. This is for a Canada-Italy two-way Draw. Votes will be due with your orders for February 1871. Remember, from now on, NVR's will be counted as "Yes."

Game Design Note: By Dan Palter.

The inherent position of the USA depends purely on the alliances established. An initial strength of 6 can crush either neighbor if not faced with a dual alliance. A 5-strength may invite a dual alliance ((against him)). I would argue for 6-5-5 as giving a better balance, but do not begin to know what it would do on the other side of the water. However, if you offer another section I'd love another try.

DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 1871 for orders and VOTES is TUESDAY, November 28, 1989. Phone deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 27th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. In accordance with the way we've been rotating Standby requests, I'm going to ask Robert Cheek, 14341 Franklin Ave., Tustin, CA. 92680, to submit back-up orders for Germany. Oh, and thanks to Glenn Overby and Ed Green for their back-up efforts recently, which were not needed.

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I'VE NOTICED THE COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE of lightweight business-size Air Mail envelopes from our stores. You can still buy personal-sized ones. One stationery store near us still sells what they allege are "Air Mail" envelopes, but they're just heavy, ordinary ones bearing air mail markings. My guess is that so many businesses are using fax or computers for overseas communications that the demand for such envelopes has dried up. A problem for those of us, like me, that write lengthy letters to folks Over There. I dislike folding them up into small envelopes, so I'm using ordinary business envelopes and, sometimes, wind up paying the extra postage.

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WANTED. ONE MORE PLAYER for the Mensa Diplomacy SIG Game #32. Either five or six people are already signed up. We will take one non-Mensan to get the game started quickly. Just send me your name and address. The GM will contact you directly about his Game Fee, House Rules, etc. Anyone?

* * * * *

THE RECENT STOCK-MARKET CRASH has reminded me of my definition of the fully-automated modern office. It's one where, when the Dow-Jones drops more than 100 points on the same day, the sealed windows automatically open.

AVALON HILL SUPPORTS PUBLICATION OF DIPLOMACY VARIANTS AND ERRATA SHEETS
wild

Those of you who have seen material coming out of New York City lately may have wrongly assumed that Avalon Hill opposes the reprinting of the rules and errata sheets related to their games. Nothing could be further from the truth. The one thing Avalon Hill objects to is the omission of the credit line when printing such material. I asked Thomas Shaw, Executive Vice-President of A-H, for clarification of this matter.

I received a nice letter from Tom, dated September 22, 1989, affirming their support of the Variant subhobby and other reproductions of A-H games. The last paragraph of Tom's letter reads as follows:

"Thus you are correct in your final paragraph statement that....'so long as the Avalon Hill copyright is mentioned, there are no objections to people continuing to come up with variants....as long as they are properly labelled as variants.'"

* * * * *

SOME OF THE MATERIAL in this issue was going to appear last month, but we ran out of time. We were lucky here. The hurricane missed us. All we got was an extremely heavy rainstorm the next day from the trailing storm. We also understand that Chapel Hill, N.C., site of next year's DipCon, survived without the need to construct any arks. We hope all of our Northern California players came through the earthquake without too much shaking up. We're looking forward to reading reports in the California zines on how everyone made it through.

One consolation from the earthquake. They say that it took some of the pressure off of the San Andreas fault in the Bay Area. While the "Big One" could still hit the L.A. area at any time, it's been estimated that San Francisco may have bought another 30 years of time with the "World's Series Earthquake," as they're starting to call it.

* * * * *

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Ellicott City, Md. 21043
U.S.A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

You may use this page to cast your ballot:

Mondoj no. 15

Mondoj is an amateur publication for promoting the design and postal play of variant games of Diplomacy (tm).

Published weekly by Glenn Overby, c/o Octagon Enterprises, PO Box 36983, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236. Mailed as needed for game reports, or every fifth week. Subscriptions \$9.00 per year (52 issues). Game fee to play: \$5/game and subscription.

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Mondoj #15: September 22, 1989...as if we don't yet get to vote enough in this hobby, we present

The 1989 North American Variant Hobby Poll

There are four categories: Best Variant Zine, Best Variant GM, Biggest Variant Personality, and Best Variant.

For Best Variant Zine: Any zine which runs one or more variant Diplomacy games, other than Gunboat games, is eligible. Zines which do not usually run games are also eligible if a significant amount of their editorial content relates to variant Diplomacy.

For Best Variant GM: Any GM who runs one or more variant Diplomacy games, other than Gunboat games, is eligible.

For Biggest Variant Personality: Anyone is eligible; vote for those persons who contribute the most to the variant hobby by reason of playing skill, variant design, promotion, writing, or any contribution or set of contributions except GMing.

For Best Variant: You may vote for any published Diplomacy variant regardless of when or by whom it was designed.

Directions: In the Zine category, you may vote for up to six zines; rank them in order 1st through 6th, no ties. Do not vote for a zine if you have not seen at least two issues of it since January 1, 1989.

In the GM category, you may again vote for up to six, in rank order without ties. Do not vote for a GM unless you have played in a variant game under that GM at some time since January 1, 1988.

In the other categories, you may vote for up to six Personalities and up to ten Variants, again in rank order without ties.

Votes for the poll's tabulator, or his zine, will not be counted. This will avoid one source of distorted results.

Please send in your ballot, with your name, address, and a brief identification of a tie to postal Diplomacy (publisher of X, player in game Y, subscriber to Z, etc.), to: Glenn Overby

c/o Octagon Enterprises
PO Box 36983
Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

Ballots must be received by December 22, 1989 to be counted. Results will be published in Mondoj in January 1990.

Publishers of Dipzines are expressly authorized and encouraged to reprint this information. This zine is too small to get a proper base of replies on its own, but together we can make it work. Thanks for your assistance.

70 Years after the End of Our Innocence

Berlin.

SEVENTY YEARS ago this week in Berlin the storm of German revolution was gathering. The Kaiser gone, a moderate Socialist leader, Friedrich Ebert, governed Germany — the chancellor,

By William Pfaff

Prince Max of Baden, having personally handed authority over, saying: "Herr Ebert, I commit the German Empire to your keeping."

Ebert's revolutionary rivals, the Spartacists — communists — led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, recruited support from workers and soldiers of the disintegrating army. Liebknecht organized a "Council of Deserters, Stragglers and Furloughed Soldiers" to give the Spartacists a shock force.

The army high command supported Ebert, on condition that he support the army, yet the wartime army was melting away, mutinous, and Ebert was reluctant to send troops against the workers. The turmoil continued into January, when finally revolt came, and was suppressed, not by the army but by the free-lance military formations called Fretkorps, political and moral progenitors of the Nazi movement a few years later. Liebknecht and Luxemburg were killed.

The election of a national assembly in Weimar, to decide Germany's future, took place peacefully January 19. The republic established there proved fatefully compromised by the circumstances of its birth.

World War I, whose catastrophic end took place 70 years ago, was the decisive event of the 20th century. Without World War I there would have been no Bolshevik or Nazi revo-

lutions. Mussolini's lethal blend of socialist idealism with combative nationalism — a mixture whose force still is not spent — might never have happened. Much of what today passes for communism or left-wing socialism in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, is Mussolini's mixture in a different ideological guise. Without World War I, the European empires quite possibly would survive today. The U.S. might still be a regional power of the second rank.

Yet we cannot really say why World War I happened. There were German expansionist aims, a naval race between Germany and Britain, nationalist conspiracies in the Balkans, French determination to recover Alsace and Lorraine. Military planning and organization were geared to total war. There was an immense stock of illusions about military glory and honor. Ideas of social Darwinism held that war was a

BALTIMORE SUN, 11/20/88

test of the vigor and "youth" of nations, as against their "decline." (Today we assign economic causes to the same thing.)

Yet none of this really explains why the war happened. It seems that people simply had grown bored and wanted a war. The war's outbreak in 1914 caused celebration among people who within weeks were dead or bereaved. A young Englishman, Julian Grenfell, wrote, "Isn't it lucky for me to have been born so as to be just the right age." He was killed in November 1915. Thomas Mann described the war as producing "spiritual revolution." Rupert Brooke notoriously thanked God "Who has matched us with His hour, And caught our youth, and wakened us from sleeping."

The joy ended but the war went on. The eventual outcome was an institutionalization of nihilism, and the rise to power of individuals pos-

sessing "a satanic will, a cold joy in seeing other men perish — perhaps even humanity itself. They seem seized by deep suffering, a howling resentment, when they suspect that something, anything, might stop them from devouring as many beings as they desire." The description is that of Ernst Junger, a German writer and scientist who was a soldier in both world wars.

World War I erupted out of prosperous European parliamentary monarchies and republics, in what even then was considered a kind of golden age. It created the world in which we uneasily live today — in which we complacently live. The fact that we have no solid understanding of why all of this happened ought to be troubling. If we do not know that, how do we know that something comparable may not be waiting to happen again? We take too much for granted.