



BUSHWACKER

VOL. 19, No. 5

MAY 1990

This is the 219th consecutive issue of this Postal Diplomacy* zine, which is devoted to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and anything else I happen to think about. This is 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, but players are urged to submit their orders by mail, except in emergencies. This zine was founded in March 1972, and is running down to a fold in August 1990. After 18½ years of non-stop publishing, we are running out of steam. All games, however, will be finished by me by flyer.

*Diplomacy is a registered Trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md. "Bushwacker" is the name of a comic strip character I created back in 1940. That's his picture on the masthead.

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NO MORE GAME OPENINGS, and I don't believe we need any more Standbys, but if anyone wants to sign up for "Five Italies," just send me \$4.00. You don't have to worry about your games being orphaned. I will finish them.

We TRADE with many other zines on an all-for-all basis. These Trades will continue through August 1990 unless I specifically notify you otherwise. If anyone wishes to continue to trade for DIPLOMAG, the Mensa Diplomacy SIG bimonthly newsletter, after that, I'll be glad to oblige. I'll sub to some other zines after August.

Anyone wishing to SUB for the remaining issues of this zine, simply add 50¢ for every month from now to August. The subsequent game flyers will also be available at 50¢ an issue. SAMPLE copies are still 50¢.

This issue contains reports on ANCIENT EMPIRES III (1989IR ac10) and FIVE ITALIES (1990B ug12). It also contains End-game statements from the players in the just-completed game of ATLANTICA III (1988AR oa01).

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HOBBY AWARDS BALLOT ENCLOSED

In each of the four categories, the number of nominees has been pared down to five entries by the Nominations Committee. Please note that the Melinda Holley Award has been retitled "for quantity participation in the hobby." There is no longer any reference to gender. The Committee concluded that there was no room in the hobby for sexist discrimination. As such, everyone now feels much better about this Award.

For the record, I wish to report that I did not vote for myself under the Don Miller Award. Twelve people received initial nominations, some from two or more sources. As I said in a letter to the rest of the Committeemen, I felt that there were at least eight other nominees whom I would rate ahead of myself on that list. So, obviously, at least one person whom I voted for did not make the cutoff. (more)

Nine literary works were nominated for the Walker Award. I had made one nomination, the serious 3-part article "Power Politics from the Viewpoint of a Diplomacy Player," by Allan Calhamer, which appeared in DIPLOMACY WORLD #54. This did not make the final list. I can't say I'm happy with every one of the 5 final entries, but there are three humorous ones on the list, any one of which would make a fine Award winner.

I'm similarly pleased with the nominations processes for the Koning (Best Player) and Holley (Best Participation) Awards. I don't plan to campaign in print for any of the Walker, Koning or Holley nominees. However, I do hope most of you know that for three years in a row, the Nominating Committees were frustrated in their efforts to nominate Larry Peery for the Miller Award, as he kept declaring himself ineligible as the Awards Coordinator. At one point, we jokingly suggested that Larry be kidnapped until the votes could be counted, so he could win this Award. Well, now that Larry has stepped down from the Chair, he can't stop us from voting for him! As far as I'm concerned, only Tom Nash and Larry Peery are first water condidates for the 1990 Miller Award. The rest of us are just window dressing to fill up the empty space. So, I'm hoping that we can repay Larry for his unending services for 1989, and for 1986, 87 and 88 as well, with this year's Don Miller Award.

And if I may be serious for a moment, the Awards program desperately needs your money to continue awarding the personal plaques. In the past three years, just three people have been contributing the bulk of the funds. Last year, I was many dollars in the hole, paid out of my own pocket, for the cost of the plaques and their mailing, until late October, when it became possible for the remainder of the 1989 Holley DipCon Fund to be contributed to the Awards Fund. To put it bluntly, this year may be the last year we can have these attractive individual plaques presented to the winners, unless we can raise at least \$70 or \$80 in contributions. (I'm Treasurer for the Awards).

To correct a misprint on the Ballot, the winners get to keep individual plaques. They may also receive the loan of the big, perpetual plaques for about nine months, if they wish to display them. These big plaques have brass plates for the display of from 12 to 15 winners' names over the years, so they will last us for many more years. Also, the Ballot does not make it clear that they are supposed to be mailed to: Ron Cameron, 7821 Bouma, La Palma, CA 90623. DO NOT MAIL THEM TO ME!

(I've corrected the enclosed copy of the ballet to show a return address, but other copies, mailed out without this, are starting to show up in my mailbox. They will be forwarded at my expense to Ron, uncounted, but I have to open the envelopes to learn what is inside them.)

Oh, and in case any question is raised, there is nothing in the rules to prevent a person from having two or more of his articles nominated for the Walker Award in the same year.

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RUSTY BOLT AWARDS RESULTS

We're taking the liberty of reprinting Tom Nash's report from BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, as the results are too detailed to permit a brief summary. We were pleased with most of the results. For Most Eagerly Awaited Fold we gave a half-vote to KNOWN GAMES OPENINGS, which did not win or place; however, it seems that KGO may have in fact folded, so there may have been no need for such a wish. My vote for Most Boring Topic was "Computers." You certainly didn't think I'd voted for "The MNC Split"!

And, I'm Certainly very pleased that both Tom Nash and Eric Brosius were recognized as first and second for 1989 Upstart of the Year. Seven of my 13 first choice votes went to winners. (See Page 5 for report).

THE 1990 Hobby CENSUS Is Out

Julie Martin completed and mailed out this Census at the end of March. It was originally going to appear around October or November and be called the "1989 Census," but the delay enabled a few last-minute address changes to be included, and "1990" sounds much more up-to-date. This Census includes the names and addresses of 731 Diplomats in the U.S. and Canada (plus a couple of APO numbers), up from 704 in '88.

The increase is in Canadian members, whose total has risen from 40 to 120, mainly due to the inclusion of the CDO membership list. The U.S. total has dropped from 666 to 611. This would mean that the Canadians have one-fifth as many members as the Americans, with one-tenth the population. In fact, as mailing lists were obtained from only 32 zines, it means that some people in the States did not get recorded. (I believe the Canadian list is virtually complete, thanks to a very thorough job by Randy Grigsby).

One could pick nits about items like Larry Peery's new address not being shown, or someone being listed under his nom de guerre rather than his real name, but these are trivial. This is a well-printed report on 16 8½ x 11 pages, well worth the price of \$1.00. To order your copy, send your dollar to: Julie Martin, 17601 Lisa Dr., Rockville, Md. 20855.

Julie has announced that this is the last such Census she will prepare. The hobby will have to find someone else to take over this job for next year. Perhaps this can be resolved at DipCon in June. Anyone interested?

FYI, the largest number of hobbyists are reported in California (97). There is a second place tie of 41 between New York and Maryland. Other States where many of us live include Pennsylvania with 33, Texas with 32, 29 in both Illinois and New Jersey, 27 in Virginia, and 25 in both Ohio and Washington. The Province of Ontario is home to 60 people. These are all areas warranting consideration as the site of future DipCons. (See next page for my State-by-State breakdown).

For the record, there are 18 Diplomats listed as living in North Carolina, site of the 1990 DipCon. This is the next highest number for any State, except for being tied with Massachusetts.

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SPEAKING OF HOBBY NUMBERS...

JOHN BOARDMAN recently quoted me, and answered my question, in the hobby press. In discussing the lack of "New Blood" in the Postal hobby, John said, "As Fred Davis said, there aren't many wide-eyed teenagers in the hobby any more." And the answer, John says, "can be summed up in one word - Nintendo."

John may be about 75% right in his answer. However, the decreasing lack of literacy in America also plays a part. You don't have to be a bookworm or a geography or political science buff to play Dip, but it helps. The scarcity of Diplomacy sets on the nation's toystore shelves is another problem. I know of only two shops in Baltimore, one in the Inner Harbor and one in Columbia, where the game can regularly be found on sale. The flyer in the box gives a good plug for Postal Dip, but first the prospect has to buy the set. There was a time when Diplomacy was the only game in town, but now there's a lot of competition. Anyone have any suggestions for how we can increase game sales or otherwise get more publicity out to potential players?

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Comparison of Numbers of Hobby Members by States and Provinces, Compared with the 1988 Hobby Census:

The Regional breakdowns are the same as those which I've used to report on prior Censuses back to at least 1978. These are the same as the Regions used by the late IDA, except for always placing Arizona in the Pacific rather than the Central Region.

<u>Atlantic Region</u>				<u>Central Region</u>				<u>Pacific Region</u>			
	1988	1990	(+/-)		1988	1990	(+/-)		1988	1990	(+/-)
Conn.	13	9	-4	Ala.	3	2	-1	Alaska	5	1	-4
Del.	0	1	+1	Ark.	5	1	-4	Ariz.	6	9	+3
D.C.	6	7	+1	Calo.	9	8	-1	Calif.	74*	97	+23
Fla.	15	12*	-3	Idaho	0	0	-	Hawaii	5	2	-3
Ga.	10	12	+2	Ill.	33	29	-4	Nev.	2	1	-1
Maine	0	3	+3	Ind.	12	5*	-7	Ore.	13	10	-3
Md.	60	41*	-19	Iowa	3	3	-	Wash.	21	25	+4
Mass.	26	18*	-8	Kans.	6	8	+2		126	145	+19
N.H.	4	4	-	Ky.	6	5	-1				
N.J.	24	29	+5	La.	8	10	+2	<u>Canada</u>			
N.Y.	43	41	-2	Mich.	14*	15*	+1	Alberta	4*	13	+9
N.C.	17	18	+1	Minn.	15	14	-1	B.C.	4	8	+4
Pa.	33	33	-	Mo.	10	7	-3	Manitoba	3	3	-
R.I.	4	3	-1	Mont.	0	0	-	N.B.	0	0	-
S.C.	3	8	+5	Nebr.	3	4	+1	Nfld.	0	1	+1
Vt.	4	3	-1	N.D.	0	0	-	N.S.	1	1	-
Va.	53	27*	-26	N.Mex.	0	0	-	Ont.	19*	60	+41#
W.V.	3	2	-1	Ohio	23	25	+2	P.E.I.	0	0	-
P.R.	0	0	-	Okla.	5	4	-1	Quebec	7*	28	+21
	318	271	-47	S.D.	3	0	-3	Sask.	2	6	+4
Atlantic	318	271	-47	Tenn.	11	7	-4		40*	120	+80##
Central	225	195	-30	Texas	38	32	-6	# +18 from 1986 Ont. total			
Pacific	126	145	+19	Utah	3	1	-2	of 42.			
Canadian	40	120	+80	Wis.	14	14	-	## +43 from 1986 Canadian total			
	706@	731	+25	Wye.	0	0	-	of 77.			
				225	195	-30					
U.S.A.	666@	611	-55	(USA total for 1986 was around 1025, after elimination of							
Canada	40	120	+80	duplications, deadwood and hoaxes).							

* = Areas which appear to have been undercounted in the years indicated.

@ = Adjusted totals for U.S.A.

Note: APO's not separated for either 1988 or '90. There are 6 APO's in 1990, 3 for N.Y. and 3 for CA. I did not make an APO count for 1988.

I do not believe that the declining figures for the U.S. in 1988 and 1990 (as compared to the 1986 totals in that year's BLACK & BLUE BOOK) indicate a real decline in hobby participation. Only 32 zines submitted their mailing lists for the 1990 Census, which means that about 40 zines did not do so. The Canadian totals are probably very accurate, as they are based on the membership records of the Canadian Diplomacy Organization. Since Canada has one-tenth the population of the U.S., it is most likely that U.S. participation in the hobby is much greater than five times the number of Canadians.

To cite just two examples of undercount, the circulation list for DIPLOMACY WORLD is not included in either the '88 or '90 totals, nor are the Electronic mail zines included.

There has undoubtedly been some dropoff in hobby participation, due to competition from the professional PBM and electronic gaming businesses and the increasing difficulty in finding a copy of the Diplomacy game on store shelves (to bring in new blood). When people do buy the game, they now find a flyer on Postal gaming in the box, but we have to try to do something to increase sales to begin with.

Still, the best way to get an accurate Census is to make sure that the next time one is taken, every publisher in the hobby submits a copy of his mailing list. Perhaps there should be a requirement that every publisher has to send in such a list at least once a year to maintain his listing in the ZINE REGISTER. What do you think?

1990 AWARDS BALLOT

NAME: _____

HOBBY ROLE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Vote for one choice only in each category. The above ID portion MUST be completed. Receipt deadline is JUNE 11, 1990 !

1990 DON MILLER AWARD

For service to the hobby;

- _____ FRED DAVIS: For 18 years of BUSHWACKER & work with Mensa Sig & Variant Bank
_____ STEVE HEINOWSKI: For work with the Boardman Number Service
_____ MELINDA ANN HOLLEY: GMing numerous games in the hobby, her 'Zine REBEL and work with EVERYTHING
_____ TOM NASH: Publishing ZINE REGISTER and BEEN THERE, DONE THAT
_____ LARRY PEERY: DIPCON '89, 'Zine DIPLOMACY WORLD and hobby census work

1990 JOHN KONING AWARD

For outstanding play of Diplomacy;

- _____ EDI BIRSAN: '89 DIPCON Championship
_____ GARY BEHNEN: Play by Mail play in 1989
_____ HOHN CHO: '89 DIPCON Championship
_____ STEVE COOLEY: Numerous FTF Championships, excellent play in DIPLOMACY WORLD Demo game
_____ FRED HYATT: Winner CANCON '89

1990 MELINDA ANN HOLLEY AWARD

For quantity participation in the hobby;

- _____ KATHY CARUSO: 'Zine KATHY'S KORNER, Orphan Service help
_____ LINDA COURTEMANCHE: Subzine HIGH INERTIA
_____ JIM DIEHL: Multitude of games; no one's ever met him in person
_____ MELINDA HOLLEY: 'Zine REBEL and multitude of games played and GM'd
_____ CATHY OZOG: Overseas participation and 'Zine CATHY'S RAMBLINGS

1990 ROD WALKER AWARD

For literary excellence;

- _____ LARRY BOTIMER: Article UNABASHED BOTIMER, 'PLAYING ITALY' in 'Zine KATHY'S KORNER # 155
_____ FRANCOIS CUERRIER: Article 'LOWBALLING' in PASSCHENDAELE #97
_____ JACK GARRETT: Article 'NEW GAME START' in DARK MIRROR #6
_____ GREG MAYNARD: Article 'OR: WHY MY NAME IS NOW MUD' in THE LAST RESORT
_____ GREG & LINDA MAYNARD: Article SURVIVAL AS A DIPLOMAT'S WIFE in PENGUIN DIP #30

Return Ballots to: Ron Cameron, 7821 Bouma Cir., La Palma, CA 90623

Please vote early. Deadline of June 11th will come early. Publishers are encouraged (begged) to reprint this ballot in their very next issues. Should anyone wish to receive a copy of the articles nominated for the Walker Award, send \$1.00 and your request to RON CAMERON, 7821 Bouma, LaPalma, CA 90623, OR FRED DAVIS 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Winners will receive perpetual plaques, nicely engraved. This COSTS MONEY so please accompany your vote with a dollar donation.

The committee this year was to be indeed complimented. It was no easy task to pick a final ballot as the MILLER AWARD category alone had, counting multiple nominations, 20 nominees. 2 Canadians were asked to serve on the committee and 2 women, all for various reasons, mostly workload or personal problems, declined. However, the 1990 committee needs no introduction as their feats and contributions in and to the hobby are too well known. A good mix of pubbers and excellent players. Heartfelt thanks to each: GARY BEHNEN, MARK BERCH, FRED DAVIS, DAVID MCCRUMB, TIM MOORE, MARK PETERS. It will be fun to see which of the finest are awarded their due at DIPCON. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

RON CAMERON, HOBBY AWARDS COORDINATOR

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1989 North American Rusty Bolt Awards!

(from BEEN THERE, DONE THAT #14, April 1990)

I must say I was pleasantly surprised. 18 people voted in at least one category, more than a few of them folks who don't even see *BTDT*. And, in the spirit of a not too serious poll, I can't quite shake the feeling that I lost a few ballots along the way. Good thing I don't run the Runestone, eh? There was a minimal amount of perfectly legal vote buying and corruption. There was also one blatantly illegal attempt by an ex-Imperator to stuff the ballot box with the votes of non-hobbyists. I threw all those votes out. Nice try Doug Acheson... oops, I'm keeping that confidential. Anyway, the envelope, please! And the winners are:

1. *The "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time" Award - The 1989 Dipcon scoring system!* As expected, this one was a runaway, with 12 of the 14 votes cast.
2. *The Blunt Instruments Memorial Award for the Most Eagerly Anticipated Fold - Paschendale* with 6 1/2 votes, an easy winner over runner up *Kaissa*.
3. *The Patience of Job Award for Most Unreasonably Delayed Zine - Praxis*, with 6 votes over *Dark Mirror*, with 3. Also receiving single votes were *Fiat Bellum*, *Perelandra*, *Vertigo*, and a write-in for *Excelsior*.
4. *The Fred Davis - Bruce Geryk Hobby Odd Couple Award for bizarre collaborators - Hopcroft-Carrier* for the *KGO ZD*, *Mach II*, with 6 votes, over *Hood-Peery*, for *Dip World*, with 4. Caruso-Berch picked up a couple, and Hood-Nash even garnered one.
5. *MNC Memorial Dead Horse Award for Most Boring and Overdone Topic for Hobby Discussion - The MNC Split*, with 4 votes, edged out PBEMers getting no respect, and the DipCon scoring system, with 3 each (hmmm... so the consensus of the hobby is that the 1989 DipCon scoring system was a lousy idea, but let's drop it. I see).
6. *The William Whyte Award for Most Distinctive Hobby Personality - A close one, in fact a TIE! Jimmy Williams*, and *Doug Acheson*, with 4 votes each, share this coveted award, just edging out *Robert Sacks*, with 3 2/3. Robert Acheson pulled in 2 votes himself, so the Acheson family shows itself to be most... uh... whatever... in the hobby! Jimmy, if there's any more at home like you, god help us, get 'em in the hobby quick, afore the Canuck boys trounce ya next year!
7. *The Don Williams "Hey, Well, Hey, etc" Award for Butchering the English Language - Another TIE! Last year's champ, Herb Branets*, uh, I mean, *Herb Barents*, and *Kathy's Korner*, with 4 each, just edged out *Bill LaFosse's Countermeasures*, with 3. Eric Brosius placed strongly with two votes, and Ed Wroble, and/or the Eggman, got trounced with but a single token (not me!).
8. *The Gunboat Award for Stupidest Hobby Craze - Not even close. Music Playlists* ran away with this one, with 6 votes. Feuding and Gunboat both pulled 3, and PBEM play pulled a couple (obviously, these idiots have never tried it!). Oh, and BTW, editor's playlist while typing these votes: *Richard Thompson - (Words, Music), A Collection of Unreleased and Rare Material, 1967-1976*.
9. *The Running Down to a Fold Award for Most Depressing Hobby Concept - A close one, but Brad Wilson's Ideal Hobby* with 5, edges out *Feuding as an Art Form*, as embodied by Chris Carrier, with 4. And I fail to see why two people voting in this, and you know who you are, think I am a depressing concept!
10. *Cannon Fodder Award for Incompetent Play - Yet another close one! But, Doug Acheson*, at 3 1/2, edges *Jim Diehl*, at 3. David Hood picked up 2, and Robert Cheek 1 3/4. Lots of the nominees picked up a single vote, or fraction thereof. One player, voting for Mr. Cheek, said: "To really appreciate his play, you have to play FtF." Sometimes that's true. Anyone who may have thought Doug Winship was a baaaad PBEM player, to see him eliminated every time out at KenCon was a revelation of baaaadness.
11. *Flame Out of the Year - Some heavy vote buying and selling in this category! And the winner, is: Audi Jaxon*. With 6 votes she triumphed over *Mike Hopcroft* at an oh-so-close 5, *Doug Acheson* with 3, and *Mark Lilleht* (my personal favorite here) with 3. Unlike many of the nominees, Audi is still in the hobby, and could make a run for 2 years in a row!
12. *Who, Him Again? Award for Tiresome and Boring Letter Writer - Robert Sacks*, with 3 2/3, over *Mark Berch* with 3, *Mark Nelson* with 2, *Francois* with 2, and a bunch of folks with 1 or a fraction. Mickey Preston was the only one nominated who didn't receive a vote. Every nominee named Mark (or Marc), all 4 of them (Hannah and Lew as well) received votes! And yet, in the end, a Robert beat the Marks.
13. *Upstart of the Year - Ahem. Now, how do I do this delicately? Yes, in yet another close race, Tom Nash*, with 3 3/4, edges *Eric Brosius* with 3, and *Jeff McKee* and the zine *Upstart* with 2 each. *Glenn Overby* had 1 1/4.

Hey, I had fun, let's do it again next year! The winners in each category will receive a nice, laser printed certificate; maybe, if and when I feel like it and get around to it, but don't hold your breath...

MORE TRAIN SERVICE COMING

Despite the anti-rail bias of the Administration, which seems to believe that flying and driving are the only ways to travel, there is some good news on the rail front.

In the past ten years, there has been a 376% increase in ridership on the Los Angeles-San Diego trains, and a 61% increase in rail passengers between New York, Albany and Buffalo. Some long-distance trains are completely sold out every day, and a lot more people could be accommodated if old "Read my lips" would give AMTRAK the money to buy new cars. Again, this year, Congress appropriated the money to keep the system going, whereas the Administration budget would have wiped out all of AMTRAK except for the Northeast Corridor. And some new services are about to begin:

"Spring 1990" - Daytime train service between Charlotte, Raleigh and New York, cars combined with the "Palmetto" between N.Y. and Rocky Mount. Partially funded by the State of North Carolina, just in time for DipCon. Thankyou, North Carolina. Prior service was only in the wee hours of the morning. Raleigh serves Chapel Hill.

July 1990 - San Diego Bayside trolley line opens between AMTRAK station and 12th and Imperial.

July 1990 - First section of Los Angeles light rail line (Blue Line) opens between Downtown Convention Center and Long Beach. This replaces the fast Pacific Electric line which the Powers That Be allowed to be closed around 1956-7. Fortunately, the right-of-way had been undisturbed.

September 1990 - 3.3 mile extension of Washington Metro's Red Line from Silver Spring to Wheaton opens. Wheaton station will be deepest station in North America, as it borrows through some hills. Station a few short blocks from home of the late Don Miller.

January 1991 - All long-distance AMTRAK trains from New York will leave from Penn Sta. Grand Central will serve only commuter trains and some to Connecticut.

Spring 1991 - 3.8 mile extension of Washington's Yellow Line to Van Dorn St. in Northern Virginia suburbs. Tunnel to Anacostia will open in the Fall (Green Line).

Fall 1991 - Opening of ^{rail} commuter line from Fredericksburg, Virginia to Alexandria or downtown Washington.

"Late 1991" - Los Angeles Blue Line will be operational from downtown Long Beach to 7th & Flower Sts. in D/T L.A., where connection will be made with the Red Line subway.

And, sometime in 1992, Chicago will get rapid transit service to Midway Airport on the new Southwest Line. This is only 40 years after it was proposed.

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MichiCon will be held in the Southfield Civic Center, near Detroit, over the weekend of June 22-24. That's the same weekend as DipCon, but if you can't make it to DipCon, perhaps you can get to MichiCon. I don't know whether there will be a Diplomacy Tournament, but Herb Barents will be there, so I guess you could ask him for all the details. Herb's address: 17187 Wildemere, Detroit, Mich. 48221.

ORIGINS will be held in Atlanta, Ga., the weekend after DipCon (June 29-July 1). That will be the biggest boardgaming con of the year. Some people are planning to combine trips to DipCon and ORIGINS. (Atlanta is about 350 miles from Chapel Hill). I don't have any details on ORIGINS, but several publications contain this information. Check the magazine rack at your local gamestores.

REQUEST FOR SEPARATION OF SEASONS GRANTED. GM FAILED TO SPELL OUT RETREAT RULES.

When I printed the Fall 263 report, I listed the following units as being dislodged: Carthage A Mauretania; Egyptian F Parthia; Macedonian F Ionian; and Seleucus A Assyria. I gave a list of options for those Retreats, but I failed to state that the players also had the option of removing these units from the board, and rebuilding new units at home, except in the case where a specific Retreat order had been included with the Fall orders. (This is not a Davis variant, where the OTB retreat order is not permitted unless there are no available vacant spaces).

Also, I should have reminded everyone that the very unusual Rule 11 requires that any unit which retreats on the board must HOLD in place on the following move season. So, I sent postcards out to all of the players having Retreats, and spelled out both of these rules for them. I offered to allow them to make a "(R) OTB move and rebuild" order if they wished. In any case, with the situation being thus clarified, I am honoring the request(s) for a separation of seasons.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
ANTIGONIS (Pankowsky):	No change	4 (—)
CARTHAGE (B. Wilson):	NMR! Will play one short. No change in (R) of A Maur.-Fcz.	4 (+1) (3 units)
EGYPT (Baty):	No change. F Parthia had (R) to Persian Gulf per orders.	5 (—)
MACEDONIA (Bargender):	No change. F Ionian (R) Athens.	5 (—)
NEW CARTHAGE (Cheek):	No change.	5 (—)
ROME (Nash):	No change	5 (—)
SELEUCUS (Perlmutter):	A Assyria (R) OTB. Build A Media.	3 (—)

I have SPRING 262 orders on hand from nearly everybody. These may be changed, if you wish, based on the results of the Winter orders. Remember that the Retreated units must Hold. I've already made a note to that effect on the pertinent orders, so you don't have to send new orders just to cover that point.

PRESS:

NEW CARTHAGE to Carthage: A false enhancement (sic) can easily last a lifetime.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Tom Nash (^{ROME}EGYPT), effective May 9, 1990: 202 Settler's Road, St. Simon's Island, GA. 31522.

DEADLINE for SPRING 262 B.C. orders will be SATURDAY, June 2, 1990. Telephone deadline will be Friday, June 1st, but I may not be home that night. Sorry for the two-day delay in the deadline, but I expect to be busy on both May 31 and June 1st. I'll accept phoned orders up to 10 p.m. on both of those nights, but if I'm not home you may try to leave orders with whoever answers the phone. But, you'd better mail them in to be on the safe side.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Brad Wilson has NMR'd, and the party who would be first in line as a Standby is not immediately available. Therefore, I'm going to ask for back-up orders for CARTHAGE from: Bo Johnson, 302 Breese Terr., Madison, Wis. 53705.

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ATLANTICA III - 1988AR oa01

END-GAME STATEMENTS

The only Statement received came from Ron Brown (USA), the co-winner of this game. Nothing heard from Doug Acheson (Canada), the other co-winner, or any of the rest of you guys. (Although Doug did send me a copy of the long-delayed CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES zine, which has returned to life after a 3½ month hiatus). Com'on, you guys, hobby tradition says that at least the top three players are supposed to submit end-game statements. We'll wait one more month for some more of them.

Atlantica III - 1988AR oa01
U.S.A. -- Ron Brown

I was quite disappointed with the outcome of this game. Though a two-way draw is fine, I felt the game was just beginning and was looking forward to interesting battles. I was surprised nearly every season to discover that the other players were not making any serious efforts to stop my expansion. For example, I could easily have been prevented from taking Mauretania and Morocco.

In any case, someone apparently commented that Europe and America were too far apart. How can that be when from Minnesota to Poland is only a couple of moves? I enjoy Fred's variants with the "boxes" and Army/Fleet modules because they allow for battles that appear on the map to be far from the homeland. The fact that I was preparing for a battle for control of the Mediterranean and for Eastern Europe in the third game year underscores this.

Regarding the Wild West supply centre, I agree it gives U.S.A. too strong a starting position. Still, if Canada and C.S.A. had allied at the beginning, I could have been in serious trouble.

Thanks to Steve Smith and Doug Acheson for being reasonable allies and to Fred for his usual prompt and professional GMing. I am going to miss Bushwacker and these variants.

I recently sent a draft version of a proposed eight-player Atlantica IV to four of the players in this game, for their opinions and comments. Mexico is added as the 8th Great Power. If anyone else would like a copy of Atlantica IV, it's free to 1988AR players, and \$1.00 to anyone else. I will want to see if anyone finds any flaws in the design before I complete the rules.

* * * * *

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

MICHAEL HOPCROFT has been recontacted. He is not in a hospital. However, his circumstances are rather grim, both financially and environmentally. Mike will be unable to rejoin the Postal hobby for some time to come, but he'd enjoy hearing from his friends. If some of you would care to send him a copy of your zines, or just a "hello" letter, they would serve as get-well cards. Mike has given me permission to print his address. This is: 1613 SE Main St., Portland, Oregon 97214.

STEVE DOUBLEDAY will not be coming to America after all. The job he was hoping to get here fell through. He continues to publish his zine, GALLIMAUFY, from England. Too bad. We were preparing to introduce him to the cuisine of Maryland crabcakes and chicken. If you're interesting in Trading with him, his address remains at: 46 Whielden St., Amersham, Bucks. HP7 0HU, ENGLAND.

FIVE ITALIES - 1990B ug12

SPRING 1902

EVERYBODY WANTS TO GO TO SWITZERLAND. RUFFY AND BOLOGNA BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF IONIAN "B". GAME'S FIRST CONVOY TO TUNIS "C". IMBROGLIO NMR'S.

NOTE 1. I have received a letter from Malcolm Smith in Norway informing me that his father died suddenly and unexpectedly on Jan. 24th. Malc was shaken by this disaster, and ceased playing and publishing for nearly three months. His zine, BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY, will resume publication soon. He had not yet seen the April BUSH when he wrote, so he asked whether he had been replaced in this game. We're very sorry to hear of your loss, Malc. While you're out of this game, you will continue to receive BUSH.

NOTE 2. Andy York, the new Italy "B" player, advises me that the new name for this country will be BOLOGNA. That starts with "B", and seems to be a perfect name for a Power involved in this goofy game.

"A" RUFFY (Kendter): A Venice A-Piedmont A. A Switz. (S) A Venice A-Piedmont A.
(5) F Tunis A-Ionian Sea B. F Adriatic B (S) F Tunis A-Ionian B.
F Naples A-TYS A.
"B" BOLOGNA (York): A Venice B-Switz. F Tunis B-Ionian B. F TYS B (S) F Tunis-
(4) Ionian B. A Rome B-Tuscany B.
"C" CIGERONI (Overby): F Tunis C-Ionian C. A Rome C-Tunis C. F TYS C (C) A ROME C-
(4) Tunis C. A Venice C-Switz.
"D" DELI (B. Wilson): F Naples D-Ionian D. A Venice D-Switz. F Tunis D-Ionian E.
(4) F Adriatic E (S) F Tunis D-Ionian E.
"E" IMBROGLIO (Green): NMR. A's Venice E & Piedmont D (H). F's TYS E & Tunis E
(4) all (H).

AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, everybody who voted disapproved of the idea of adding more Supply Centers in Sardinia. So, we will continue with just 21 SC's, and a V.C. of 11.

NO PRESS. Well, let's see if we get any remarks about Bologna in the Deli, or vice-versa. Hey, if we could change the spelling of "Imbreglio" to "Embreglie," every country but one would start with the same letter as its official designation.

Ed Green had assured me, absolutely, positively, that he would return to this game in Spring 1902, so I don't know what happened. Ed, please contact me ASAP. In the meanwhile, I'm again going to ask Tom Nash to submit back-up orders for IMBROGLIO for Fall 1902. Tom Nash's new address, eff. May 9, 1990, will be: 202 Settler's Rd., St. Simon's Is., GA. 31522.

DEADLINE for FALL 1902 is SATURDAY, June 2, 1990. Telephone deadline will be Friday, June 1st, but I may not be home that night until late. I'll accept phoned orders up to 10 p.m. on both May 31 and June 1, but you will make me much happier by sending in your orders by mail!

* * * * *

SKY HIGH

We breathed a sigh of relief when the Hubble Space Telescope was successfully launched on April 24th. We knew that if anything had gone wrong, the bean counters would never have permitted another one to be built in this decade, meaning a similar telescope would not have been launched until about 2010.

Now that HST is in orbit and in working order, a great number of astronomical discoveries will start coming through in the next few months. It's highly probable that HST will confirm the presence of planets circling other suns, which in turn may stimulate mankind to launch some really deep space probes. It may also be able
(more)

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to see backward in time almost to the time of the Big Bang. I've jokingly said that HST is going to show us a man with a long white beard, wearing a robe, proclaiming Maxwell's Equation for the propagation of light.

Whatever HST shows us, I'm sure it will verify J.B.S. Maldane's statement that "The Universe is not only queerer than we think; it is queerer than we can ever think."

* * * * *

PLUG: Thomas Franke of West Germany is now publishing a new Diplomacy zine called DIPLOMAT. This is mostly written in English, as Thomas is trying to form a bridge between the various national hobbies, and he realizes that English is the only language in which everyone can communicate. He is running two International games on six or seven week deadlines. The first such game includes three Germans and one player each from Belgium, France, Japan and the U.S. I believe he is taking names for a third such game. There is no Game Fee. Just send him \$5 or \$10 to maintain a sub to DIPLOMAT. Thomas' address: Rumelweg 5, D-2900 Oldenburg, WEST GERMANY.

There has been much interesting discussion on Germany reunification and related topics. It is hard to believe that, after 45 years, the two Germanies will to all intents and purposes become a united country on July 2, 1990!

(I was supposed to print this plug two months ago, but it got misplaced).

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