



COSTAGUANA

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Alleluia and amen. This is COSTAGUANA, a journal of postal Diplomacy and dioramic doodles, secreted into the mailstream by Conrad F. von Metzke, P.O. Box 27273, San Diego, CA 92128. Telephones: Home (619) 276-2937, Office (619) 487-6384. Subscriptions 20c per copy in units of ten. Game fees: Current recipients \$3, new people \$7. Game fees include a subscription to the magazine for the duration of your game (unless you drop out without notice).

THIRD GAME: At this writing we have five players for sure: Steve Cartier, John Walker, John Caruso, Jake Walters and Michael Pustilnik. We may have a sixth, Steve Arnawoodian, but I'm waiting to hear from him confirming; someone, somewhere, apparently announced that Rod Walker would be playing in this game. That is not true, and I have never said that to anyone nor even hinted at it. (Some readers will remember that Rod resigned from his position in 1983AC not too long ago, citing lack of time.) Anyway, both Steve and John Caruso were misled by this rumor and signed up under that assumption; I wrote back correcting the error, and John has replied that he'll play anyway, but Steve hasn't answered yet.

So - we have either one spot or two left.

In replying to Steve and John, I also told them that I declined to use preference lists for country assignments. I have since changed my mind, and for this game I will use them as long as all seven players submit them. I have lists from Caruso, Walters and Walker. I need lists from Cartier and Pustilnik. Steve A., if you do decide to play, I know you sent a list but I'm sorry, I can't locate it any more. Please try again.

And finally - in spite of there being just one or two slots open, I'd deeply appreciate other publishers mentioning this game. That's because I think everyone among the current readership who is interested, has already joined, and I have no other sources to tap.

SILLIES: Michael Pustilnik states that he believes *AMUOUS* should be "ambiguous." Yeah, I'd say so....and I sure got suckered on that "logical symbol" bit, didn't I?

TRIVIA QUIZ: The resounding thud of responses plopping into my mailbox indicates strongly to me that you out there aren't big on my trivia quizzes. Wrong type of questions? Sorry, that's the kind of quiz I put together; so maybe we'll try another one of these in about 1997, eh?

The winner - and only entrant - was Rod Walker. Considering that I stole several of the questions from his prior quizzes, he ought to be ineligible, but I'm not going to push the point considering the competition. Rod got seven correct, and there is a dispute on an eighth which I'll concede because I can no longer locate my source. Even discounting the ones I stole from him, not bad, sir!

For those who particularly care, here are the answers:

1. The Roman general Ezio sings his famous impassioned plea to the title character in Giuseppe Verdi's "Attila." The duet from which the line is drawn is a marvellous tour-de-force for two good baritones, and I have had a tremendous bit of fun singing Attila to the Ezio of my voice teacher, Robert Austin.

2. Andorra, a tiny country in the Pyrenees (oops), has as joint heads of state the President of France and the Bishop of Urgel (Spain). The latter is presumably a Spanish citizen; the former is required by French law to be a citizen of France.

3. The actual title of "Schubert's Serenade" is "Ständchen." In English, that word means "Serenade."

4. Nebraska originally had the two-letter designation NB (avoiding confusion with Nevada, which for like reasons was assigned NV). However, it quickly developed that most of the mail destined for the Canadian province of New Brunswick was going to Nebraska, so in response to a request from Canada Post NB was changed to NE.

5. "Wrought" is an obsolete past tense of "to work." Another well-known usage is in the first message ever sent by telegraph, "What hath God wrought?"

6. Well, here's where Rod and I disagree. We concur that the Danes stoutly opposed Hitler's Jewish policies, and saved almost all Danish Jews from extermination (by sneaking them off to Sweden. But Rod tells me that, according to his references, most of Bulgaria's Jews were in fact gassed. My sources tell me that over 80% of Bulgarian Jews survived for reasons rather similar to those in Denmark. According to my facts, therefore, Denmark and Bulgaria are the only Nazi-occupied countries where a majority of the Jewish population survived the war. But Rod says otherwise....

7. Nepal's two national games are soccer and bagchal. I would dearly love to tell you all about bagchal, but I'll have to pass; I was hoping one of you would get it right so I could ask you. (Trivial aside: In Devangari, the official language of Nepal, soccer is called "soccer.")

8. The various dialects of German are among the most disparate of all world languages; it is literally true that people from some German-speaking areas cannot understand those from others. Liechtenstein and German Switzerland have one of the most curious dialects of all. And a pocket-watch in Liechtenstein and some areas of Switzerland is a "Klorettile," which is a Germanic contraction of the French phrase "Quelle heure est-il?" which means "What time is it?"

9. The music to our National Anthem was borrowed from what amounts to a popular drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven," composed as the official 'anthem' of the Anacreontic Society of America by a man whose name I've forgotten even though I've sung the thing a dozen times.

10. A lot (or loth) weighs in at around 15 grams. It is a Central European measure which gave way to metrics in the late 1800s. It was used, for instance, to weigh letters in the mail; until 1873 in Hungary, it would have cost you two krajcar per loth to mail a letter from Buda to Pest.

Well, it was a tough race, but...Rod wins! Prize herewith awarded. Rod's a bright guy and well deserves a good opinion of his own knowledge and intelligence; but even so, this must be a bit of a Pyrrhic victory. Oh well, you'll live; and of course, your Pyrrh is enclosed.

TRY AGAIN? Well, just briefly. Can anyone complete the following without looking back to past issues of COSTAGUANA? (These were given to me some years ago by Eric Just of Oklahoma.)

1. Write a proper sentence using the word "and" six times consecutively.
2. Punctuate the following so that it makes sense:

Jim though John had had had had had had had had had had had had a better effect.

ANYJOURNALWHICHWAITSUNTILPAGETHREETOINTRODUCEALINEARSEPARATORTRULYSUCKS

John Walker writes, "By the way, how many issues equal a volume?" Gee, I can't remember; I once wrote it down somewhere but can't remember where any more....

Which reminds me: How many Texans does it take to change a light bulb?

OFCOURSEWECANALWAYSMAKEUPFORTHELACKOFFLINEARSEPARATORSBYINSERTINGABUNCHHERE

The limerick's furtive and mean.
You must keep it in close quarantine,
Else it slinks to the slums
Where it quickly becomes
Disorderly, drunk and obscene.

"I don't give a hoot," said a particle,
"One whit for the definite article."
"If 'Cogito sum',
"Pronounces my doom,
"Then to hell with all systems Descartesical."

A sexy young lady named Alice
Tried a dynamite stick for a phallus.
They found her vagina
In South Carolina,
And part of her anus in Dallas.

A scion of Boston society
Was pinched, and for mere inebriety.
"I shall lie in the gutter,"
Said he, "and not utter
"One word in defense of sobriety."

Five lines to a limerick's the rule;
More or less, and the author's a fool.
But this time I've but four;
I can think of no more!

LEAKYFAUCETSPEELINGPAINTCOCKROACHESANTSSTICKINGDOORSSTAINEDCARPETSDEADGRASS

As long as we're being silly, here is a little ditty I once wrote and sang for my voice instructor. Just possibly, one or two of you will appreciate it; it goes to the tune of "Se vuol ballare" from The Marriage of Figaro:

They're rationing water, and I am complying,
Even though all the sweet William is dying.
Next all the boxwood and oak trees will go,
But that's no problem, my crabgrass will grow, yes,
Crabgrass will grow, yes,
Crabgrass will grow.

(It is tough to sing when one's accompanist is busy rolling on the floor....)

BEDCBADCBAGG#ABCAF#GGF#GABGDBBABCDBGECAF#ADGF#GABGF#ADGF#GABGF#ADGABCDEF#AD

I mean, I am so absolutely sure of myself that I will guarantee a prize of one hundred dollars, valid U.S. currency, no tricks, to each and every subscriber who can tell me what that last linear separator represents. (Specifically!)

(The following is a syndicated newspaper column drawn from the Sept. 6, 1984, edition of one of the better newspapers in this part of the world, the Los Angeles Times.)

REAGANISM AND THE POLITICS OF PIETY

President Reagan's politics of piety offers the opposition a triple shot. It can be attacked, first, as a cloud over cultural diversity; next as a barrier to dealing with Moscow; and finally as a piece of hypocrisy designed to mask policies that exalt greed. But the Democrats experience great difficulty in making these points. For the fact is that the country has caught a dose of Reaganism that only time can cure.

The recent linkage of religion and politics was initiated by Jimmy Carter in 1976. Reagan one-upped him in the 1980 campaign when he described himself as a "creationist" with a literal belief in the Bible. He went a little further in seeking tax-exempt status for Bob Jones University despite its openly racist policies. He went further again when, as one of the reasons for his decision to seek reelection, he advanced "the need to bring God back into the schools."

Still, there was nothing particularly new in the comment, made in Dallas during the Republican convention last month, that "religion and politics are necessarily related." Neither is there anything mysterious about the right arguments to make against that approach.

The Founding Fathers were powerfully influenced by the rationalism of the 18th Century. They wrote the separation of church and state into the

GAME TWO - Fall 1901 Builds

First of all, let me note that Jim Stevens has moved:

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Rome, NY 13440
(315) 339-3095

Next, one player suggests that if obtaining a Boardman Number for this game involves any expense or trouble, then we not bother. I agree. However, I am unaware that expense is involved, and as for trouble, it involves writing but a single letter - which I've already done. I can only presume that eventually we'll hear that we've been legitimized. If not, possibly the hobby needs to select a new Custodian of the Numbers? Then again, does it really much matter?

AUSTRIA: + a tri, a bud, a vie. Has: a's rum, ser, tri, vie, bud; f gre (6).
ENGLAND: + f lvp. Has: a nwy; f's lvp, nth, nwg (4).
FRANCE: + f bre, f mar. Has: a's spa, por; f's bre, mar, iri (5)
GERMANY: + a ber, f kie. Has: a's hol, ruh, ber; f's kie, den (5).
ITALY: +f nap. Has: a's tyo, tun; f's nap, ion (4).
RUSSIA: Has: a's gal, stp; f bot (3).
TURKEY: + f con, f smy. Has: a's bul, sev; f's con, smy, bla (5).

We now have three people available to stand by in this game: Lu Henry, Doug Beyerlein and Konrad Baumeister.

Spring 1902 Moves are due Monday, October 22, 1984. (Tentative moves on file for Turkey.)

WARSZAWA NEUTERS: It sure looks to us like Konrad is in the game. If he's not, then who's playing Russia?

JAMUL: Despite the occasional printing of "moves," Russia is obviously in civil disorder.

WEMBLEYJUNIORMARJORIESPROCKETGRUNGEGOBOWRENCHDOCMATTREDSIDEBOT TOMBOOBERMOKI

1983AC - Fall 1905 Builds

England builds A Lon. France builds A Par. Germany removes F Hel.

Please see the other game report, above, for Jim Stevens' new address.

Spring 1906:

AUSTRIA (Robson): a sil (s) tyo-mun. a rom-tus. a rum (s) ser. a ser (s) rum. a ven-pie. a tyo-mun. a gal (s) TUR sev-ukr. f nap-tyn.
ENGLAND (Pustilnik): a stp-lvn. a lon-den. f nth (c) lon-den. f bal (s) FRE kie-ber. f wal (h). f nth (c) lon-den. f den-hel.

FRANCE (Johnston): a pie-tyo. a bel-ruh. a hol (s) bel-ruh. a kie-ber.
 a par-bur. f wes-t n. f tyn (s) ITA tun-ion. f mid (h).
 GERMANY (Fleming): a mun (s) FRE kie-ber. a ber-pru.
 ITALY (Stevens): f tun-ion.
 RUSSIA (Cartier): a mos (s) war. a war (s) mos.
 TURKEY (Walters): a gre-bul. a bul-sev. a sev-ukr. f aeg-gre. f bla
 (c) bul-sev. f ion (s) AUS nap-tyn.

The German army Munich must retreat to (oddly enough) Kiel, or maybe Bohemia, or possibly off the board. Fall 1906 moves may be conditional on the direction of this retreat.

HAS EVERYONE MADE A NOTE OF JIM STEVENS' NEW ADDRESS?

Fall 1906 Moves are due Monday, October 22, 1984.

FRANCE TO GERMANY: You better not have burned me because you are going to die anyway.

JAMUL: He's doing an amazing job of retaining lividity....

MOSKVA: FROM: Gen. Abd al Raschul, Cmdr. 1st Army (Moscow)
 TO: Gen. Bigheinski, Cmdr. 4th Army (Warsaw)

Surprise! You thought we were on the same side, didn't you? Surrender or else! The Red Cross is bringing you ice for your vodka, comrade General; we are not inhuman, after all.

JAMUL: Yeah, that's about the way this game has been played.

VATICAN, SOUTH: I call upon all the God-fearing peoples of the world to come join the modern crusades, the next great Christian Jihad. Believers from all over the world are pouring into Northern Africa to join the struggle against the godless Austrians. The Austrian swine and children of swine have sacked the holy citadel in Rome, raped our devoted sisters of the faith, and sodomized our priests. They violate every commandment known to man or beast. They claim that God doesn't reside in the clouds and that He didn't create the world. They put forth a Big Bang theory. They'll hear a big bang when we get to them....

I implore you, in His name and all that is Holy, to join us, lend your support, and be redeemed forever in His Eyes. Earn yourself eternal salvation; don't burn in hell with the Austrians.

Let us pray.....

.....a moment of silence, please.....

I trust you've all heard the word of our Lord. And the word is, "Kill Austrians, Kill Austrians, Kill Austrians...." Come lift your voice up and let it join in our battle cry.

HYMN #132 (to the tune of "Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina....")

Nothing could be finer than to kill an Aussie swiner
 In the mor-ning,
 Nothing could be sweeter than to find an Aus' and beat her
 In the mor-ning



