

DARKOVER

Number 2 --

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DARKOVER is hopefully not a DIPLOMACY 'zine egregiously edited and perjoratively published by Rod Walker, "Alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024. Its purpose is, on rare (we earnestly pray) occasion, to carry material relating to postal DIPLOMACY game 1978__ (BN not yet assigned)[!:], which I GGM for Don Horton, whose CLAW AND FANG is in other respects well worth having. It is sent only to the players, Don, the BNC, and the hobby Archivist only. No subs, no trades, no nothing. This is Alcala Publication #675.

OY!

Of course you know that I didn't read C&F closely enough and so missed getting the material to Don. So here are the Fall 1901 moves:

- AUSTRIA: A Tri-Vie, F Alb-Gre S by A Ser. Owns: Bud, Tri, Vie, Gre, Ser (5). Build 2. (um...Berch).
- ENGLAND (Hendrix): F Nrg-Bar, A Yor-Nwy C by F Nth. Owns: Edi, Lpl, Lon, Nwy (4). Build 1.
- FRANCE (Stevens): A Gas-Mar, A Spa-Por, F Mid-Spa [no coast specified, see Rule III.3 (b)]. Owns: Bre, Mar, Par, Por (4). Build 1.
- GERMANY (Burge): A Ruh-Bel, A Kie-Hol, F Den-Fin [impossible]. Owns: Ber, Kie, Mun, Bel, Den, Hol (6). Build 3.
- ITALY (Price): A Pie S FRENCH A Spa-Mar [nso], A Apu-Ven, F Ion-Tun. Owns: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun (4). Build 1.
- RUSSIA (Hightower): F Fin-Swe, A Ukr-Rum S by F Sev, A Gal-Vie. Owns: Mos, StP, Sev, War, Rum, Swe (6). Build 2.
- TURKEY (Shreve): A Bul-Gre, F Con-Aeg, A Smy-Con. Owns: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul (4). Build 1. COA: 2732 Ezekiel, Zion IL 60099.

DEADLINE for Winter 1901 builds is Monday, 2 October 1978. I have on hand tentative Winter orders from Austria & Russia, plus General Orders from Russia & Turkey. Last season Germany sent duplicate orders and Turkey sent along a receipt postcard which I returned to him. Players are reminded that all of these methods are good ones to prevent unwanted NMRs. Please read H.R. 12 and do one or more of the things suggested. Remember, I do not make it easy to telephone orders in... in fact, I am infrequently home. I have workshops Tuesdays and Thursdays. I teach Wednesdays. I'm often out socially Fridays and/or Saturdays. Finally, when I am home, I'm usually locked away in my office, writing. The problem there is that the telephone can't be heard from my office.

A NOTE OF EXPLANATION. I don't like to bother my players with outside crap, but something has come up which may involve some of you. When this game was forming, Buddy Tretick attempted to join it, using the name "Bernie Oaklyn". [I'm not going to get into that complex identity problem; at this point it's only relevant that the evidence has convinced me that "Oaklyn" is Tretick.] My H.R. 3 specifically forbids the use of pseudonyms, so I informed Don that Buddy was not welcome in the game. (He would have been most welcome under his own name, however.)

Buddy has chosen to react with ill grace. He has written at least two people in the game, trying to convince them to quit in "protest". He has apparently informed others that he was originally the player for

Turkey in the game and was then thrown out. I regret that these things are happening; I suspect that Tretick/"Oaklyn" may continue to kick up a ruckus for a while yet: he's tenacious and mouthy. Being the same way myself, I know what to anticipate.

If Tretick/"Oaklyn" gets in touch with anyone else in the game about this dispute, I'd appreciate knowing, with a copy of his letter if possible. (I should emphasize that in my opinion a Gamesmaster has an absolute inherent right to exclude anyone from a game he is forming, although he ought to have a good reason. I do not usually exclude anyone, but in this case it's not possible for me to overlook a direct violation of my House-Rules.)

PRESS

VIENNA (no date): Pink and Floyd had just finished their smoke when it was time to switch the radio on and hear the address of the Austrian Emperor.

"Mah fellow Austrians. My advisors have told me that I'm supposed to address you all at the beginning of the war. I haven't the slightest idea why. Something about being 'in the 'zine', whatever that means. They insist that now is the best time -- later people don't bother. Anyhow, I know you're all pleased to hear from me, since all within the sound of my voice voted for me in the last election."

Pink snickered. "That's 'cause they don't allow radios in jail."

"I pledge that our country will strive to become producers of the finest mangoes and hashish in Europe, to become the overseer of the best equal-opportunity brothels, to be the source of the lightest cheese souffles, and incidentally, to become the largest country in Europe."

ABERDEEN (no date): A severe and sudden blizzard east of Iceland has necessitated the clearing of shipping from the Norwegian Sea. Contact has been lost with the British Fleet (Ice Division). Last reports indicated that elements of the Division might be forced to land in Norway or enter the Barents Sea. Army Yorkshire has been ordered to Norway for rescue duty.

GASTRITIS (19 November 1901): Cook made hot rolls for breakfast. Queen Vendetta was delighted. One by one she was turning the scones into mouth-watering stones, which she was downing with just a little iguana fat and henbane jelly spread on them. "Darling," she said, munching a particularly chewy igneous yummy, "must you always busy yourself with the newspaper?"

Her husband, Pandemonium V, King of Poderkagg, looked up. "You're right, my dear. Besides, with all the wonderful warfare going on, you'd be surprised at how bland the press is these days. Save me a few scones, my dear; you know how I loathe rocks. There's a good girl. Pass me the mandrake jam, will you? ...Hmmm. Well, I see the Austrians are going into the brothel business. I don't see how they can possibly do better than the establishments at Novi Sodom and Neu-Gomorrah, but they're welcome to try."

His Majesty turned his attention to the meal's main dish, soft-

boiled half-hatched egg. "I just don't see how they can emphasize equal-opportunity any more than we do. I mean, we employ women, girls, men, boys, and everything in between...plus camels, sheep, pigs, dogs, pigeons...well, you know, my dear."

"Oh, that reminds me, Pandy. Madame Flossy was up from Neu-Gomorraah yesterday. She's complaining about the Austrian soldiers. They won't wash. The girls are going crazy with the fleas, not to mention the smell."

"That's funny...Madame Paul was up from Novi Sodom with the same complaint...says they're even worse than some of his camels."

"Perhaps we should not permit Austrians into the country."

"I thought about that...but do you realize how many fully-employed pigs we'd throw out of work if we did?"

"Perhaps...but I keep thinking about what Madame Flossy said about how you could tell the difference between an Austrian soldier and an oyster."

"How?"

"If you leave them out in the sun for three days, the oyster's the one that smells better."