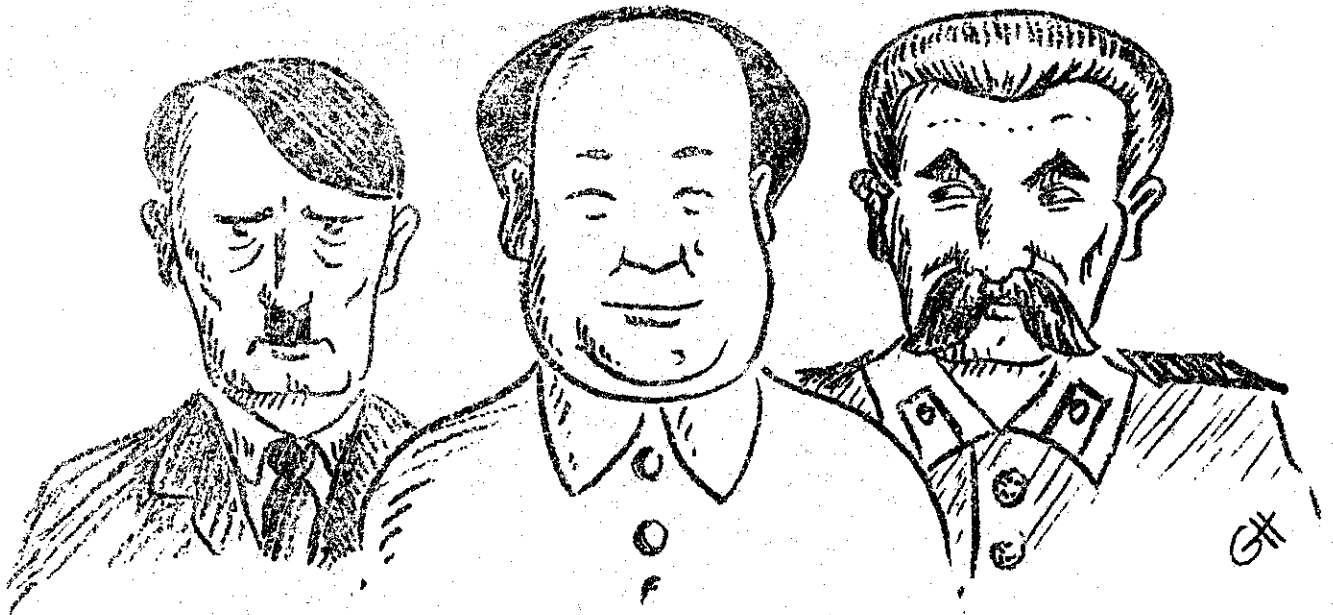


EREWON

Number 59

18 November 1971



Will the real John Beshara
please stand up?

Oh, rapture, rapture, this is EREWON, a humane journal of postal Diplomacy* and other punishments that fit the crime. To relieve monotony on sentry-go, subscriptions are 7/ \$1. To horrify you vastly, back issues are 10¢ each in lots of two or more. This little errand for the Ministry of State is Pandemonium Publication #420, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; telephone, (714) 282-1921; member, NFFFGB, NFFFGDD, IFW, IFWDS, DA.

*DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhauer and copyright by Games Research, Inc., 48 Wareham St., Boston MA 02118. It is available from the latter, postpaid, for \$8.00; various toy discount stores carry it for less, and prices as low as \$5.95 have been seen.

EREWON 59
 PIRATES
 PENANCE
 Patience
 by Jerry Princess Ida
 IN A FUTURE ISSUE

This issue is dedicated to Sir William S. Gilbert, the author of the "Savoy operas" which, with the incredibly brilliant music of Sir Arthur Sullivan, have delighted generations of theater-goers. Sir William was born on 18 November 1836.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ANSCHLUSS is a new 'zine being put out by Joseph Antosiak, 3637 Arden Ave., Brookfield IL 60513. It will carry Avalon-Hill's "Origins of World War II" "and other variants", according to a notice in Pete Weber's SMUT*. The latter phrase may refer to other Diplomacy variants, although "Origins" is its own game and is not related to Diplomacy. I have no details on game fees, subscription rates, or trade policies, but have written to find out.

2. MARK WIEDMARK, 528 Park Cres., Pickering, Ontario, Canada, has written looking for stand-by positions. Since most of my games have more s/b players than will probably be used, I have not been too encouraging in my reply to him. Any of you GMs in need of s/b players might write Mark. He is very interested in such positions.

3. BOARDMAN NUMBERS for this year have already reached 1971DV (126 games), which was assigned yesterday to Len Lakofka. With several GRAU-STARK games in the offing, and other games filling here and there, there is no longer any question about it: we will not only fill the D series, for the first time, this year, we will continue to set records by having the first games ever in the E series.

While I'm on the subject, let me clear up some misunderstanding which seems to be cropping up here and there. The Boardman Numbers are not part, nor under the authority, of any group. They were created by John Boardman, passed by him to Charles Wells, thence to John Koning, and thence to me. I have steadfastly maintained that organizational affiliation will impair the universality of the Numbers because all groups develop their own institutional priorities, and the temptation to use the Numbers to enforce such priorities would sooner or later prove overwhelming. Every custodian of the Boardman Numbers has followed the same policy: to assign a Number to every postal game which is not manifestly and obviously a variant (variant games receive Miller Numbers), irrespective of who runs it, who rates (or does not rate) it, who plays in it, what House-Rules are used, or whatever. This is the only fair way to do it. The Numbers are the property of the entire postal Diplomacy community, whose agent I am in this matter, and I am not going to allow them to be used for the purposes of any special interest or group. I inherited a responsibility along with this job: to insure that every non-variant postal game received a Number, even though the GM may not

use them in his 'zine [LA GUERRE is the only 'zine which consistently does not use them; a few other 'zines (e.g., LIMBOURG GAZETTE, LIAISONS DANGEREUSES, DIE MUNICH ZEITUNGSENTE) do not indicate the Numbers for some or all of their games]. I intend to see that the Numbers are available to everyone on an impartial basis, regardless of feuds, organizational pressures, and other temptations to do the wrong thing. If the time comes that I can no longer keep up with all this, I will transfer the Numbers' custodianship to another individual who feels exactly the same way. In only this way can a fair, impartial, and universal numbering system be maintained.

4. ARMADILLO is a new 'zine being put out by Steve Cooper, 3073 S. Buchanan St., B-2, Arlington VA 22206. It has no game openings and carries only one game. Steve is willing to trade, at least on a limited basis (the 'zine is by thermofax).

5. RULEBOOKS FOR GAMESMASTERS. In an earlier EREHWON, I indicated that GRI's President, John Moot, had offered to send copies of the new RB to all postal GMs. I offered, in turn, to provide him with a list of same. Some GMs have already received copies; to my knowledge, these are: Beshara, Boardman, McCallum, Peery, Miller, Buchanan, and vonMetzke. Accordingly, my list to Mr. Moot included 41 names: Andrus, Barber, Barents, Bowers, Childs, Cooper, Feron, Frame, Gaylord, Gletty, Holcombe, Johnson, Just, Key, Lakofka, Leahey, Liesnard, Mankiewicz, Marsland, Mensinger, Naus, Pandin, Patterson, Pulsipher, Rubin, St.Cyr, Schaefer, Schelz, Schleicher, Thomson, Tretick, Turnbull, VanAndel, Vedder, Ward, Warden, Weber, Welsh, Wrobel, Tate, and Webb. I have noted the omission of Scheele and am sending a correction. The main list was mailed on 13 November 1971. Have I omitted anyone else who is a GM of one or more postal games?

6. LATE NEWS OF THE TRETICK RACKET. Buddy Tretick's successful program for ripping off game fees from unsuspecting players reached a new high early this month when he began wriggling out of his first 7-game tournament (games 19700-S [LRM-LRS] after only 4 game-years. The progress (if you can call it that) of the last game-year should prove illuminating:

Season	Date published	Next deadline	Comments
W03	11 Oct 70	3 Oct 70	S04 due 8 days <u>before</u> W03 published!
S04	15 Nov 70	28 Nov 70	
F04	13 Feb 71	5 Mar 71	F04 10 weeks late.
F04	16 Mar 71	26 Mar 71	Right; Tretick lost the W04 orders.
W04	25 Jul 71	17 Aug 71	W04 17 weeks late.
end?	6 Nov 71	---	

The game was "cancelled" "due to player inactivity". One can readily understand the decline in player interest, given the above miserable record of execrable game management. The reader should bear in mind that several times during the last year, it was suggested to Buddy that he turn the games temporarily over to a caretaker GM who would keep them going until Tretick could resume control. All offers of help were ignored or refused. At the same time, Tretick was writing reams of tear-jerker excuses about why he could not keep up with the games. If he knew he couldn't keep up, what explanation is there for his failure to seek temporary help? I suggest that it is his express intent to run games in such a way as to discourage players, and then cancel the games when they respond with "player inactivity", thus pocketing the larger portion of the \$35 in game fees Tretick receives for his "services" as a GM. And so it goes. Games LRL, LRT, and LRU have not appeared in ages. Players in LRV and LRW are up in arms about the shoddy treatment of their games (1 game-year in six months). Moral: sending money to Tretick is like flushing it down a toilet: you get to see it swirl around a bit before it vanishes.

THE DIPLOMACY ASSOCIATION:
Should we reform it or leave it?

The storm of criticism which has broken out over the Diplomacy Association and the antics of its self-proclaimed Chairman, John Beshara, has revealed another salient fact: the critics are themselves divided. A good many people have simply gaffiated from the organization with the statement, direct or implied, that nothing can be done and the hell with it. Among the people who do want to do something, however, there is a further split.

The basic question is this: do we wish to effect internal reforms within the DA, with or without Chairman Beshara's cooperation, or do we want to go off and found a new organization which would be the DA as it should be run, by the membership, but under a new name? In essence, this would seem to boil down to asking whether we want to reform the DA and keep the name or reform the DA and change the name. In fact, however, this is more than just a semantic question.

The question is one fraught with significance. It is so important, in fact, that every active player in postal Diplomacy will soon be polled as to his feelings on the matter. To clarify my own, I am strongly opposed to the "new group" concept; I would prefer to reform the group we have. As I see it, the issues involved are as follows:

1. Repudiation of Beshara. Whether we like him or not, we must admit that Beshara almost single-handedly founded the DA. His mistake was not in what he hoped to achieve, but in how he went about it; that is, he erred only in seeking to establish, maintain, and exercise absolute power over the whole organization, to silence criticism, and to keep secret all pertinent facts about the DA. But we must remember that his is a compulsion for good. However much we may believe his methods are wrong (or worse), I think we can nearly all agree with the kinds of objectives he has in mind in terms of improving the hobby. Creating a new group will, in effect, repudiate Beshara utterly. It must be remembered that he is hypersensitive, and even small things are enough to provoke him to frenzy (consider, for instance, his fanatic insistence on the use of the outmoded title "Mr." and his apoplectic fits over people who do not [as I do not] capitalize the "T" in "the Diplomacy Association"). Creating a new group will render compromise and reconciliation impossible. Beshara does not believe in compromise, anyway, and we are going to have a hard enough time as it is convincing him that his obligation to cooperate with others is at least as great as their obligation to cooperate with him. Why put up another road-block?

2. Goal and Purpose. If our goal is the good of the hobby, that can be accomplished as easily within a reformed DA as within a new group. On the other hand, the creation of a new group will make it easy to draw the false inference that what is really going on is some sort of power play, motivated by personal animosity toward Beshara and a desire to supplant him. Keeping the DA's name, and making it clear that Beshara is welcome to keep his present position and title, are both reasonable and will defuse the falacious and ugly issue of private animus.

3. Duplication. Creating a "DA under another name" means we will have two groups doing essentially the same things, which is a wasteful duplication of effort. Having a "reform DA" and a "Beshara DA" at least looks forward to a time of conciliation and unity.

I can see no compelling reason for a change of name, nor any concrete advantage to be gained by it. I can see disadvantages to it, and even potential harm from it. I urge you, therefore, when the hobby-wide ballot is sent to you, to vote and to vote in favor of keeping "the Diplomacy Association" as the name of the organization we hope someday to save.

...on the seventh day, god rested. But on the eighth day, god did: twelve vestel virgins, eleven eager teeny-boppers, ten belly-dancers, nine Negro nannies, eight athletic actresses, seven society matrons six silly secretaries, five golden girls, four fashion models, three French cuties, two Turkish whores, and

THE GAMES

1969Z -- RUSSIANS PREPARE FOR LONG SEIGE, ITALY FOR SHORT ONE

Winter 1912: A funny thing happened on the way to the deadline. I forgot to note the interim deadline on my calendar. So, when it came and went, zippedy-doo-dah, down the bunny trail with Bra'r Rabbit, I did nothing. It is just as well, I suppose, as I heard nothing from Mike Monahan--whose removal turned out to be the unit which would have been taken off anyway, once his Spring orders arrived (today). Oddly, no one seemed concern (save Mike, who was not affected by this omission on my part), so I guess we can proceed. Note: in F12, the RUSSIAN order to A Ukr was A Ukr S A War (the "by" was an error).

ENGLAND: Bukld F Lon. ITALY: E F Tun.

Spring 1913:

ENGLAND (Eller): F Lon-Eng, A Kie-Ber, F Eng-Mid, F Nth H, A Ruh-Bur, A Pru & A Lvn S FRENCH A Sil-War, A Ber-Sil, F Bal H, F Bot H, A StP-Mos, A Mar H, F Spa(sc)-Lyo, F Mid-Wes S by F Naf.

FRANCE (Strayer): A Sil-War, A Mun-Sil.

ITALY (Monahan): A Tri-Ven, F Ion-lun, A Vie-Tri S by A Tyr (A Vie /a/), A Pie S A Tyr, F Adr-Apu.

RUSSIA (Power): A Ser-Tri, A Bud-Vie S by A Gal, F Aeg-Gre, F Eas-Ion A Boh-Tyr, A Mos-Sev, A War-Mos S by A Ukr, A Rum-Bud, A Gre-Alb.

FALL 1913 ORDERS are due on Thursday, 16 December 1971. Please note that the mails are very crowded; allow 5-6 days for delivery.

ZURICH (CP): The Supreme Commander of Italian forces went on nationwide radio to give the following IMPORTANT speech: "My fellow Italians: in this our darkest hour or so, I would like to explain my actions. As you are all well aware, I'm a great military genius. Thus I souldn't have been expected to write the French and ask them to stay out of Marseilles; that would have been unmilitary. And how was I supposed to know that I had to remove one of my precious forces? But never mind all that; it is in the past, which is best forgotten. But I have a plan, which the Minister of Paranoia assure me is fool-proof. I only hope the English and Russians are fools. Now to some of you this plan may seem a bit strange but, cackle, cackle, I want to make this perfectly clear, ALL my advisors assure me that it WILL WORK. All will be clear to you in just a little while. Have confidence in ME, your great and trusted leader. I can't be wrong, can I?????" At this point there was a pause, then some odd sounds, and the Vienna, Trieste, Tunis, and Rome stations of the Italian Broadcasting Corporation started to play the Poderkaggian national anthem.

SOMEWHERE OVER MORAVIA: "I say, Leftenet, haven't we reached the environs of Warsaw yet?" inquired Foost-Smythington as he paced the bridge of the Gay Enola, flapship of the First Airborne Armada.

"I'll summon the navigator at once, sir. Bridge to Quarters. Hello? Have the navigator report to the bridge on the double! What? Who is this? I demand to...what was that?! You filthy beggar! I'll see you swing from the yardarm with..."

"Never mind the navigator, Leftenet. Whate is the map?"

"I have it right here, sir. Blimey, it's all cut up! That bleedin' navigator ran out o' papers again!"

"Leftenec, order the helmsman to land in that field over there and take out a party to determine our whereabouts. Have the remainder of the Fleet stand by."

Shortly thereafter, the party headed by Leftenec Bahine encountered a solitary figure leaning on a fence and studying the Flagship intently. "I say, you there! No funny business now. Put your hands where we can see them and identify yourself."

The figure stared at the group with disinterest. "Who might you be?"

"Representatives of His Majesty's government. I hereby claim this verdant pastureland in the name of the Empire of Great Britain. Where is it located?"

"Just outside Gotterdam."

"Gotterdam? That's not on my map. Which direction is Warsaw?"

"You can't get there from here. There's a regiment of Russians camped over the next hill. Maybe they could tell you."

"All right, men! Back to the ship on the double!"

"Soldiers!" spat the figure. "All the real soldiers are dead."

1970AT -- LITTLE ORPHAN ENGLAND NOW UNDER DADDY LAKOFKABUCKS

Winter 1906: My thanks to Andrew Phillips, who sent in orders for Italy; however, Greg Warden has indicated his intent to play and has sent in tentative S07 orders. Leonard Garland, having missed two consecutive deadlines, is dropped and replaced by Len Lakofka. In lists of units, * indicates a unit just built.

AUSTRIA (Power): No change. A Sil (1).

ENGLAND (~~Ward~~)(Lakofka): E A Yor, F Ska. F Nth (1).

FRANCE (Lissandrello): F Bre*, F Mar*, F Lon, F Wal, F Tyr, F Tun, A Ruh, A Bel, A Hol, A Tyr (10).

ITALY (Warden): No change. F Ion, F Nap (2).

RUSSIA (Payne): F StP(nc)*, F Nwy, A Swe, A Pru, A Bud, A War, A Mos, A Vie, F Den, F Edi, A Kie, A Ber (12).

TURKEY (Nash): A Smy*, F Eas, F Aeg, A Con, F Ven, A Tri, F Adr, A Alb (8).

SPRING 1906 ORDERS are due on Thursday, 16 December 1971. Please note that the mails are very crowded; allow 5-6 days for delivery.

1970AX -- BLOOD DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED

Spring 1906: Lizzie Borden would be proud of you guys...

AUSTRIA (Monahan): F Tri-Ven, A Vie-Tyr, F Adr-Ion S by F Nap, F Apu S F Nap, A Ven-Tus S by A Rom, A Bul MS A Gre.

ENGLAND (Strayer): A Edi-Nwy C by F Nth, A Lon H, F StP(nc)-Bar, F Swe-Bal /d//Fin, ob/, F Nwy-Ska.

FRANCE (Eller): A Mar-Pie, A Bur S GERMAN A Mun /d//Pic, Par, Ruh, Gas, ob/, F Tun S TURKISH F Ion, F Mid H, A Pie-Tus S by F Tyr.

GERMANY (Reilly): A Kie-Den, F Bel C RUSSIAN A Ber-Swe, A Bel-Bur S by A Mun, F Hol-Nth.

RUSSIA (Latin): A Sil-Pru, A Ber-Swe S by F Bot, A Arm-Smy, A Con-ank, F Bla-Con.

TURKEY (Brooks): F Ion S AUSTRIAN F Apu-Nap (nso), F Aeg S F Ion.

FALL 1906 ORDERS are due on Thursday, 16 December 1971. Please note that the mails are very crowded; allow 5-6 days for delivery.

LONDON: The British are coming! The British ARE coming!...and it's about time. For lo, while all of Europe was looking the other way, the hideo-pederastic duo of Tsar Howard and Emperor Michael sought to deceive and

eventually destroy all of the good people who stood before them. But who would have thought that good Leroy and old Kaiser Melvin (with a little help from their friends) could purge the world of these bozos? Yet it shall be done. So look out, bozos, don't let us penetrate your flanks!!!

SOMEWHERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ST. PETERSBURG:

TSAR: Take it back!

PRIME MINISTER: Why, Your Majesty, all I said was that Leroy was every kind of low slimy thing in the world but a bastard.

TSAR: Take it back, damn you!

PRIME MINISTER: Oh, all right. Leroy is every kind of low slimy thing in the world and he is also a bastard.

TSAR: That's more like it.

VIENNA (via Lome [via Berlin]): "Though it may come as a surprise to Emperor Michael, who always seems to be three years behind everyone else, the pygmy army has captured Vienna!" declared Field Marshal Steven C. Shortstuff, commander of the prepared an attack on the imperial residence. With the Field Marshal was his military advisor, J. Wilhelm Halfbright, who got a kick out of jumping at this reporter's jugular vein. He was pacified by Shortstuff, who assured Halfbright that he would get first crack at Grand Duke Spiro as soon as he was captured. Halfbright flashed his famous smile, revealing his pearly white teeth. He has been searching for the Grand Duke for years.... [All he had to do was look in the works of W.S. Gilbert...Ed.]

TUNIS (via Lome): The only pygmies here are Canadian dollars.

THE KAISER'S CHALET: After a hectic week of hunting for wild yogurts, Kaiser Melvin has returned to his chalet, where he heard that Kaiserin Mergatroid had been warmly received in Poderkagg. "We all just loved her," read the cable from Gastritis, "especially the crocodiles." Reports are that the Kaiserin is still alive and kicking, even if it is inside assorted stomachs. A massive shipment of Pepto-Bismol is being sent to Poderkagg to bring soothing relief to some bruised innards. The Kaiserin's memoirs were found in her baggage back in her guest room at the goat farm, and are thus preserved for posterity. Poderkaggian firms are currently bidding to see who will not have to publish them.

GASTRITIS: King Pandemonium V looked up from his copy of IMPERIAL STANDARD with a puzzled look on his face. "Now, if I understand, the Austrians claim Kaiserin Mergatroid is involved in some sort of civil war, and the German press claims she was eaten by crocodiles, and GRAUSTARK is claiming she's really Sam Yorty in drag. The problem is that in actuality she hasn't arrived yet, and is way overdue, and nothing exciting is happening at all. The only thing of note in the area occurred across the border, in Albania, a while ago, when members of the Pygmy Army were seen roasting something fat, ugly, hairy, and noisy. A few of our pigs got excited, jumped over the border fence, and ate some of the pygmies, but they wouldn't touch the... whatever it was."

1970BK -- RUSSIAN FLEET VANISHES DOWN WHIRLPOOL

Winter 1905: Good grief! I made an error, and Andy Phillips actually didn't see it and didn't write me reams of letters about it and yell and jump up and down and ask for a two-month deadline delay...Andy! Are you going blind? Getting senile? Losing your touch? Blind as an eagle? Oh, well--the RUSSIAN F Con can't retreat since the one open space, Aeg, is the space from which it was dislodged. Sigh.... In lists of units, * indicates a unit just built. My thanks to Len Lakofka; Power is still with us.

AUSTRIA (Poer): No change. A Vie.

ENGLAND (Weber): F Lon*, F Edi*, F Den, F Swe, A Hol, F Nth, F Nwy (7).

GERMANY (Payne): E A Fin, A Mos, F Lvn, A Kie, A Sil, F Bot, F Hel, A Bel (7).

ITALY (Buchanan): A Ven*, F Nap*, F Tun, F Ion, F NAF, F Wes, A Tri, A Tyr (8).

RUSSIA (Phillips): A Tri (R)-Bud, A War*, A Sev, A Bud, A Gre, A Bul, A Ser, A Smy, F StP(sc) (8)(1 short).

TURKEY (Furcola): F Gre (R)-Aeg, E F Con, F Aeg, F Bla, A Ank (2).

SPRING 1906 ORDERS are due on Thursday, 16 December 1971. Please note that the mails are very crowded; allow 5-6 days for delivery.

1971A -- GERMAN FLEET SMASHED IN BRITTANY; MILLION TURKS MASSACRED AT SOFIA

Spring 1905:

AUSIRIA (Weber): A Bud S A Rum, A Tyr H, F Gre-Aeg, A Ser-Bul S by A Tri S ITALIAN A Tus-Ven (nso).

ENGLAND (Shannon): F Nrg-Edi, A Lon-Yor, F Wal-Lon.

FRANCE (Tretick): A Par grits its teeth.

GERMANY (Strayer): A Kie-Den, A Mun S A Bur, F Bre H /a/, A Pic-Par S by A Bur, F Eng-Lon, F Nth S RUSSIAN F Nwy-Nrg.

ITALY (Stanton): A Tus-Bre C by F Tyr, F Wes, & F Mid and S by A Gas, A Mar-Bur.

RUSSIA (Reilly): A StP-Mos, F Swe H, F Nwy-Nrg, A Sev-Arm, A Ukr-Sev, A Ank-Con S by F Bla.

TURKEY (Monahan): F Aeg-Con S by A Bul (A Bul /a/), F Ven H, A Con-Smy.

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1971C -- NEW ITALIAN KING STOMPS ON FRANCE, BETRAYS TURKEY, BLOATS GREATLY

Fall 1905: Greg Tully, having missed two consecutive deadlines, is dropped and replaced by Chris Schleicher, who gets right into the spirit of things. Jeff Power, 121 Gauss Hall, Princeton Univ., Princeton NJ 08540, will replace Stephen Manion if he misses the next deadline.

ENGLAND (Manion?): F Lon (R)-/a/, NMR. A Nwy, F Nth, F Swe /h/. Ows: Edi, ~~Vyl~~, Nwy, Swe (3). No change (1 /a/). Statement of intent to play required in lieu of adjustments, by Winter 1905 deadline.

FRANCE (Payne): A Mar-Bur /a/, A Pic-Par, A Par-Gas, F Lon H S by F ~~Ang~~, F Wal-Lpl. Ows: Bre, ~~Mar~~, Par, Por, ~~StP~~, Lpl, Lon (5). No change (1 /a/).

GERMANY (Stephanides?): By GOs: F Ber MS A Mun, A Den-Kie, A Bel-Bur, A Bur-Gas, F Hol-Bel. Ows: Ber, Kie, Mun, Bel, Den, Hol (6). No change. Statement of intent to play required in lieu of adjustments, by Winter 1905 deadline. Stand-by for Germany: Tom Eller, 44 Bigelow St., Cambridge MA 02139.

ITALY (~~Tilly~~)(Schleicher): F Wes-Spa(sc), A Pie-Mar S by F Lyo, A Alb Ser, F Ion-Gre, F Tyr-Ion, A Tri-Vie S by A Bud. Ows: Nap, Rom, V_n, Tun, Bud, Vie, Gre, Tri, Mar, Ser, Spa (11). Bu8ld 3.

TURKEY (Pandin): A Con-Rum C by F Bla, A Mos-Lvn, A Gal-Boh S by A Sil, A Rum-Gal, A Pru H, A StP MS A Fin, F Bul(sc) H. Ows: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, Rum, Mos, Sev, ~~StP~~, War (9). Remove 1.

WINTER 1905 ADJUSTMENTS (and statements of intent to play from England and Germany) are due on Thursday, 16 December 1971. There is no sense in trying to speed this up during the period of slow mails. Remember that the mails are crowded for the rest of the year; allow 5-6 days for delivery of any non-air mail letter, just to be safe.

CONSTANTINOPLE (15 November 1905): The Palace today announced that the Sultan had sent five tons of opium to the governments of England and Germany as gifts of friendship and good will. The government of France was sent ten tons of opium while the Kingdom of Poderkagg received twenty tons of Ankaran goat dung for the Royal Gardens. Observers were at a loss to explain this sudden burst of generosity by the Sultan.

GASTRITIS (25 November 1905): "No," said His Majesty, King Pandemonium V, in answer to reporters today, "We did not receive any goat dung. We did get 20 tons of LA GUERRE back issues, which is what the military calls 'the closest equivalent'."

1971F -- FRANCE PREPARES MASSIVE ASSAULT ON GERMANY, ITALY; AUSTRIA LOOKS WEST; TSAR HOLDS UP IN POLAND; GOVERNMENT CRISES RESOLVED

Spring 1904: My thanks to Brad Payne, Len Lakofka, Andrew Phillips, and Jeff Power. All of the regular players made it in this time.

AUSTRIA (St. Cyr): A Tri MS A Tyr, A Gal-Sil S by A Boh, A Mos S TURKISH A Sev-Ukr, F Aeg S ITALIAN F Ion (otm), A Gre-Ser.

ENGLAND (Warden): F StP(nc)-Bar, A Nwy-StP.

FRANCE (Holcombe): F Bre-Eng, A Par-Bur, F Naf-Tun, F Tyr-Nap, A Bel-Ruh, F Nth-Bel, F Tun-Tyr, F Edi-Nrg, A Mar-Pie, A Pie-Tus.

GERMANY (Tretick): A Mun-Ber, A Swe-Nwy, A Hol-Kie, F Ber-Bal.

ITALY (Smythe): F Ion-Tyr, A Ven-Tri S by A Alb.

RUSSIA (Schleicher): A Sil-War.

TURKEY (Eller): F Smy-Eas, A Arm-Sev, A Bul H, A Sev-Ukr, F Bla-Con.

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MUSIC IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Introduction

This is the first in a projected series of occasional articles in EREHWON covering modern music. I am indebted to Conrad von Metzke, and his excellent series on obscure (and primarily antediluvian) music in COSTAGUANA, for the impetus to write on a related subject.

Considering the Olympian heights to which music was raised in the 19th Century by the towering genius of men like Beethoven, Wagner, Dvorak, Verdi, Satie, Debussy, Bruckner, and an incredible number of others, the performance of our own century has been rather dismal. "If music be the food of love," says Shakespeare, "play on"--but the music of our time resembles not so much the product of the farm and kitchen and the contents of the garbage pail and the sewer. On the radio, we are generally assaulted by the nasal screeching and moaning of under- and over-age juvenile delinquents, howling words of pretended social significance, accompanied by sounds which would not provide passing marks for any first-year composition student. In a way, my language is too strong, because the end result of this idiom is not revulsion, it is complete boredom. One can hear much the same thing in the back woods of New Guinea or Australia today--or any turkey ranch, for that matter.

On the other hand, the concert halls are being invaded by people who have been building on Arnold Schönberg's discovery that it is possible to compose without writing music. We are told we are being presented with "a subtle balance of light, dark, and shadow" or some such euphemistic nonsense, which simply means that sometimes the orchestra will honk and sometimes it will wheeze and sometimes, blessedly, it will do nothing at all. Computers are being programmed to do the same sort of thing, giving literal and audible evidence to the old maxim, "Garbage in, garbage out". Again, the result is an almost irresistible urge to read a good book, knit, go see the

umpteenth showing of Notbra, or just plain go to sleep. If there is anything diller than Messaien, it is Boulez.

However, while all of this incredibly boring crud has been foisted off on the public as not only music, but significant music, yet, some real composing has been going on. The bright lights of 20th-Century music have not always been hidden under a bushel--Gershwin, Grofé, Villa-Lobos, and above all the unexcelled Richard Strauss, are fairly well known, as are the great geniuses of the Russian school, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Kabalevsky, Khatchaturian, and Glière. What we are finding out is that the list of great composers in this century is fully as long as the list for the last, but their lights are obscured by a distinct public preference for junk. This series is devoted to discussion of where music is at in our time.

Part 1: Small Excellencies

Before Beethoven, the symphony was a relatively short art form, lasting less than 30 minutes. The Master's Third Symphony was half again that long, and his Ninth was over an hour. This began the German school of extended symphonies, the influence of which one can still see in Shostakovich.

Our time has, however, generally returned to the shorter symphony of our forefathers. There are still a good many which take 40-50 minutes to perform, but many of the real gems in the genre are much shorter. A few of the best are noted below.

Randall Thomson, Symphony No. 2 in E Minor. This intensely American piece, heavily influenced by the jazz idiom, was composed in 1930-1931. It is light-hearted and one of the best works ever penned on this continent. There is plenty in it to leave the listener whistling, from the stirring fanfares that open the first movement to the jazzy cakewalk which dominates the last. The influence of Dvorak is easily apparent, and the work is easily on a par with any of the Czech master's first six symphonies. There are two or three versions of it available. The best is Bernstein's, but it is unfortunately paired with "To Thee Old Cause", a piece of maudlin and unmusical trash by William Schuman, who should have known better.

Howard Hanson, Symphony No. 2 ("Romantic"). Howard Hanson is probably America's greatest living composer. He has written four symphonies, all of them very good, and the Second is a masterpiece. It is intensely American also, but not so brash as Thompson's work. Influences are everywhere: Gershwin, Sibelius, Brahms, but they sit on the sidelines in deference to the brilliance of Hanson's original talent. Hanson loves woodwinds and brass; to him, violins and other strings are merely "background" instruments. He prefers to paint in the bright colors which wind instruments provide, and he does so here with great abandon. The result is breathtaking. The recording with the composer conducting is naturally the only one to get. It is paired with his "Lament for Beowulf", a choral work well worth having. (For an additional musical lift, catch Hanson's overture to Merrymount sometime.)

Ralph VaughanWilliams, Symphony No. 8 in D Minor. In England, "Ralph" is pronounced "Rafe". VaughanWilliams is without doubt the greatest symphonic composer of the century, the Beethoven of his age. He composed nine symphonies, all of them masterworks, ranging from the savage Fourth to the idyllic Second to the philosophic Seventh ("Antarctic") to the brilliant Eighth. It is as if he set out in the D Minor Symphony to show what he could do with an orchestra. This is a compelling work, full of color and variety. Sir Adrian Boult is the leading interpreter of VaughanWilliams. My copy of the Eighth is by Sir John Barbirolli, however, and it is also a very good reading. Anthony Collins also has a way with Vaughan Williams.

We'll have more "Small Excellencies" in a later issue.