

EREWON

Incorporating
LILLIPUT

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This issue of EREWON is dedicated to Charles Dickens, novelist extraordinary, keen observer of society and humanity, conscience of his age. He was born 7 February 1812.

Bob, Hamburg! This is EREWON, a journal of postal Diplomacy and other great expectations. Subscriptions are 7/91. Back issues are 10c each in lots of 2 or more. Available are: 39-41, 43, 45-62. Also available, at 30c each, are some numbers from Volume III: 5-8, 10 (issues 25-28, 30). Issues 31-38 (Vol. IV: 1-8) were subzines of NUMENOR. This is Pandemonium Publication #458, edited and published by Rod Walker, 4719 Felton St., San Diego CA 92117, telephone (714) 782-1921, member NFFS, IPW, EPAC.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

With this issue, there is going to be a change in editorial policy which will hopefully solve two problems. One, holding up my end of the stick takes up too much space. Second, a feeling continues to build that the wide-spread criticism of the pretended "Diplomacy Association" is part of that feud. Therefore, we need to winnow out a few things. First, I will continue to discuss the "DA" in this 'zine, my comments on John Beshara will not appear here. Second, such commentary as I may wish to make from time to time will appear in a new 'zine, TALKS OF THE BARAD-DURCHESTER. The appearance of each issue will be announced in EREWON, and copies may then be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Speaking of the "DA", let us hark back to WAZIR 3 a moment. At the end of the article he supposedly wrote on "stalemate positions", John Beshara thanks Arn Vagts for his help on the article. And well he might! The reader may wish to check out HOOSIER ARCHIVES 40 and 41, in which two articles by Arn Vagts on "locked-up positions" appear. It is more than a little instructive to compare the articles written by Vagts and the article "written" by Beshara. One wonders what's wrong with the DA, that after 4 months all it can come up with is a dreary semi-plagiarism by Beshara, while HOOSIER ARCHIVES is able to print 2 or 3 original articles every month. In fact, why is it that the "Da" has yet to print a tactics/strategy article that isn't by Beshara? For this the members lay out \$1 a year! Grief....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **FAKIR** is a parody of WAZIR, just published by some unspeakably wicked person. Naturally, I can't imagine who would do such a thing. I have had the good fortune to obtain several extra copies, and I will send you one for a mere 10c. Rumor has it, however, that FAKIR is the work of Yvett L. Chis of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

2. **OSILLIAN** is a new one-shot detailing a game played in San Diego (but mostly with Los Angeles players) last December. It is 8 pages, with all moves (game ended 1907), player comments written during play, Game-master comments, and supply center chart. It is 35c from me.

Only 8 entries were received, but I have decided to go ahead with it on that basis. I heard from: Payton Turpin, Bill Linden, Adam Stephanides, Bob Johnson, John McCallum, James Massar, Eric Just, and Edi Birsan. Eric and Edi submitted entries more spoof than serious. Below are the answers, and who got what (possible: 5 points each).

1. "Gardy-loo" comes from the French, gardez l'egu ("watch out for the water"). It was most commonly used in Scotland, particularly in Glasgow and Edinburgh. It was a warning to the street below that slops (the contents of chamber pots) were being emptied out of an upper story. It is amazing how much wrong information exists on this. Even so learned a source as the Oxford Dictionary lists the source as the non-existent French phrase, "gare de l'eau". Correct: Turpin (3), Stephanides (5), McCallum (5), Massar (4).

2. Swat was never ruled by a Sultan. The Swatti tribe had various local officials. When Swat became a state, the Head of State had the title of wali, meaning roughly a cross between "judge" and "sherrif". The Sultan of Swat was, of course, Babe Ruth. Correct: Turpin, Linden, Johnson (all 5).

3. Several sources will tell you that the arms of George Washington (argent, barry of two, gules, and in chief, three mullets, gules) inspired the American flag. This story is absolutely without historical foundation. To begin with, those "mullets" (stars) are really spur rowels. Further, the debates leading to the adoption of the flag resolution of 14 June 1777 do not mention the Washington arms. Finally, a flag with alternating red-white stripes (13 of them!) had been in use by the East India Company since 1707, and except for length it is the exact duplicate of the Grand Union Flag of 1776, which is the ancestor of the American Flag of 1777. The answer to this question is, "no one". There were no correct answers. Part-credit (1 point) to: Turpin, Johnson, McCallum. Oh--Linden was correct.

4. A reem, although variously translated as aurochs, unicorn, wild ox, and so on, was in fact a mythical monster, a giant ox. There are only 2, at any one time, living at opposite ends of the earth. They meet every 70 years. After mating, the female kills the male, and dies giving birth after a pregnancy of 11 years. She always has twins, of course. The reems survived by resting their noses on the deck of the ark, and Noah fed them. See Psalms XXII.22 & XCII.11, Job XXXIX.9-10, Numbers XXIII.22 & XXIV.8, Deuteronomy XXXIII.17. There is also a reference to the reem and the Flood in the New Testament, but I cannot now find it. Correct: Turpin (3), Linden (5), Stephanides (3), Massar (2).

5. Nobody got this one. In the first panel of the comic strip, published in 1929, Rogers says he was 20 years old at the end of World War I. That means he was born in 1898.

6. This was badly phrased. A "junior college" these days is a "community college", a public institution. The oldest active one is Joliet College, Joliet IL (1901). There are older private schools; the oldest active one I know is Lasell College (1851). This answer counted to some extent. Correct: Turpin (3), Johnson (5).

7. Montsuki are Japanese formal attire, which are monogrammed with the family mon ("coat of arms" is a close, but not adequate, translation). Correct: Turpin (4).

8. Harriet Tubman was a black abolitionist who did much to operate the Underground Railway and served as a Union scout during the civil war. Correct: Turpin (5), Linden (5), Stephanides (5), Johnson (5).

9. Throwing a candle on the stage signified disapproval of an actor or a presentation. It was common in the 17th and 18th Centuries. Eric Just

got 5 points for this answer: "In the days when theaters were made mostly of wood, throwing a candle on the stage meant that the audience was fed up and would consider it a gain to die in the ensuing blaze." Funny, and correct.

10. The patron saint of pigs is St. Anthony. A Tanton pig is the runt of the litter, St. Anthony's special charge. Eric writes: "[He] was St. Barbara the Bore. The kind of pig named after him is the swine." Sigh. Correct: Turpin (2), Linden (5), Stephanides (4).

11. Tarring and feathering was made legal by the first statute ever passed by Richard I: 1 Richard I in 1189. It involved shaving the head, pouring tar on it, and covering it with feathers. Later, the process became much more general. I gave 1 point for "yes". Correct: Johnson (1), Messer (1), Birsan (1). Writes Just: "Tarring and feathering were always legal in England up until 1873. In that year, Mortimer Finklestein, who was employed first as a tarrer of roads and next as a featherer of beds, got confused one day."

12. The War of 1812 is generally known in England as The Terrapin War because "Hull's Bay was shut up in his shell like a turtle". I didn't get a stronger answer to that one.

13. The Thames, in Latin, is "Themis". In the region of Oxford, this has become, though long mispronunciation, "leis". Correct: Turpin (5), Linden (4), Johnson (1), McCallum (4), Birsan (2).

14. Those were all along expressions for English money (old style): monkey, £500; pony, £25; quid, 20/-; cartwheel, 5/-; tanner, 6p (or -/6); bob, 1/-. Correct: Turpin (2), Linden (5), Stephanides (5), Johnson (3), McCallum (4).

15. Anne Partridge, who lived in Sidmouth, Devon, tried, during a storm in November 1824, to hold back the Atlantic with her mop. The incident was made famous by Sidney Smith in Parliament in October 1831, and later popularized by N. P. Willabar in his 1854 book, *Life and Sayings of Mrs. Partridge*. Correct: Turpin (4), Linden (5).

16. Whook was a 3-handed card game, popular in the 17th and 18th Centuries and, like all such games, shockingly complicated. Correct: Turpin (5), Messer (3).

17. The Tipperary Rifle has no firing mechanism. It is a shillelagh made of blackthorn. Correct: Turpin (5).

18. The first person to refer to Senator Fullbright as "Senator Half-bright" was Harry S Truman. Alas, no right answer.

19. During the height of the warfare between competing (but very similar) schools of Italian opera in London, John Byron (1692-1763) wrote "On the Faun".

Some say compared to Bononcini

That Yankee Handel's but a ninny;

Others aver that he to Handel

Is scarcely fit to hold a chandler.

Strange all this difference should be

'Tis that Bononcini and Needlece.

BT then found their way into Mother Goose and thence to Alice in Wonderland. Correct: John McCallum (5).

20. Josiah Henson was once a slave. He bore stoically the abuses of his master and was even so loyal as to drive a load of slaves through free territory without turning them free or escaping himself. He later did escape, however, joined the abolitionist cause, became a minister, and wrote a narrative of his life as a slave. This narrative inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe to write *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (in which Henson serves as the model for Uncle Tom). The book, in turn, was one of the things which inflamed northern and southern passions and helped lead to civil war. Correct: Turpin (5), Stephanides (1), Johnson (1).

Totals: Turpin (52), Linden (38), Stephanides (23), Johnson (22), McCallum (18), Massar (10), Just (5), Birsan (3). Payton Turpin thus wins a free game (or \$4 toward the fee if it's more than that) in any of the new 'zines which have cropped up recently.

CONTEST NUMBER TWO

So we will have another contest. This one will send you scurrying to only one book, the Bible. The prize is a \$2 subscription to EREHWON, GRAU-STARK, ATLANTIS, HOOSIER ARCHIVES, NUMENOR (13 issues, that is), PLATYPUS PIE, SMUT*, ANTARES, or another worthwhile 'zine carrying general Diplomacy material, but not including an organization membership nor LA GUERRE, or \$2 toward a game fee in any of the newer 'zines (preferably one which is still working on starting its first game). Deadline is Wednesday, 1 March 1972.

The Bible, despite its reputation as an "inspired" document, is full of errors and internal contradictions. I have chosen 10 of the most interesting ones. Below are 10 quotations from the King James Version. Each is worth 10 points. First, identify the quotation (book, chapter, verse). Each quotation is either a contradiction of known fact or it is contradicted by another verse in the Bible (usually a different book). For each quotation, then, after you have identified it (or even if you can't), indicate either the established fact which it contradicts or quote and identify the verse which contradicts it. Remember, the contradictions exist even though Bible commentators have concocted explanations for them.

1. ...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
2. Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me....For word came unto the king of Nineveh....
3. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old. ... In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans...
4. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.
5. They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.
6. ...behold, I come quickly.
7. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.
8. They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.
9. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?
10. There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians...

The deadline is 1 March, again. Have fun.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. DIPCON V will be 22-23 July 1972. It will be held in the Sherman House, an extremely good downtown hotel in Chicago. For the convention,

\$50 double occupancy rooms will be \$18, quite a saving. There will be a banquet Sunday evening, 23 July, at which Allan B. Callhamer will be the keynote speaker. The final convention fee is not yet set. For details, write Len Lakofka, 1806 N. Richmond St., Chicago IL 60647. [Note: My comments on Len, later this issue, in no way imply disapproval of DipConv. I think it will be a great convention, probably the best of the five thus far, and I urge you to go if you possibly can.]

4. The Beverlein Poll No. 3. Doug Beverlein has just published the results of his player opinion poll, which is based on votes for the 14 best players in the country. The results are as follows (column "P" indicates points, where a vote for 1st place is 20; for 2nd, 17; 3rd, 15; 4th, 13; 5th, 11; 6th, 9; 7th, 8; etc. Column "N" is the number of ballots which listed the individual. The numbers in parentheses are the numbers of 1st-place votes. A total of 17 ballots were cast.)

1st BOARD	POINTS	N	2nd BOARD	POINTS	N
1. Tom Sawyer (3)	211	13	8. Andy Phillips	87	12
2. Stanton Verfloeg (2)	174	13	9. Tom Kiler	67	7
3. Eugene Prosnitz	170	14	10. Rick Brooks (1)	64	7
4. Ed Birba (3)	150	12	11. Larry Peery	58	8
5. Bob Walker (2)	137	12	12. Randy Bytwerk (1)	56	6
6. Doug Beverlein	105	13	13. Lew Pulsipher	49	5
7. Hal Neus	90	10	14. Bob Strayer (1)	48	4
			14. Len Lakofka (1)	48	5

Players with 17 points or more: Buchanan, Goldstein, Mahane, McCallum, Miller (1), Pournelle, Rosamilia, Tretick, Vasta, and vonArzke. The Fourth Poll will be taken this summer or fall, and others at intervals of 6-9 months thereafter. Votes may be sent any time; I will announce the deadline when I know what it is. He, he, he, wait Buchanan: I scooped you this time!

5. LEWIS FISHER, 321A Twin Towers, Albion MI 49224 is offering a bunch of game openings you ought to look into. In SUPERNOVA, Middle-Earth I, Middle-Earth IV, Third Age, Interstellar Diplomacy I & II, Indianomaty II, Border Vs. the World III, Napoleonic Diplomacy (the variant, not the 5-man regular game). Some of these are active games which need replacement players. In BLOOD AND IRON, Anarchy IV, Militarish I, Diadokhi. Players must subscribe (\$1: 7/81; \$2: 8/81) plus make a \$1 game deposit which will be refunded if you don't quit (add 50c for each additional game); but replacements need only subscribe. Sample issues, 15c each. Games available from Lew: MI II (15c), MWI III (20c or in B&I 2, 15c), Interstellar I & II (20c).

6. ATLANTIS, Chris Schleicher, 5122 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago IL 60630. Subscriptions are 10/81.50. After a brief period of carrying only games, ATLANTIS has begun to sparkle again. Issues 46-48 have had extensive articles on the new Rulebook, and more material is in the offing. This is one 'zine you should not miss if you are at all interested in Diplomacy. Issue 48 has a goody by John Beshara in which he proves to be his own most effective opponent, and a rather tendentious and confused screed by Buddy Tretick, and another piece by me. What fun!

7. PAUL WOOD, 24673 Harmon, St. Clair Shores MI 48080, is starting up a 'zine. I don't know the name. Players pay subscription fee of \$2 per year plus a \$1 game fee. I have no other details. Paul has been a player since last year, and is apparently part of the growing and enthusiastic Michigan gaming group.

8. CRUSH is put out by Karl Pettis, 2250 NW 20th Ct., Gainesville FL 32601. Subscriptions are 8/\$1 (apparently, players need only subscribe). Offers Youngstown Variant and regular games. Has a system of "rule variations" similar to those used in SHAAFT!! In some instances, their use will make the game a variant, so players who may not be interested in variants should inquire as to specifically what rules will be used. The 'zine is neat, well-run, and easy to read. The GM is very meticulous about telling you exactly where he stands. This looks like a good bet.

9. ARENA, Edi Birsan, 48-20 39th St., LongIsland City NY 11104. Will run regular Diplomacy (fee \$5.50) and "Origins of World War II" (fee \$3.00). Edi is one of the absolutely best players in the world, and one of the most original and creative thinkers in postal Diplomacy. Even if you don't play, subscribe! That's 7/\$1. This is going to be one worth getting, because whatever Edi says on Diplomacy is worth hearing or reading. This will also be the central 'zine for "Origins", with assignment of Birsan Numbers, and a rating system, and lotsa kinda goodies. If you don't get in on ARENA, you will have only yourself to blame (and you will).

10. MOVINGS: Buddy Tretrick: from 1 March to 21 April address mail to him at: FAA Aeronautical Center AC-944.4, Radar A Course 40329, Class 72-10, P.O. Box 25082, OklahomaCity OK 73125. Use a large envelope (obviously). Bruce Gletty, 203½ E. Healy, Champaign IL 61820. Jeff Key, 7918 Alpha Rd., Apt. 1153, Dallas TX 75240.

A CROSS-NATIONAL SURVEY OF DIPLOMACY RESULTS

Many of you know that I have developed a new rating system for NUMENOR. I have been thinking of applying the system to the countries as well. I have just completed a survey of 212 games, and the results are printed below. They're rather interesting, I believe. Let me not how points are determined. Win, 20. Draw: 2-way, 15; 3, 10; 4, 7; 5 or more, 5. Place: 2nd, 5 (7 if by 4 units or more); 3rd, 4; 4th, 3; 5th, 2; 6th, 1; 7th, 0. Survive, 3. Eliminated: 1911 and after, 2; 1906-1910, 1; 1901-1905, 0. (Resignations, replacements, drops, &c. are handled a bit differently, but we don't have that with the countries themselves, just with players.)

Some games I count for players, such as 5-man games, are not counted in this survey. The following completed games are used in compiling the results:

1963 B, C; 1964 A, B, D. 1965 A-I, K-M, P-W. 1966 A-F, H, I, K-O, Q, R, T, X-Z, AA-AD, AE, AG-AI, AK-AM, AO, AQ, AS-AV, AZ, BB-BD, BG, BI-BO. 1967 B, E, H-J, N-P, AA, AC, AF-AH, AJ-AL, AO-AW, AY, BA-BD. 1968 C-P, R-Z, AB, AE, AG-AK, AN, AO, AV, AX, BA-BD, BS, BT, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CF, CH, CI, CK-CM, CP-CU. 1969 C, E-H, K-M, Q, R, T, U, X, AE, AF, AY, AZ, BA, BG, BI, BK, BO, BQ, BS, BU, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CE, CK, CL. 1970 D, E, H-J, M, W, AD, AF, AG, BQ, BT, BU. 1971 Y, AA.

Columns are: P, points; W, no. of wins; D, no. of draws; 2-7, no. of place indicated; S, no. of survivals; E, no. of eliminations.

	P	W	D	2	3	4	5	6	7	S	E
ENG	1627	30	21	36	34	23	30	28	10	134	78
TUR	1615	31	24	30	41	21	18	29	18	136	76
FRA	1557	25	17	31	41	25	35	27	11	136	76
RUS	1520	40	7	23	26	24	27	26	39	114	98
ITA	1241	16	14	23	37	35	42	28	17	119	93
GER	1191	16	15	25	20	36	32	39	28	107	105
AUS	1024	20	7	16	16	27	28	35	63	79	133

Well, there's some meat to chew on. Some interesting relationships show up clearly. Note Russia, for instance. He has won 9 times more than

Turkey, 10 more than England, and 15 more than France! Yet he is considerably far behind all of them. The answer is, obviously, that Diplomacy is very much an all-or-nothing game for Russia. Look at the number of times Russia has drawn, taken second, or taken third, in comparison with the top three. Note, in contrast, the number of 7th places he has. There is much less middle ground between winning and being first out for Russia than for the top three. In this connection that Italy tends to do better than Russia in the survival category, but wins far less frequently. Poor Austria's position is in the cellar in nearly every way--save that he wins more often (by a small margin) than Italy or Germany. His elimination rate is staggering, however. Part of this, at least, is due to Conrad von Metzke. Conrad has played Austria 27 times, and has told me he feels responsible for the country's lousy record. Of the 27 games, Conrad is active in 2, resigned from 3, was stopped from 3, and was removed from 1. Of the remaining 18 games, Conrad survived 4 and was eliminated in 14. He drew 1, took 2nd in 1, took 3rd in 5, 5th in 1, 6th in 5, and 7th in 4. That is not a good performance, granted, and it is due to Conrad's playing around with the position on occasion. However, even if those 18 eliminations were dropped from the record, Austria was still eliminated 115 other times, 10 more than Germany's record. As I have observed in *NUMERON*, there is some evidence that Austria has very often had a weak player, and has faced strong players in Turkey, Russia, and/or Italy. Still, it must be admitted that Conrad has had a hand in this Austrian fiasco, however small.

Anyway, there are some more numbers to play around with for you statistics freaks. Have fun. I'll publish this list from time to time, as there are significant changes in it.

LEN LAKOFKA TAKES HIS MARBLES HOME

Before I proceed with this, I want to make it clear that I do not think Len Lakofka is necessarily another John Beshara. This comparison is made more and more frequently lately, but I think it is unwarranted. Beshara wants personal power and ego-stroking. Len, on the other hand, is genuinely devoted to Diplomacy and democratic organizations. Unfortunately, Len feels--sincerely, alas--that the causes of Diplomacy and democracy are best served when he is telling them what to do.

In the last issue, I expressed my dissatisfaction with what was going on in the Diplomacy organization which is being forced to replace the so-called "Diplomacy Association", now that John Beshara has turned it into his own personal ego-thing. I expressed my reactions even more frankly in *NEW ALBION* #3, 25 January 1972, sent only to the principals involved and a few closely related people. I was particularly unhappy with Len for jumping all over Bob Johnson, although I was willing to admit that Len's complaints might have some substance. I am now not sure I was correct.

In *LIASONS DANGEREUSES* 28, Len suddenly proclaims that the "New Diplomacy Organization begins now!" Bull. Who the hell is Len Lakofka that he can tell everybody else that this or that is or is not going to happen? There are more people involved in this than just him, and his jumping in this way is not only in bad taste, it is stupid. I want to make it clear that I am in no way going to support this sort of thing, nor do I approve of it, nor am I going to pay any attention to it. I sincerely hope all other GMs and players will do the same, for reasons I will note below. Negotiations to solve the problems which have arisen have been under way for some time. Len knew this. The results were very good. Four of the protagonists in all this--Buchanan, Peery, Johnson, and myself--had agreed on a formula for getting back on the track.

I had not intended NEW ALBION 3 for publication. I didn't say "don't publish", but inasmuch as I was making frank statements on personalities, anyone with a grain of common sense would have refrained from publishing it for a few months, at least. But Len published my paragraph on Bob Johnson. That wouldn't be so bad, except: (1) Len did not publish my paragraph on Len Lakofka, (2) Len so distorted (without even indicating where the cuts had been made) my paragraph that it no longer expresses my opinions at all, (3) Len did not indicate the source, and (4) he tried to give the impression that I approved of his opinions of Bob Johnson, which I do not, and of what he was about to do, which I will not. This deliberate misuse of what I said leads me now to tell you what I did say...about Len.

I discussed, in N.A. 3, my hope to smooth over the "Reform"-"NewOrg" squabble. I then addressed myself to Len: "But you wouldn't let me, would you? No, dammit, Len, you had to have your way. You had to see plots under every rock and call everyone's attention to how poor old Len Lakofka got "did in" by nasty old Bob Johnson. Isn't there one ounce of compromise in you? There is an importance to seeming to work together, for the public view, that seems lost on you. Your objections may be entirely right, Len, but must you scream as if you lost the war, when it was only a skirmish?"

Let me now state categorically what I hinted at in N.A. Throughout this whole business, from beginning to end, Len Lakofka has shown no willingness whatsoever to discuss or compromise any issue. All we got were ultimatums, Len Lakofka recounting everyone's sins (but his own) in print, Len Lakofka telling everyone what to do and what not to do, and Len Lakofka generally shooting off his mouth about what he wanted was so much better and so much more important than what anyone else wanted.

If that is the kind of "leadership" you want, you may as well go back to the "Diplomacy Association" Beshara Fan Club. If you desire a leadership which will discuss issues on their merits, and arrange compromises so that work can go ahead without stepping on too many toes, I suggest you stick with the Peery/Buchanan/Johnson group.

I am not opposed to taking polls. However, responding to Lakofka's proposed poll means recognizing him as leader of the movement to form a Diplomacy organization for general members. Considering the bad judgement he has thus far shown, that would be tantamount to voting for George Wallace. I will therefore not print the poll, nor will I respond to it, nor will I pay the slightest attention to its results, if any. I urge all GMS to do likewise. It is silly to waste space on a poll that is nothing more than a partisan power play.

The work of the New Organization proceeds apace (see below) under a compromise proposal. I urge everyone to support that group until and unless it is not turning into a democratic member-controlled group. As for Len Lakofka's "beginning now!" let me ask you--how much chance for true democracy do you believe there is in a group which begins in one man's ultimatum?

DIPLOMACY ORGANIZATION OFF AND RUNNING

Various discussions between people interested in the DipOrg have produced a formula for getting us off toward elections and a permanent constitution. This is as follows.

1. A giant mailing, to hundreds of players, will go out from Walt Buchanan, telling everyone of the DipOrg. I'm not sure when--soon, though--but will announce the mailing when I know it's out.

2. Membership is \$1 (not 2). It may be sent to: Larry Peery, 816 24th St., SanDiego CA 92102. Check or money order only, please. No cash. Larry

will account for all funds in his usual efficient manner (a refreshing change from the "Diplomacy Association", which has all the fiscal integrity of a fox in a henhouse).

3. Membership fee entitles you to: the DipOrg 'zine (as yet unnamed) for a year (6 issues), vote in contest for DipOrg name, vote in contest for 'zine name, vote in elections, run for office (candidates may nominate themselves), and so on. This is quite a lot. In fact, from the "D.A." you get none of this but a 'zine, and that only 4 rather mediocre issues a year (?).

4. The first elected officers will begin work on a permanent constitution.

I can now, in good conscience, urge everyone to join and support this new group. While I still have reservations about the Constitution, I have already indicated these are related to form and style, not to content, and we can always polish it up in the permanent version. You will note that not only are the dues lowered, but there is now a definite promise of what you will get for your money. Let me add that the DipOrg will have additional services, available at cost to members and slightly above cost to others. The DipOrg is not confining its work to a narrow band of synophants, as is the "D.A."—its benefits will even be available to people who oppose it.

Anyone can run for office. I hope a lot of you will turn out for leadership positions. Democracy is nice, but it doesn't function by itself. There must be competition.

I think we should all send a vote of thanks to Walt Buchanan, Larry Peery, and Bob Johnson. These men did not receive all criticism stubbornly, issue ultimatums, or cut themselves off from those who questioned what they did. They met criticism squarely and came up with what (to me) is an eminently satisfactory solution. This is great; this is as it should be. This is the first promise of a Diplomacy group for all players which they will run. Let's work to make sure that promise comes true.

and now, Pandemonium Press proudly presents Ahrydd Pedant's masterpiece of American History, winner of the Calaveras County Jumping Frog Contest of 1970, and recently Book-of-the-Month in Tannu Tuva:

HOW TO BE AN EXPERT ON THE CIVIL WAR WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT IT

Dedication

"...we cannot dedicate..." (A. Lincoln)

Introduction

"C'est plus qu'un crime, c'est une faute."

Due to reasons which will be obvious to people who observe things like that, there has been a re-awakening of interest in the period of American history between 1861 and 1865. To Uninitiates, this is known merely as "The Civil War". If this is the only name you can think of to call it, or if you don't know that the Civil War was, you are an Uninitiate. Experts quickly learn other, more picturesque, titles, such as: The War of the Rebellion, Mr. Lincoln's War, King Lincoln's War, The Brothers' War, War of the Sections, War Between the States, War of Secession, War for Southern Independence, The Damn No!, The Good Old Days, &c. There is no limit to the number of Names and Epithets which may be found. Or made up.

The main thing is to enjoy the Civil War. The true devotee quivers with excitement whenever he discovers a new particle of information, no matter how small or insignificant—which it invariably will be. If your quiver isn't what it used to be, it is appropriate to sob happily. Naturally, such

a discovery will entitle you to Write a Book. The purpose of this Book will not be (except only incidentally) to discuss the Civil War, but to give notice of your brilliance, perspicacity, and perseverance in finding the aforementioned insignificant fact. You may also make some money, but this is only (of course) secondary (naturally).

Authorities on the Civil War are now engaged in an academic free-for-all in order to see who can come out with the most picayune details. There is also considerable interest in fantastic theories, utterly fantastic theories, and poppycock. Impressive headway has been made, but this need not discourage the amateur. Vast fields are still open to the novice, including that of General Information (the I-Know-More-Than-You-All School) which is the most attractive but is actually use_ less in terms of being an Expert. Some may wish to specialize in some field, such as Beards of the Civil War or Civil War Fashions in Brass Buttons, but this is strictly technical stuff. Besides, this information is useless as regards becoming an Expert, too. Anyway, do not feel Inferior. A lack of knowledge, as we will see, need not prevent you from becoming an Expert--in fact, it is the most essential qualification.

Next: Chapter I, A Thing of Madness.

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Hey, buddy. You wanna...

HISTORY OF PODERKAGG?

Part 15 -- The Life and Times of Duchess Salome I, Part 2

Immediately upon her succession to the throne, Duchess Salome began searching for a new husband, someone big enough to make Prince Pandemonium stay in his crib. She found her heart's desire in a Byzantine Prince, George of Antioch, who was 7½ feet tall and weighted 325 pounds. Prince George told Pandemonium to stay in his crib and that was that (George threatened that otherwise he would not only break every bone in Pandemonium's body, but in at least five places).

For a while, Salome and George were deliriously happy. Prince Acrophobius (later Acrophobius II) was born in 1447. George, however, being a Byzantine Greek, had an hereditary predisposition for Court intrigue, and was soon plotting to seize the throne. His plan was to put Salome in a nunnery, but that was one thing you couldn't do to Salome. Besides, Salome had become tired of George (he was fine, she said, but too heavy), and was already plotting to replace him. She contracted an alliance with the King of the underground Kingdom of Pollutidar, Honj the Hairy (ancestor of Honj the Horny), and was to marry an uncertain relative of his (Pollutidarians are not too keen on genealogy, which is just as well, considering their sexual immores), Mudgrub the Maladroit. It was determined that George would be done away with on 1 April 1448. George, meanwhile, had formed a party of conspirators against Duchess Salome, and they planned to do away with her on 1 April 1448.

Thus it happened that the conspiratorial parties burst into their respective victims' rooms on the night of 1 April 1448--and found them empty. In confusion they repaired to the Throne Room, each group arriving at precisely midnight. What happened then was the subject of numerous epic poems in Paderkagg.

Next: Part 16 -- Duchess Salome I, Part 3.

Next issue: HOW TO PLAY AUSTRIA, by Dave Lebling.