

FROBOZZ

Issue #44

August 8, 1987

OK, by popular demand (in other words, at least one person asked), I'm going to reveal some of the "unforeseen events" of last month. You'll recall that I complained of having less time than usual to publish last issue, because of those "unforeseen events". Translated into English, "unforeseen events" means "Jeff painted himself into a corner again".

It all started at about 4PM on Friday, July 10, the date of last issue's deadline. I was worn out from a long week of byte-bashing, so my body's defense systems had automatically put my brain in neutral. It was then that my boss's boss, a company vice-president, approached me with an invitation to attend a bridge party that evening. Now, if I were a manager, I'd be implicitly required to accept such an invitation. But, I'm just a lowly systems programmer, so I could've declined (especially on such short notice). Corporate political rules do not apply so strictly to the peasantry.

You guessed it. In my sleepy mental state, I had forgotten about the deadline and accepted the invitation. "Good," said the VP, "you'll be taking my place. I've been entertaining the visitors from the UK all week. I'm too tired to play bridge." I knew then I'd been had. But it took another hour for me to remember about the zine, thus realizing the full extent of my folly.

What was I to do? What would you have done? Call the VP and tell him I just remembered a prior commitment and couldn't attend the party after all? An excellent way to lose a zillion brownie points. No, that couldn't be right. Go to the party, leaving my phone unattended, and tough luck to last-minute callers? This was the sensible solution, but I couldn't bring myself to abandon you guys. My solution was to hop down to the local AT&T store and blow \$90 on a phone-answering machine! (I know, I know, what a sucker...) My rationalization for this behavior is that I'd been planning for several months to buy one anyway. I just hadn't gotten around to it. This incident simply provided the necessary impetus to get the job done. Right.

Anyway, since I went to the party, I lost all of Friday evening, which I would have used to adjudicate the games. I had to make up the time Saturday and Sunday.

At least, now you players won't have to worry about me not being at home when you call (unless I forget to turn the machine on). If you want to leave your orders recorded on the machine, that's fine. But please read s-l-o-w-l-y, as I am not an expert stenographer, and I have no inclination to play the tape three or four times to get all of your orders.

The 1987 Runestone Poll results are out. Here are the top finishers:

TOP TEN ZINES

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Costaguana | 6. House of Lords |
| 2. Blunt Instruments | 7. Redwood Curtain |
| 3. Praxis | 8. The Canadian Diplomat |
| 4. Europa Express | 9. Magus |
| 5. Diplomacy World | 10. Over There |

TOP TEN GAMESMASTERS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Andy Lischett | 6. John Boardman |
| 2. Lee Kendter Sr. | 7. Dave Carter |
| 3. Dick Martin | 8. Steve Langley |
| 4. Gary Coughlan | 9. Kathy Caruso |
| 5. Jeff Richmond | 10. Fred Davis |

Frobozz finished in 18th place. Many thanks to those of you who took the time to participate. I'm very pleased to receive such high marks.

I've been neglectful in updating my waiting list for the next game opening. To catch up, I will have to go back through all my mail for the last two months. I shudder at the prospect. Instead, I would like those of you who have asked to be placed on the waiting list to do so again. I apologize for my inattention and thank you for your cooperation.

Moving on to the games, the standby pool now consists of: Geryk, Christie, Milewski, Vaporis, Holley, Peters, Heinowski, Kurucz, Acheson, Richter, Gonsalves, Davis, Gibson, Sellers, Johnson, Hood, and Zarse. Does anyone want on or off the list?

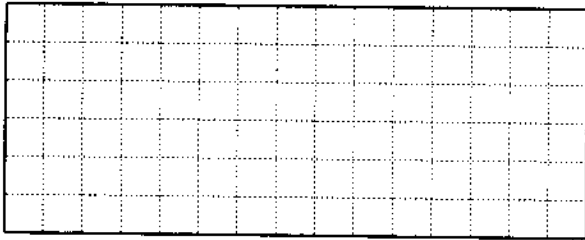
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Puzzle Challenge

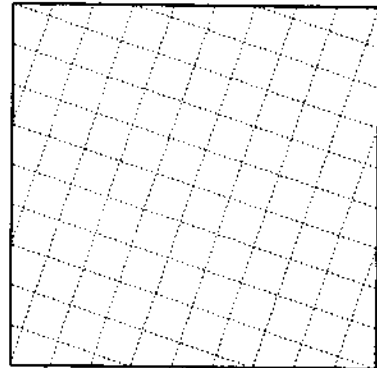
Here is the solution to last month's puzzle:

T	T	A	T	P	R
I	M	I	U	P	W
C	O	O	Y	L	L
L	N	B	O	O	O
C	C	R	X	I	I
H	H	A	R	T	M

Words formed: tomato, purity,
clinch, pillow, brooch, matrix.



This month's puzzle will delight the geometry wiz. The rest of you will just have to suffer. Your task is to divide the rectangle below left into as many pieces as necessary so that the pieces can be reassembled to form the square below right. The fewer pieces you need, the better your score will be. My solution requires five pieces; perhaps you can do better. Note the following: the rectangle's length is two and a half times its width; the dotted grids are present to aid your measurements. Pieces may be rotated to any position, of course, but do not flip any pieces backside up. Do not discard any pieces; you must use them all. I do not want you to cut up the zine and send me scraps of paper. Just draw lines on the rectangle and square to indicate where the pieces would be. Deadline for solutions to this puzzle is September 4, 1987. If you can't solve this one, you can still earn effort points (also known as charity points) just by sending me your attempt.



The Scoreboard

Last month's puzzle was not a stumper for most of you. Steve Langley, Melinda Holley, Ted Davis, Bruce Linsey, Paul Milewski, Pete Kurucz, and Jeff Zarse all submitted correct solutions worth 100 points each. Rory Noble's answer was worth 84 points. That makes the current standings:

1. Steve Langley - 464 points
2. Ted Davis - 451 points
3. Bruce Linsey - 376 points
4. Jim Lawniczak - 347 points
5. Pete Kurucz - 336 points
6. Rory Noble - 312 points
7. Melinda Holley - 240 points

- 8/11. Scott Drane - 100 points
- 8/11. Alan Stewart - 100 points
- 8/11. Paul Milewski - 100 points
- 8/11. Jeff Zarse - 100 points
12. Brady Richter - 98 points
13. John Ricotta - 67 points

Steve Langley (Austria): This game opened with lots of negotiation. I managed to ally with Russia, Turkey, and Italy in Spring of 1901. Italy wanted the gift of Trieste for quick development. Turkey wanted me to make a full-out attack against Russia, and Russia was willing to listen to my ideas and make suggestions. Somehow, I never did get around to loaning Trieste to Italy, nor did I attack Russia. So, by 1902 I was down to one ally.

Pete Kurucz couldn't have been a better ally. He continued to write and to make good tactical suggestions throughout the game. He proved to be totally trustworthy. Hard to believe that there are people like that in PBM Dip.

On the other side on the board, Hugh Christie, as England, also played very well. He wrote frequently and truly tried every negotiational technique. One such was to lay down the ultimatum that he would force the game into a five-way draw. I took that the wrong way, for Hugh, and decided then to play for that specific result. The fact that the game ended in a five-way draw was coincidental. I did not force such, although I did little to alter the outcome.

I don't react well to ultimatums. A weakness, no doubt, but a weakness that I cling to.

What could I have done to keep the game from going to a five-way? The simplest thing would have been to take out France. Hugh tried to get me to, but by then, I was as bound against as if it were a matter of weight beyond a game.

Sorry Jeff, I know the game was pretty boring to GM. Also, thanks Jeff, for running the game on a regular schedule with great accuracy.

Pete Kurucz (Russia): The game started off in typical fashion with my four neighbors all proposing that we all be nice to each other. It soon became clear, though, that England and Germany had it in for me. I got a tip-off that Germany was going to bounce me out of Sweden, so I let him have it in the Fall of 1901 while I took the Baltic. He in turn let me know how surprised and offended he was, how I wasn't entitled to Sweden, etc. It was pretty much the same setting throughout, particularly with England, who repeatedly promised me the world but never ceased to bash me in StP. I suppose that by 1909 or so, he realized that it was futile to come up with any more bogus offers. What made my affairs in the north really difficult was that even though E and G stabbed each other at will, whenever I made any gain against one or the other, they would band together and push me back.

I had the opposite problem in the south. Italy, Austria, and Turkey all seemed genuinely interested in having a Russian ally, and it was a tough choice for me to make. I stuck with Steve Langley, and Italy and Turkey soon fell apart. They didn't seem to be able to work anything out together. During the entire game, I never heard from any French player. I guess my mail was intercepted by England. France was by default a Russian ally, but since we never coordinated anything together, there was no real progress against the E/G alliance.

About 1906 I realized that Germany, despite repeated stabs from England, was going to be forever loyal to him (sort of like an abused wife), and there was no hope of forcing a win or a 2-way draw. Even though Austria and Russia had the superior numbers, E/G managed to stop us at all the cutoff points. We (Steve and myself) couldn't convince England that if he wanted a 3-way draw badly enough, he should do something about the obstinate Germany. But what he did may have smart in the long run, as he could have lost the entire continent to A/R as a consequence. Thanks go to Jeff for his usual outstanding GMing and for having that time limit that put this game out of its misery.

Rory Noble (standby France): There isn't too much I can say about this game. Jeff asked me to stand by for the position first in issue #37, then again in issue #39. When the next issue came out, sure enough, there I was... the new French player.

Having watched the game for some time, I decided to try and help that poor Russian fleet get into the Mid-Atlantic, hoping that the Englishman might make a mistake. But he didn't, and the Russian fleet was beached on the shores of North Africa.

I'd like to thank Steve Langley (Austria) for getting me up to date on the game and telling me that I did indeed have four SC's, although nowhere to build my fourth unit. Steve also suggested that I only vote for the five-way draw as France had been able to stay in the game with some help and had been helpful to others earlier in the game. By the time the last proposal came around (Spring, 1910/issue #41), I was to the point of not really caring whether or not I was included in a draw. I voted for the A/R and the 5-way, and the 5-way passed.

Thank you Jeff, for giving me the opportunity to play and congratulations to the rest of the players, although I didn't really get to know anyone. I hope to meet some of you in another game, sometime.

1987F

The Blue Parrot

Winter, 1903

Aus: A rum r BUD. Fra: Builds F BRE. Ger: Builds A BER.
Rus: F swe r otb. Tur: Builds F SMY.

Spring, 1904

AUSTRIA (*Rusnak*) A bud-RUM, A SER S A bud-RUM, F adr-TRI, A VIE S Italian A ven-TYO, F BUL(SC) S Italian F GRE-aeg.

ENGLAND (*Ricotta*) A lvp-WAL, A EDI-yor.

FRANCE (*Richter*) F wes-LYO, F NAF-wes. F bre-MID, F LON-yor. A pic-BEL, A MAR-pie.

GERMANY (*Hood*) F nth-NWY, F SWE S F nth-NWY, F bal-BOT, A lvn-MOS, A mun-SIL, A ber-PRU, A tyo S French A MAR-pie(d,r boh,mun,otb).

ITALY (*Chen*) A ven-TYO, A PIE S A ven-TYO. F TYN-wes. F ion-TUN, F GRE-aeg.

RUSSIA (*Barents*) A nwy-STP, A UKR S A mos-SEV, A war-LVN, A mos-SEV.

TURKEY (*Davis*) F AEG S F CON-bul(sc). F CON-bul(sc). F smy-EAS, A rum S F CON-bul(sc)(d,r gal,otb). A sev S A rum(d,r arm,otb).

Deadline for Fall, 1904 is 9PM EDT Friday, September 4, 1987.

PRESS — Rome to Paris: You don't really expect to win, do you?

1987CA

The Corner Guard

Spring, 1902

AUSTRIA (*Noble*) A vie-tri(d,r gal,boh,otb). A ser S A vie-tri(d,r alb,gre,otb).

ENGLAND (*Davis*) F LON-nth. F NWY S Russian F bot-SWE, F NTH-hel. A YOR-lon.

FRANCE (*Milewski*) F spa(sc)-MID, A gas-PAR, A mar-SPA, F bre-PIC.

GERMANY (*Anderson*) A MUN-sil. F kie-BAL, A hol-BEL, A RUH-mun. F DEN-hel.

ITALY (*Walley*) A VEN H, F nap-ION, A TRI S A tyo-VIE, A tyo-VIE, F tun-TYN.

RUSSIA (*Townsend*) F bot-SWE, F stp(sc)-BOT, A WAR-sil. A BUD S Austrian A vie(otm). A RUM S Turkish A bul-SER, F bla-SEV.

TURKEY (*Heinowski*) F smy-AEG, A bul-SER, A con-BUL, F ank-CON.

Deadline for Fall, 1902 is 9PM EDT Friday, September 4, 1987.

COA: Steve Heinowski, 51500 Portman Road, RD 2, Amherst, OH 44001.

PRESS — Turkey to France: You are alarmed about the political uncertainties in Turkey...!!!

Germany to England: Are you coming to hunt bear??

D.G. Rossetti to Russia: I suggest you follow my example and abandon the pony express system — your horses were evidently stopped while crossing the DMZ...

Pope Luci Borgia to all in heaven and earth: Please, God, let this letter get there on time. I'd really hate to NMR.

Ann Arbor: The supposedly omnipotent Deity has no control over the U.S.P.S. I recommend you direct future prayers to Random Chance.

England to Germany: Despite my constant lying, if things haven't gone my way, I may start listening to you!

London to Paris: I'll trade you some Stout for that Pernod. We need a change badly.

1986D

Flying Carpet

Spring, 1909

ENGLAND (Holley) A EDI-nwy, A lon-DEN, A STP S A NWY-fin, A NWY-fin, A BER-sil, A PIE-ven, A MUN S A BER-sil, F lvp-IRI, F NWG C A EDI-nwy, F NTH C A lon-DEN, F NAF-tun, F den-SWE, F LYO-tyo, F BAR S A STP, F WES S F NAF-tun.

GERMANY (Townsend) A lvn-PRU, A WAR S Turkish A GAL-sil, A TRI-tyo.

TURKEY (Baker) A sev-UKR, A FIN S A MOS-stp, A MOS-stp, F TYN-wes, F TUN S F TYN-wes, F NAP-rom, A ROM-ven, F apu-ION, A bul-RUM, A gre-SER, A GAL-sil, A vie-BOH, A VEN-tyo, A con-BUL.

Deadline for Fall, 1909 is 9PM EDT Friday, September 4, 1987. Fred Townsend is the new player for Germany. An E-T draw is proposed.

PRESS — Germany to England: Try asking next time — telling me to let you win is not very diplomatic.

1987HF

Benwick

Spring, 1901

AUSTRIA (Gibson) A VIE-gal, A bud-SER, F TRI holds seances.

ENGLAND (Johnson) F edi-NWG, F lon-NTH, A lvp-YOR.

FRANCE (Ricotta) A par-PIC, A mar-SPA, F bre-ENG.

GERMANY (Rusnak) A ber-KIE, F kie-HOL, A mun-RUH.

ITALY (Noblin) A VEN H, A rom-APU, F nap-ION.

RUSSIA (Vaporis) F stp(sc)-BOT, A WAR-gal, A mos-UKR, F sev-RUM.

TURKEY (Sellers) F ank-CON, A con-BUL, A smy-ANK.

Deadline for Fall, 1901 is 9PM EDT Friday, September 4, 1987.

PRESS — DanuBee ((via Austria)): All 500,000 seats in the natural amphitheater up in Galicia sold out for the soccer game, Warsaw vs. Wien! We predict a tie score, 3/3. But the new Austro-Hungarian Intellectual Meritocracy is taking over Serbia like verdure is displacing to bleak winter!

England to the rest of you: Now we find out who's been lying.

England to Turkey: Did you get my letter? I have not gotten one from you. Is it the Postal Orifice fault or what?

Rome to Ankara: Did I miss something? Is this gunboat?

1986CF

The Philosopher's Stone

Spring, 1906

ENGLAND (Gonsalves) A edi-CLY, A nwy-SWE, A fin-STP, A hol-RUH, F BAR S A fin-STP, F stp(nc)-NWY, F swe-BAL, F NTH S F stp(nc)-NWY.

FRANCE (Vaporis) F TYN S Italian F nap-ION, F TUN S Italian F nap-ION, A pic-TUS, A mar-PIE, A tyo-MUN, A BUR S A tyo-MUN, A KIE S A tyo-MUN, F mid-NAT.

GERMANY (cd) A BER H.

ITALY (Bakken) F nap-ION, F rom-NAP, A tus-ROM.

RUSSIA (Drane) A SIL-mun, A BOH S A vie-TYO, A vie-TYO, A MOS-stp, F rum-BUL(EC), F nwg-EDI.

TURKEY (Rothchild) F ion-APU, A VEN S F ion-APU, F ADR S A VEN, A TRI S A VEN, F EAS-ion, F GRE S F EAS-ion, A bul-SER, F CON H.

Deadline for Fall, 1906 is 9PM EDT Friday, September 4, 1987. The proposed draw was defeated. Now proposed: E-F-T and E-F-R-T draws.

1986CG

The Eye of Agamotto

Winter, 1905

Aus: Removes A ser. Eng: Builds F LON. Ger: Builds A MUN.
Ita: Removes F ven. Tur: Builds A ANK, A CON.

Spring, 1906

AUSTRIA (*Peters*) F alb-ADR, A BUD S Turkish A ukr-GAL, A RUM S Turkish A ukr-GAL.

ENGLAND (*Geryk*) F lon-NTH, F MID S F por-SPA(SC), F ENG S F BRE, F BRE H, F NWY S F lon-NTH, A MOS S German A war-UKR, A STP S A MOS, F por-SPA(SC).

GERMANY (*O'Brien*) A mar-PIE, A bur-MAR, A war-UKR, A MUN-tyo, A gal-VIE, A BOH A gal-VIE, F DEN-kie, A BER-kie, A GAS S English F por-SPA(SC).

ITALY (*Ricotta*) A spa h(d,a), F WES S A spa, A tun-NAF, F nap-TYN, A TRI-tyo, A vie S A TRI-tyo(d,a).

RUSSIA (*cd*) F BAL H.

TURKEY (*Noble*) F ion-TUN, F aeg-ION, F SEV H, A ukr-GAL, A ank-ARM, A con-BUL, A rom-TUS.

Deadline for Fall, 1906 is 9PM EDT Friday, September 4, 1987. Russia has lapsed into permanent civil disorder.

COA: PFC Pat O'Brien, 161-52-0072, C CO., 2/6 INF., NY APO 09066.

PRESS — Turkey to Austria and Italy: Hope this works.

_____ Your sub has expired. Please renew.

Russ Rusnak (S50)
1551 High Ridge Parkway
Westchester, IL 60153