

# GRAUSTARK

#169

23 November 1968

## FULL BOARD FOR ONE NEW GAME!

Seven prospective players have sent in their entry fees, and a new postal Diplomacy game is under way. The game will be called "Graustark I" until a Kening Number is assigned to it.

The deadline for "Spring 1901" moves in this new game is NCON, SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 1968. The players and their countries are:

ENGLAND: William Lee Linden, 83-33 Austin Street, Kew Gardens, New York 11415

FRANCE: Ronald Berman, 178 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11218

GERMANY: David K. Johnston, 5451 Rockwood Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224

ITALY: W. Gerald White, 4004 S. E. Pine Street, Portland, Oregon 97214

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Terry Kuch, 4242 East-West Highway, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

RUSSIA: Charles E. Johnson, G. P. O. Box 1651, New York, New York 10001

TURKEY: Norman MacLeod, 206 Kimberwicke Road, McLean, Virginia 22101

The rules for this and all GRAUSTARK games are printed in GRAUSTARK #168. Players who wish to be called collect for their moves under the provisions of Rule 17 should send their telephone numbers, including the area code, to the Gamesmaster. Players who wish their phone numbers published in GRAUSTARK, for the convenience of other players, should also send them in.

Stand-by players for this game will be assigned later.

Entries are still open for "Graustark II", the other new postal Diplomacy game announced in GRAUSTARK #168. The entry fee is \$3.50.

Something new has been added to "Graustark I". David Johnston, "knowing your interest in science-fiction", has gone into consultation with a ouija board and sent in a sealed envelope. Without explaining what a ouija board has to do with science-fiction, he asks that the envelope be opened at the conclusion of the game. Ouija, he says, when used by Otterbein College's radio station, "scooped the networks in declaring Nixon the winner and in calling several states, the earliest being Pennsylvania for Humphrey."

But the ouija board is a relatively modern thing, invented less than a century ago. If you're going to go in for divination, why not

(continued on p. 10)

## THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT O-O-HATE

## Chapter LXI

Secret Agent O-O-Hate, who is really Clark Gungel, mild-mannered comic book collector of Ragle, Pennsylvania, sat one evening in his bomb shelter and comic-book library. With him was his teen-age assistant Burner, who is really Victor Charlie Burner, a student at the Blessed Ralthazar Girard Theological Seminary.

"Well, Burner, we could use a good vacation after the Adventure of the Presidential Pigs," said O-O-Hate.

"But how can we take a vacation," Burner replied, "when the Sinister Forces of World Peace are always on the alert to bring about their evil ends and abolish the American Way of War?"

"Oh, this will be a working vacation. We'll go to the annual convention of the Tarpeia Society."

"What's that?"

"The Tarpeia Society is the professional organization of spies, secret agents, and subversives. We hold an annual convention where we get together to exchange secret plans, codes, and bomb recipes."

"Gashwaw! When do we leave?"

"I have tickets on Detroit Airlines, leaving tomorrow from the airport."

"Great! Where's the convention?"

"In Siunik."

"Where's that?"

"Actually, Burner, I don't know. But I'm sure the pilot will."

Just then the Knot Line rang. O-O-Hate picked up the tomato can, which was connected by a stretched string to a bean can in the office of his mysterious Washington superior, Mac.

"O-O-Hate, you've got a job at the Tarpeia Society convention," Mac told him. "Our British opposite number, M. I. 5<sup>1/2</sup>, says that an attempt will be made to organize the spies into a union and call a strike!"

"Holy Moley!" O-O-Hate cried. "Why, war is impossible without spying. The International Pacifist Conspiracy must be behind this!"

((A spies' strike? Is nothing sacred? How will O-O-Hate and Burner meet this threat amidst the exotic atmosphere of romantic Siunik? Follow the adventures of O-O-Hate and Burner in GRAUSTARK.))

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BEAUCOUILLEN - XXXII

Shortly after the end of World War I, Grand Duke Cosimo XIII was thrown by a bucking chorus girl and died of his injuries. He was succeeded by his sole surviving legitimate son, Cosimo XIV.

In the period between the World Wars, Beaucouillon attempted to restore its old character as a playground for the idle rich and a center of international intrigue. The new Grand Duke was aided by a brilliant group of exiled Russian noblemen, most of whom had been able to escape with their family jewels intact. They included Count Alexander Blow-off (who had recently succeeded to the title after the death of his father in a Turkish raison d'accordement), Baron Alexander Czerny, and the Baron's charming wife Lady Heloise Czerny. Other nobles, fearing that the same sort of outbreak might hit their own countries, also fled to Beaucouillon for a last fling. This was the brilliant, decadent, erotic, exotic society chronicled in his memoirs by the American adventurer Henry Pike, later the Earl of Pike.

3  
THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

ROD WALKER, 1575-A White Drive, Rantoul, Ill. 61866: I guess I should supply the answers to the quiz I sent you.

(The quiz was printed in GRAUSTARK #164, and answers from readers are printed in #166.)

1. Zabulistan: This was the eastern region of what is now Afghanistan. There were many kingdoms in this region, but the rulers of them often used the title "King of Zabul" or "...of Zabulistan". The first was the Kingdom of the pre-Moslem Hephthalites, or White Huns (Chinese: Yüan-Yüan). They ruled 402-555, and had a capital just north of Herat. The second was the Shahiya Kingdom of northwest India, with capitals variously at Kabul, Und, Bhatinda, and elsewhere. They ruled from the 3rd Century to 1026, although they may be regarded as historical only after c. 850. The third was the Ghaznavid Kingdom, which Bill Linden mentioned. However, Alptigin and his successors were Kings of Zabul only 962-976. They were not expelled in 1152 by the Persians, but were driven from Ghazni to Lahore in 1151 by the Sultan of Ghor (the Lahore line died out in 1186). The Ghoris were related, yes, but had been vassals of Ghazna from at least 1020. They proclaimed their independence in 1149, which was the first year in which the Surid Dynasty had its capital in Ghor (formerly in Sanga and Istiya). If that is not sufficiently confusing, I will send more later.

2. Herzegovina: The two zhupanates were Trebunia (Travunia) and Zakhumlia (Khulm), yes. Names were Duchy of St. Sava and Hum (from Zakhumlia).

3. Fraxinetum: The Moslems established a pirate state here in 694. They were conquered by Arelate in 973. The city is also known as La Garde Freinet. There was no Islamic state in Aquitaine. No ruler of Aquitaine bore the title of King from 631 to 761.

4. Bari: George Heap is right, Emir Musat of Cagliari (who was finally expelled in 1050, but did not reign continuously 1000-1022) was not a Sultan. "Sultan", by the way, is not a Turkish word, but an Arab word adapted by the Seljuk and Ottoman Turks. It is a rough equivalent to the Persian Shahanshah and implies overlordship. Arabic Moslems conquered Bari in 840. In 853 one Mubarrak ibn-Salim proclaimed himself Sultan. He was dethroned by the Byzantines in 871.

5. Abha: Abha was not the capital of Asir. That was as-Sabya, which is further south, near the Yemeni border. Abha was a city-state of its own, 1834-1871 and 1918-1922. It is in Asir, however.

6. Ukrainian Independent Soviet Republic: Separatist Communist group at Kiev, June 1919.

Ukrainian National Republic: Germany's puppet Ukraine, 1917-1919, under the Rada and Hetman Skoropadsky, which subsisted in Kiev, Sarny, Zhitomir, and other places. It was extinguished by the Poles. The republic, by the way, was not proclaimed until November 1917 (see Hrushevsky's History of the Ukraine). Until that time, the Rada had hoped for some sort of federative relationship with the Petrograd government.

Ukrainian People's Republic: Proclaimed by S. V. Petlura, a rabid anti-Semite, at Pelaya Tserkov, in November 1918. His name was not Danil. He was not supported by the Central Powers. He held Kiev for 2 days (30-31 August 1919). Conquered by Poland, November 1920. ((Petlura fled to Paris, where he was assassinated by Sholom Shvartzbart, a Jew whose kin in the Ukraine had been murdered by Petlura's troops.))

This is  
O At  
P Great  
E Intervals  
R This  
A Appears  
T To  
I Inflamm  
O Optic  
N Nerves

# 384

Ukrainian Soviet Republic: Ancestor of the Ukrainian SSR. Ran back and forth between Kharkov and Kiev during 1917 and 1921.

Bill Linden is right about the Donets and Odessa Soviet Republics. The original plan in Moscow was to cut the Ukraine into four or five republics. It flopped. These, however, were not states. Try the West Ukraine or the Zaporozhian Republic.

7. Yasin: The Mehtarate lasted from the early 19th Century to 1880, and is in the upper Indus. It is now part of Chitral. The title is probably Mongol, not Turkish.

8. Yava-dvipa: The Hindu name for a large island in the East Indies. The name Java is derived from it, but the inscriptions leave the reader uncertain whether Java itself or Sumatra is meant.

9. Fang: In 1767, Ayut'ia fell to Burma, and Siam temporarily dissolved. Just north of the city of Pitsanulok, a Buddhist monk named Ruan founded a theocratic Kingdom of Fang. It lasted until 1770. ((That about matches the record of Jan Beukelszoon's comparable experiment in theocracy in Münster a couple of centuries earlier.)) The African and New Guinean Fangs are only tribes.

10. Avaristan existed from at least the 9th Century to 1864. Its capital (at least in later years) was at Khunzakh, in Daghestan. The Khanate was overthrown in 1834 by Imam Hamza Beg, but the Russians expelled his successor, Shamil, in 1859, and restored Khan Ibrahim. He was dethroned in 1863 and his Khanate annexed to Russia in 1864. These "Avars" may have been Alans.

11. Champassac: Bill Linden's answer is correct, except that Thailand did not annex Champassac. They made it tributary in 1385, but the country was annexed by France, in 1904.

12. Klipdrift Republic: Bill's answer is again right, except the founding date is, I think, 1870. The President was Theodore Parker. Barkly West was then called Klipdrift.

\* Klip River Republic: On the Klip River, south of Utrecht and north of Natal. Founded in 1846; annexed by Natal in 1847.

13. Shantamariyat al-Gharb: Now the town of Santa Maria in Algarve. An Emirate existed there during the Muluk al-Tawa'if, founded by Abu-Othman Sa'id ibn-Harun in 1016. Conquered by Seville in 1052. Shantamariyat al-Gharb is presently called Faro, by the way. Actually, there is another answer. Almeria was called Maria before the Conquest, and the Arabs called it al-Mariya. But that could be any Mary, like Mary Magdalene, or Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary. There was an Emirate at Almeria, 1012-1091.

...From the Walker Collection of Trivia, I will ask one question. I will offer a prize if anyone can answer it. Which I doubt. The prize will be Peter Blum's Military Miniatures (The Odyssey Press, New York, 1964)! The question is:

In the motion picture Thunderball, James Bond first meets Domino while swimming off Nassau in the Bahamas. He helps her free her foot from the bottom and they surface. In that scene, and in some subsequent scenes, a sailing ship is plainly visible in the distance. What kind of ship is it and what is her name? To qualify, both type and name must be correct. It is impossible, by the way, to see the name of the ship in the film. You'll have to (heh, heh) look it up.

I will offer a tie-breaker question if there is more than one correct answer (which I doubt).

HARRY MANOGG, P. O. Box 769, Kankakee, Illinois 60901: Your comments on my comments re: guns and registration and such were just fine, and I enjoyed your comment on that hunting enthusiast. I know a man here who has scads and scads of guns, and thinks the Pope is too liberal and should be shot. How about that? I think the Pope is a damned fool, and probably will be shot.

((This is an interesting point. There have been over 260 Popes,

but I can't recall that any, even in the most tumultuous phases of the Dark Ages, were ever assassinated. Some may have died of poison - though the evidence here is confused and biased - and the Catholic Encyclopedia says that John XII died of la mort douce, but I know of none who were assassinated. Can any of the history buffs in the audience comment further?))

Howsomever - if Verwoerd's demise was an execution instead of an assassination or just plain murder, then to me at least it follows that you believe that individuals have a right to kill under certain circumstances, and if an individual has a right to kill does it not follow that he has a right to obtain and possess weapons, such as guns?

((Under the extreme conditions which prevail in South Africa, there is a legitimate right of revolution.))

Now since guns are expensive, and dangerous, I do have an open mind as to divesting myself of any and all such that I possess. I would do so gladly providing the following conditions were met.

That the government of the United States compensates any victim of a felony (defined under law, as opposed to a misdemeanour) or any major crime for the full amount of property lost, for the full amount of all medical expenses the victim might have, for the full loss of any future income due to disability or death.

...The second thing necessary would be for the government to institute a moral and intelligent prison system. Which would isolate completely those who have committed crimes from the rest of society without trying to punish them. No death penalty, no barred cells, no hard labor. Simply "you can't go home again".

((The benevolent, moral, and intelligent Russian Empire once had such a system. It was called "Siberia".))

You have a lot of guts, John; it takes a lot of guts to snipe at Monarchists during an election campaign like this one. You know I am a member of the Augustan Society, don't you? Any time you want to join, just get in touch - with the candidates we have now what's so bad about Betty Hanover?

((But she's a Usurper -- the heir of William of Orange, who was installed by the Act of a merely elected Parliament in defiance of the rightful heir. If a King we must have, then our rightful ruler is whatever German or Italian princeling has inherited the mantle of the Royal Stuarts. Or, perhaps, should we get that sometime National Review writer, Otto von Habsburg?))

DAVID K. JOHNSTON, 5451 Rockwood Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224: Can you clarify the rules deciding the Bulgaria moves in 1968BD ((in GRAUSTARK #157))? I would have thought that the Turkish A Bul-Gre fails (2 vs. 2), then the Austro-Hungarian A Ser-Bul succeeds (2-1) as F Gre S A Ser-Bul is not cut by an attack from the attacked province, and an order to attack A Con-Bul is null if another Turkish army is in Bulgaria. I could also see this called a standoff with the Turkish army in Bulgaria destroyed.

((The relevant moves were:

ITALY: F Ion holds; A Alb S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN F Gre.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Ser-Bul; F Gre S A Ser-Bul.

RUSSIA: F Rum S TURKISH A Con-Bul.

TURKEY: A Bul-Gre; F Aeg S A Bul-Gre; A Con-Bul; F Eas-Ion.

Two armies, the Turks in Constantinople and the Austro-Hungarians in Serbia, are both trying to get into Bulgaria. Each has one support and so neither move succeeds. Since no one enters Bulgaria, the army presently there cannot be dislodged. The Turkish move A Bul-Gre has one support, but fails because the Austro-Hungarian fleet in Greece is also supported, by the Italians in Albania. If this last support had

not been given, the Turkish A Bul-Gre with its support would have succeeded. The Austro-Hungarian fleet in Greece would have been dislodged. However, since this fleet is attacked from Bulgaria, it can support into Bulgaria whether it is dislodged or not. So the situation in Bulgaria would have still been a stand-off, with no one entering the country. See rulings 7, 12, and 20 in GRAUSTARK #168.)

JEFF W. KEY, P. O. Box 251, Eatontown, N. J. 07724: Re James Latimer's request in GRAUSTARK #166, Merrimack - with the "k" was the official name on the U. S. Navy lists, she being named for the Merrimack River rather than the town of Merrimac located in northeastern Massachusetts. After her conversion into an ironclad, common usage came to sanction dropping the "k". Also, she continued to be better known by her original name than by her new one, the Virginia. Merrimack College was so named because it was situated on the banks - so to speak - of the Merrimack River. I have been unable to determine why the town of Merrimac dropped the "k" from its name - but it was done very early in the town's history as it is recorded as Merrimac as far back as I could trace it.

...The Voice of Vienna should become a reality in the very near future. The board for the game is not quite complete..there are still two vacancies. As soon as it is complete I shall start publication.

((Apparently sometime during the 17th Century a number of English words and names ending in "ck" went over to plain "c" - as "musick", "politick", etc. However, early in the present century the U. S. Post Office tried to simplify several town names, or otherwise change their spelling. Town names ending in "burgh" had the "h" knocked out of them - except for Pittsburgh, which was big enough to insist on its characteristic spelling. Brattleborough became Fratleboro at about the same time. Tuscaloosa went briefly to Tuska-loosa before reverting to type, though in the meantime the "k" spelling was frozen into the facade of a new courthouse. For details see Alvin Harlow's Paper Chase.

((I wonder whether Merrimack College might not have been the inspiration for H. P. Lovecraft's famous Miskatonic University, which was allegedly located in Arkham, on the banks of the Miskatonic River, in the same county where Merrimack is located.))

GEORGE HEAP, P. O. Box 1467, Rochester, N. Y. 14603: I enjoyed the various responses to the geographical quizzes. Of interest to me: I had never heard of Deira, but shortly after writing in my answers, I ran into a mention of it in Henry Treece's The Green Man. This is a rather fascinating novel, not quite as much sword-and-sorcery as the coverblurb would have you believe, but damn good nonetheless. He brings in Hamlet, King Arthur, Beowulf, and an offstage Belisarius. I went and looked them up and was rather surprised to see that, outside of Hamlet, Belisarius, and the presumptive historical originals of the other two were contemporaries (I'm willing to give or take a few decades on this sort of thing). I was a little disappointed on Hamlet. Does anybody place him as early as the 5th-6th centuries? (Amleth, that is.)

((The Amleth Saga is the original form of Hamlet. According to Saxe Grammaticus, Amleth lived sometime around the end of the 7th Century. Thus he was a contemporary of the Roman Emperor Justinianus II, while Belisarius was a subject of Justinianus I in the middle 6th Century. Treece may have put Belisarius into Amleth's time through confusing the two Emperors. According to the de Camps' Ancient Ruins and Archaeology, whatever historical Arthur there may have been cannot be dated after the middle 6th Century, and was probably earlier. The Geatic raid on Friesland, mentioned in Beowulf, has been dated at 521. See the notes to David Wright's translation in a Penguin edition.))

## 1968G - PRESS RELEASES

MANCHESTER (19 November 1996): To the shouts and cheers of thousands of loyal English subjects, the Turkish and Russian ambassadors, long kept prisoners in the Tower, were fed to a troop of visiting Herib cavalrymen.

LONDON (23 November 1996): Rumors that Pellutidarean forces, led by none other than HsSSs-ESsaa-Hssss the Sumptuous One, were marching out of the Urals against Moscow, have enlivened the gloom in the capital somewhat. There are also reports that the Kearsars in the Black Sea have raided Constantinople and have burned the Sublime Porte. Meanwhile, King-Emperor Huen has had the body of Baron Meliadus flayed and a map of Europe printed on the tanned skin. He then had the teeth extracted from the skull, sharpened and painted blue and red ("for us and them"). He is now having the teeth stuck into the skin. It is said that Huen regrets not thinking of this while the wretched Meliadus was still alive.

FATTENING PEN #1 (3 December 1996): Operations here are being suspended, preparatory to a move to Ireland. This is being done to preclude the disruptive effects of further Russian attacks in Scandinavia.

FATTENING PEN #6 (formerly Lisbon) (5 December 1996): In anticipation of a renewed Turkish offensive in Iberia, this operation is being transferred to the English stronghold on Minorca. The physical plant of Fattening Pen #8 (formerly Madrid) has already been moved to the Channel Islands.

LONDON (9 December 1996): Unconfirmed rumor has it that King-Emperor Huen has fled the country and sailed to Alabama, in the United States. It is said that he is hiding there under the name of George Wallace. The palace is denying the story, while admitting the similarities between the two individuals.

ABOARD THE KOARSAR FLEET, SOMEWHERE IN THE BLACK SEA: Fleet Admiral Bobo Rygmus said that a garbled report about Kearsar activities against the Turks had been transmitted to London. "Actually, we didn't get anywhere near Constantinople," he said. "We sacked the wine cellar of a resort hotel in Varna, Bulgaria. We found some sublime port there."

PEERI-PEERI, POLLUTIDAR: By a narrow margin, the Xexot priest Nexius was chosen High Priest of Pyu. Lo-Rench, Go-sha of this city, has not yet made a statement on this choice. He had supported Mein-Humpf, who with Wal-Ass, High Priest of the Leanda Lurleen, was another contender for the highest place in the Xexot religious hierarchy. According to some rumors, Lo-Rench believes that Mein-Humpf failed of election because of certain dissident priests who refused to support him or any other candidate. However, inquiries determined that these dissidents could not have voted for Mein-Humpf in any event. Those who were not still bedridden with wounds suffered at Mein-Humpf's hands had fled to the anti-war settlement of "Happies" in the Marar city of Phutra.

The formal installation of the new High Priest of Pyu will be delayed while the Xexots try to determine which of the three candidates is actually Nexius.

POLLUTIDAR: In a report to the Representative Diet, His Inferial Majesty Honj the Horny, Emperrear of Pellutidar expressed pleasure over the continued progress of the war against the Outer Crust nations. He said that France and Germany were expected to surrender momentarily, thus increasing the number and variety of Outer Crusters imported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Food Procurement.

The Emperrear also appointed Ag-Nu the Greecey One to replace the late Paul the All-Wet One as Minister of Eternal Insecurity. "Ag-Nu."

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

According to the 8 November 1968 issue of the East Village Other, the Augustan Society has just discovered that George Washington was a second cousin, seven times removed, of Queen Elizabeth II. EVO adds, "Perhaps a jolt to every Irishman amongst us but perhaps food for thought as to the possible relationship of Ringo Starr to George Corley Wallace."

Meanwhile, the London Observer Review of 22 September reports that the British government always keeps three sets of fake crown jewels in the United States. When not in use, the fakes are stored in a warehouse in St. Louis.

Do any Augustans care to speculate on the relationship between Dr. No and Yoko Ono?

This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott. And if it were, would we tell you?

Gary Gygax writes that the International Federation of Wargamers (IFW) is re-organizing. Its quarterly Spartan will change its name to International Wargamer, and will be for internal communication among members. The IFW's official organ will be a monthly, whose name has not yet been chosen. Dice Trae and Verbal Chaos Ltd. will be IFW Diplomacyazines. For further information write to Gygax at 330 Center St., Lake Geneva, Wisc. 53147.

From time to time I receive comments from a reader on my view that the Vietnam war has been prolonged by the United States to keep the economy booming. "Why is it then," I am asked, "that the market goes up with peace rumors?" The answer is provided in the New York Daily Column of 8 November 1968 by Elmer Reessner, who says that, even if a peace is arranged:

1. "...it will be long before it will be safe to withdraw our troops."
2. "Our military stocks will require replenishing...it will be necessary to rebuild our stockpiles. While we have not yet learned how to win small wars, we have surely learned a lot about fighting them."
3. Both sides "have been testing many new weapons in Vietnam."
4. "The closing out of present government contracts will take time...because the new President will not want to upset the economy."
5. "Communist policy for half a century has been to...fight these wars with the blood of other people." That is, Americans in Korea are attacked by Koreans, Americans in Vietnam are attacked by Vietnamese, Americans in Latin America are attacked by Latin Americans, etc., etc. Somehow this has become the fault, not of Americans in other peoples' countries, but of Russians who stayed in their own country.

So the "peace market" is really a market for anticipated wars.

The Moore School of Electrical Engineering (University of Pennsylvania) is playing war games on a computer these days. Dr. Noah S. Prywes got the idea from a computer war game he saw in operation several years ago at the British Admiralty. Under grants from the Office of Naval Research he modified and refined the techniques, and now in these war games two computers are pitted against each other in model naval battles. On the basis of data supplied by these computers, two



players can maneuver their ships at or around each other.

Incidentally, has anyone lately tried to computerize Diplomacy? GRAUSTARK is always interested in accounts of such attempts.

Due to the long-standing need to reprint GRAUSTARK rules and rulings, the two serials were crowded out of the last issue. "The Adventures of Secret Agent O-O-Hate" and "A Brief History of the Grand Duchy of Beaucaillon" will be resumed as soon as space becomes available, hopefully in this issue. But a large backlog of unpublished letters to the editor is also on hand, and in fairness to the writers really ought to see print soon.

Do you have complaints about the postal system? Robert Perkins, publisher of Spald, is sending out a questionnaire on the kind of postal service experienced by Diplomacy players and publishers. If you want to participate, write him at 2755 Carlisle Road, San Marino, Calif. 91108.

Despite the great volume of mail represented by 5 1/2 years of GRAUSTARK, I have very few complaints on postal service. The only time that anything happened requiring me to complain to the Post Office about it, my mail was confused with that of a locally prominent Roman Catholic cleric who also is named John Beardman.

Most of the demand for a reorganization of the Post Office seems to come from people who think that its first duty is, not to provide a public service, but to pay for itself. If this were the case, we would see rural-delivered letters rise to close to a dollar an ounce. And if postal service leaves things to be desired now, think what would happen if the jobs were removed from civil service as some have suggested? What kind of service could be expected from people who could expect to lose their jobs whenever the federal government changed hands?

"Recently saw Fournelle on the Les Crane show, debating radical politics with Madalyn Murray...it would be hard to pass Madalyn's obnoxious level, but I'm happy to say that Jerry came through with flying colors." - Steve Stiles, Sam #14.

There are two other John Beardmans around - a bishop and an art historian. Thus, I have some sympathy for Herman Kahn - not Herman Kahn the war queer but Herman Kahn the archivist. Mr. Kahn, 61, was in the New York Times recently when he transferred from the staff of the National Archives to become associate librarian for manuscripts and archives at the Yale University Library.

Meanwhile, the other Kahn is still at it. In the November Fortune he is apparently intent upon supporting the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia - by confirming Soviet fears about a western plot to take over the country. Kahn writes that liberalization in Czechoslovakia would be followed by a growth of West German influences in that country, and eventually by the return of capitalism, and the fall of the present governments of Poland and East Germany.

Your Gamesmaster has broken out in a new place - in a monthly amateur journal called Bias, published by Paul I. Lewis, P. O. Box 1048, Jamaica, N. Y. 11431. I am doing a series of articles for Bias entitled "The Borderlands of Art", a study of various kinds of unofficial or illegal artwork. The first article, published in Bias #6, deals with pornography and the "redeeming social importance" criterion. The next article in the series discusses the artists' 'zine Witzend. The third will discuss the decline of the "eight-pager". Bias is \$2.00 for six issues.

No one expressed an interest in continuing 1967. So the draw announced in GRAUSTARK #168 is hereby confirmed.

Since commenting on Harry Manegg's letter in this issue, I've read a novel which deals with a plot to assassinate the Pope. It's A Killing for Christ by Pete Hamill, a writer and journalist, who lives in this neighborhood. The plot is hatched by an elderly, venerable, ascetic cardinal who thinks that Popes John XXIII and Pius XII have betrayed Catholicism. (He is obviously intended for Cardinal Ottaviani.) One of these dolce-vita style Italian counts is also in on it. The trigger-man is a thinly fictionalized version of Dan Burros, the neo-Nazi who committed suicide 3 years ago when his Jewish background was revealed. The plot is foiled by a curious combination of has-beens - a washed-out American priest, a washed-out American reporter, a washed-out actress, and a washed-out emigré Cuban abortionist. Hamill may well become the William Saroyan of the 1970's.

GRAUSTARK I (continued from p. 1)

go all the way - to an ancient Chinese manual of divination called the Yi King, which people insist on calling the I Ching. After running through the Yi King for "Graustark I" with three . . . sovereigns, I got the pattern indicated to the right. There are no "moving lines". The hexagram is lin, the 19th. We are told that "there will be great progress and success, while it will be advantageous to be firmly correct. In the eighth month there will be evil." In the Chinese calendar, the eighth month corresponds most closely with September. Furthermore, "Lin denotes the approach of authority - to inspect, to comfort, or to rule." And "The superior man . . . has his purposes of instruction that are inexhaustible, and nourishes and supports the people without limit." (Like the Thoughts of Mau dze-Dung?)

Anyone who can make anything out of this can have it, together with a thousand-year-old egg, a Swedish-modern planchette, and a bale of old horoscopes.

GRAUSTARK #169

John Beardman  
592 16th Street  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218  
U. S. A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

REPEAL THE SECOND AMENDMENT

The life you save may be your own.