

GRAUSTARK

#240

1970E, 1970J, 1970W, 1970BB, 1970BN, 1970BQ

5 June 1971

1970E

"Fall 1912"

R O M A N E M P I R E R E - E S T A B L I S H E D !

NEW GOVERNMENT VICTORIOUS AFTER 1,001 NIGHTS!

ENGLAND (Gletty): No moves received. F North Atlantic, A Yor, F Lon, F Norway, & F Norwegian Sea hold.

GERMANY (Tang): F Den-Swe.

ITALY (Beshara): F Bel-North Sea; F Eng S F Bel-North Sea; F Mid-North Atlantic; F Wes-Mid; F North Africa S F Wes-Mid; A Ruh-Kie; A Mun-Sil; A Boh & A Gal S A Mun-Sil; A Bur-Mun; A Tyr S A Bur-Mun; A Vic & A Bud S A Gal; A Ser-Gre; A Tri-Ser; F Aeg-Con; A Hol holds.

RUSSIA (Burley): A Kie-Den; A Swe S A Kie-Den; A Mos-St.P; F Bot-St.P (s.c.); A Pru-Liv; A Sil holds; A War holds; A Con S A Smy; A Smy S A Con; A Rum S F Bul(e.c.); F Bul(e.c.) S A Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. The German F Den is dislodged and, since Germany has no supply centers left, annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nor. (4)

ITALY: Bel, Bro, Bud, Gre, Hol, Kie, Mar, Mun, Nap, Par, Por, Rom, Ser, Spa, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. (18)

RUSSIA: Ank, Ber, Bul, Con, Den, Mos, Rum, St.P, Sev, Smy, Swe, War. (12)

Since no English moves were received, the Gamesmaster removes the most distant English unit, F Norway. Russia builds F St.P(n.c.) and F Sev. Even without building, Italy now has 17 units to the 16 of all other nations combined, and is therefore the winner.

This is the fourth to be completed of the six new GRAUSTARK games begun early in 1970. For a brief account of the first three games, and an explanation of the symbols used in the roster and supply center chart which appear to the left, see GRAUSTARK #239. Players in 1970E should consult the subscription expiration lists in that and this issue to determine whether renewals are due.

- 1970E - John Boardman, Gamesmaster
- E - Bruce Gletty
 - F - Ray Moseley (out F04)
 - G - Stephen Tang (out F12)
 - I - James Becker (res F09)
 - John Beshara (won F12)
 - A - Thomas Poplawski (dro S02)
 - James Barber (out F02)
 - R - Brian Burley
 - T - Ray Amling (out S06)

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
E	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	6	5	5	5	4
F	3	3	3	1									
G	3	5	6	9*	9	9	8	8*	6*	4	3	1	
I	3	5	7	9	10	11	13	12	13	15	16	17	18
A	3	4											
R	4	6	7	7	7	9*	8	9*	9	10	10	11	12
T	3	4	6	4	3	1							

1970E began as a "Beginners' Game", limited to new players. By now, of course, several of these (continued on p. 3)

1970J

"Spring 1912"

ANGLO-ITALIAN, ALLIES CLOSE IN ON FRENCH

The Italian unit in Albania, incorrectly reported as a fleet in GRAUSTARK #238, is actually an army.

ENGLAND (Richard Miller): F Swe-Bal; F Edi-North Sea; F Liv-Iri; F North Atlantic-Mid; F Eng S F North Atlantic-Mid; A Lon & A Norway hold; A Ber-Sil; A Kie-Ruh; A Den-Kie; A Mun-Boh.

FRANCE (Locke): F Por-Mid; A Boh-Vie; A Gal S A Boh-Vie; A Sil-War.

GERMANY (Burley): A St.P-Liv; A Mos S FRENCH A Gal-Ukr.

ITALY (Comber): A Mar-Bur; F Lyo-Spa(s.c.); A Gre & F Ion hold; A Alb S A Gre; F Adr S F Ion; A Ven-Tyr; A Vic-Gal; A Bud-Gal; A Ser-Rum.

TURKEY (Aita): A Bul-Ser; A Rum S A Bul-Ser; F Aeg-Gre; F Eas-Ion; A Ukr-War; F Sov S A Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy retreats A Ser-Tri. The deadline for "Fall 1912" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JUNE 1971. Richard Locke reports that he will be on vacation from 12 July to 4 August.

PORTUGAL: The French government burned its papers while preparing to leave with the fleet.

BOHEMIA: The French Foreign Legion prepares to continue its drive on the Italian northern flank.

PARIS: I will be leaving to direct the battles of the French Foreign Legion myself.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Turkey accepts France's offer of alliance. You're about five years late, I'm afraid.

1970M

"Winter 1910"

France, played by Robert L. Strayer, was victorious in this game as reported in the last issue. The other players who had builds or removals have made them, thus tying up the loose ends. Duane Leinhos, playing Russia, builds A War. Brian Burley, playing Turkey, removes F Alb, A Gal, F Bla, and F Adr. This leaves France with 16 units as opposed to 15 for all other players combined, and France accordingly wins even without building the three additional units to which she is entitled.

FT. MYER (26 Feb, 1911): Where are the Mad Satirical Monk?

1970BQ

"Winter 1903"

The adjudication of "Fall 1903" moves around Marseilles seems to have elicited a few questions. France attacked A Mar-Pie with support from a F Lyo, thus dislodging a German A Pie. At the same time German ordered "A Bur-Mar, A Pie S A Bur-Mar".

According to the rulebook I have, these German moves succeed, even though the German A Pie was dislodged and, having no retreat available, annihilated. "If a unit ordered to support in a given province is attacked from a different province the unit disregards its order to support." Since the German A Pie was attacked from the province into which it was giving support, its support is not cut. Example II on p. 4 of the rulebook cites a similar state of affairs.

PARIS: In view of constant paranoid actions on the part of the English and the Germans, both making secret promises to attack the other, each stabbing its ally, France has nothing left but to defend itself, going to war with both of those nations, thereby cancelling all previous agreements.

We, what free people that are left, call upon the rest of the world to research the dealings given you by those two warring nations, see how they

have turned you amongst yourselves, and unite for the while to put down the rebellion. Else, none of you can stop them.

GASCONY: "Cry, dear Paul, -ONE- if by land, and -TWO- if by sea."

MARSEILLES: "ONE, TWO, ONE, TWO, ONE, TWO, ..."

PARIS: Not having rallied to the aid of the French in their dying days, the rest of the world, you too, dear Italy, will now have to reap the hazards. Be down on them swiftly, oh ye black and purple knights.

LONDON to CONSTANTINOPLE (AFP): We're coming. You can bet on it.

ANKARA (AFP): "Cry ONE if by land, Two if by sea."

"ONE, TWO, ONE, TWO."

ENGLAND (Beshara): Builds F Lon, F Liv, & A Edi.

FRANCE (Tretick): Removes F Lyo, A Gas, & A Pic.

GERMANY (Ver Ploeg, vice G. Jones): No builds received.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Mischel): Builds A Bud.

RUSSIA (Childers): No removal received. Gamesmaster removes F Fin.

The deadline for "Spring 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JUNE 1971.

Hugh Anderson, as first stand-by, should submit conditional "Spring 1904" moves for both Germany and Russia. (2717 Belaire Dr., Lansing, Mich. 48910)

1970BN

"Spring 1904"

TURKS ADVANCE ON LAND AND SEA

ENGLAND (Aita): F Bre-Mid; F Iri S F Bre-Mid; F Hol-Bel; F Eng S F Hol-Bel; A Den-Kie; F Lon-North Sea; F Wes-Lyo; F Edi-Norwegian Sea.

FRANCE (Nierenberg): A Pic-Bre; A Gal S A Pic-Bre; A Bel S GERMAN A Ruh-Hol; F Mid-Eng; F Mar-Spa(s.c.).

GERMANY (Salcedo): No moves received. A Ruh, A Kie, & F Bal hold.

ITALY (Model): A Tri-Bud; A Vie S A Tri-Bud; A Tyr-Tri; F Adr S A Tyr-Tri; F Ion-Tyr; F Tun S F Ion-Tyr.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Grayson): A Bud holds.

RUSSIA (Buchanan): F St.P(s.c.)-Bot; A War-Sil; F Liv-Pru; A Gal-Vie; A Rum S TURKISH A Ser-Bud; F Con-Aeg.

TURKEY (Barents): A Bul-Ser; A Ser-Bud; A Alb-Tri; F Gre-Ion; F Eas S RUSSIAN F Con-Aeg.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Austro-Hungarian army in Budapest is dislodged and annihilated. The French fleet in the Mid-Atlantic is dislodged and must retreat to the North Atlantic, Portugal, the Western Mediterranean, or North Africa. THE DIRECTION OF THIS RETREAT IS TO BE PHONED TO THE GAMESMASTER IMMEDIATELY. He will inform the other players. The deadline for "Fall 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JUNE 1971.

Blaine Mischel, the stand-by, should send in conditional "Fall 1904" moves for Germany. His address is 55-30 99th St., Rego Park, N. Y. 11368.

George Grayson returns to the metropolitan area this month. As of 19 June his address will be 1674 Chapin Ave., Merrick, N. Y. 11566.

Press releases begin on p. 9.

1970E (continued from p. 1)

players have become quite well-known in the field. By 1909 James Becker had a substantial lead; John Beshara then took over Italy and in three years built this advantage into a victory.

SWEDEN (Deutsche Presse): On to St. Petersburg!

1970W

4

"Spring 1910"

ANARCHY IN RUSSIA?

ENGLAND (Walker): F North Atlantic-Mid; F North Sea-Norway; F Norwegian Sea S F North Sea-Norway.

FRANCE (Vest): F Por-Mid; F Bre S F Por-Mid; A Par S F Bre; F Bel holds [sic; no such unit exists]; A Bur not ordered, dislodged and retreats.

GERMANY (McCallum): F Den-Bal; F Hel-Den; A Kie S F Hel-Den.

ITALY (Ward): F Mid-Por; F Spa(s.c.) S F Mid-Por; F Wes-Mid; F North Africa S F Wes-Mid; A Ruh-Bel; A Mun-Bur; A Gas S A Mun-Bur; A Mar, A Ser, A Pic, A Tyr, A Smy, A Bud, F Tun, A Apu, & A Rom hold.

RUSSIA (Salcedo): No moves received. F St.P(n.c.), A Swe, F Ska, A Livonia, A Ber, A Pru, & A Sil hold; F Norway dislodged and annihilated.

Underlined moves are not possible. The dislodged French army must retreat to either Picardy or Ruhr. THIS RETREAT SHOULD BE SENT IN TO THE GAMESMASTER BY IMMEDIATE RETURN AIR MAIL. He will inform the other players. Players should also submit conditional "Fall 1910" moves depending upon the direction of this French retreat. The deadline for "Fall 1910" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JUNE 1971.

The stand-by player, Charles E. Johnson (Apt. 103, 501 S. Burlington Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90057) should send in conditional "Fall 1910" moves for Russia.

Bob Ward writes that he will be out of town from 12-26 June.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

I did Rod Walker an injustice in the last GRAUSTARK, when I said that he was concerned about an "international Communist conspiracy". Actually Walker is concerned far more with "spheres of influence" diplomacy than with ideological politics. Regular readers of the letter columns and of Walker's own publication know that for him Communism is something that Russia is using to extend its control, as opposed to the Linden-Libby-Condray sort of nut who believes that Russia is something that Communism is using to extend its control. It is actually far easier to deal with the Walker variety of conspiracy-monger, who is frank enough to use the term "American Empire" to describe the hegemony by which this country's Establishment protects and extends its investments. And, since he ignores the ideological character of the struggle, his view is the further removed from reality and the weaker in consequence.

So, "international Russian conspiracy" is what I should have said.

Pontevodria "appears infrequently and irregularly" to help acquaint new players and new game openings with each other. It is 10 issues for \$1 from Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116. For the player who wants to find a game (regular or variant) to enter, Pontevodria is extremely useful.

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Buddy Tretick writes "Please formulate a definition of multicoastal province and forwards that definition to me at your convenience. I am not interested in the rulebook definition." In that case, the request is intended for some variant. As for the rulebook itself, the multicoastal provinces are St. Petersburg, Spain, and Bulgaria; the map is quite unequivocal.

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John McCallum writes: "For my next game I am thinking of offering a fee reduction for those sensible souls who have remained out of both the DA and the NFFFGBDD."

RUSSIA CHALLENGED IN RESTRUCTURING OF ALLIANCES

Following "Fall 1906" moves, Austria-Hungary builds A Vie, Russia builds F St.P(n.c.), and Germany removes A Ruh and F Hel.

ENGLAND (Lasky): F Edi-North Sea; F Norwegian Sea S F Edi-North Sea.

FRANCE (Mischel): A Bur-Ruh; A Mar-Bur; F North Africa-Mid; F North Sea-Hel; F Lyo-Mar; F Wes & F North Atlantic hold.

GERMANY (Isby): A hol holds.

ITALY (Comber): A Kie S AUSTR0-HUNGARIAN A Mun-Ber; F Tyr S F Tun; F Tun S F Tyr; F Rom-Tus; A Pie S F Rom-Tus.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Nierenberg): A Mun-Ber; A Sil S A Mun-Ber; A Vie-Gal; A Rum-Sev; A Bul-Con; A Boh-Mun; F Ion-Eas; F Aeg S F Ion-Eas.

RUSSIA (Shuldiner): A Con holds; F Smy S A Con; F St.P(n.c.)-Bar; F Norway S F St.P(n.c.)-Bar; F Den-Hel; F Bal-Den; A Swe S F Bal-Den; A Fin-St.P; A Ber S AUSTR0-HUNGARIAN A Mun; A War-Ukr; A Sev-Ukr.

Underlined moves are not possible. France retreats F North Sea-Ska and Germany retreats A Ber-Pru. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is 6 PM, MONDAY 14 JUNE 1971.

BOOBS PRESS (All the Weather News Sexy Enough to Print): Hawley Blvd., San Diego, simmering:

Twinkle, twinkle, little tart, slandering is your Chief art.

When the facts you can't deny, wail, wail your strumpet's cry.

Slut of the West, shaking in fright,

Afumin' in her reckless plight,

Rodnie's running, running from RIGHT.

SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRATIONS

Last issue a number of subscription expirations were announced for that and forthcoming issues. Several players have renewed their subscriptions, and the following revisions in the list have been made. The number indicates the last issue which the player named will receive on his present subscription:

246 - William Drakert	254 - John Leeder	257 - Robert Maloney
247 - Robert Strayer	Michael Quist	262 - Philip Cohen
250 - Mikko Lehtonen		

Harry Manogg's name appeared where Robert Maloney's should have in GRAUSTARK #239. Brenton Ver Ploeg's subscription, though nominally ending with #242, will continue as long as he is substituting for Gary Jones in 1970BQ.

GRAUSTARK is 8 issues for \$1.00 from John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. Back issues are 10¢ each or 15 for \$1.00. The presently available back issues are 71, 82, 87, 101, 103, 106, 108-111, 113, 114, 117-121, 123, 127-129, 131, 132, 137-140, 145, 147, 148, 150, 155, 166, 167, 170, 171, 183, 191, 193, 195-212, 215-217, 219, 221-225, 227-234, 236-239. RURITANIA #28 and #40 are also on hand. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

The number on the upper right corner of the address label indicates the number of the issue with which your subscription expires. "C" indicates a complimentary copy, and "T" is a trade for your own postal Diplomacy publication. Other letters refer to the games in which you are or have been enrolled. "S" is a sample copy inviting you to subscribe.

DIALOGUE IN JERUSALEM

The following story, written by Lee Hoffman, originally appeared in Self-Preservation #3 in 1962. I had thought to reprint it at this year's Easter-Passover season as appropriate to the holidays, but the pressure of the Walker-Beshara feud forced it to be delayed.

The servants have been dismissed and the two men are alone at last. Pontius Pilate wipes the wine from his mouth with the back of his hand and leans back, looking disconsolately at the wine cup. He speaks wearily.

P: Barabas, Barabas, Barabas, that's all I hear from every side these days. You'd think the man was another godsdamned Spartacus from the way the populace is ranting in the streets.

Herod Antipas finishes refilling his own cup before he speaks. He shrugs.

H: There's nothing I can do about it. After all, as the King of Galilee, I've got an image to maintain. I've got to abide by the laws and customs of the people. You're the Roman Governor. You do something.

P: My friend, Rome can't just act - can't do just anything it wants to. We've got an image to maintain too, you know. Laws and customs, Roman justice and all that. We've got enough trouble trying to keep these shepherds of yours satisfied with their lot the way things are. If we start interfering with your ancient Jewish customs we're liable to have a full-scale rebellion on our hands.

H: Well, this custom of allowing the masses to demand the prisoner of their choice to be released unto them at Passover is far older than the power of the Herods. There isn't anything at all I can do about it now. (Pauses.) You've no doubt they'll choose Barabas?

P: Small chance. If you'd been here around Jerusalem a little longer you'd have heard the talk yourself. Believe me, he has the followers. Like that blasted Spartacus, he's a symbol to the "down-trodden masses". Action against the oppressors - rebellion - Judea for the Judeans and all that. Hades, Herod, can't you keep these people of yours content?

H: I do all I can. But having soldiers all over Judea in those clanking Roman uniforms behaving like they own every grain of sand in the desert makes it hard for me. It's this ancient tradition of freedom and self-rule - the same business that Passover is in celebration of - exodus from Egypt and the escape from bondage.

P: It's a rotten time of year to have Barabas, of all people, in the cells, I'll admit. But we had no choice in that matter - been chasing the bastard all over the desert for months. A damned elusive pig, you know, what with all these chauvinistic shepherds of yours giving him shelter and protection at every turn. I'll be damned if I want to open the gate now and just let him walk out to the cheering of the crowds.

H: So? Why not just have his throat cut while he's in the cells. Seems

simple enough to me.

- P: It may seem simple to you. Gods, man, don't you understand anything about the workings of the popular mind? Rome has spent years and fortunes on propaganda, building up an Image of Roman Justice. Let word of something like that get around in a hot-bed of rebellion like Judea and we'd topple the whole structure in this part of the Empire. Herod, my friend, whether you're aware of it or not, this little oasis of yours is the sorest trouble spot in the Empire right now. We've had more trouble trying to make your shepherds content with Roman Law - to make them appreciate the glory of the Roman Empire and have a patriotic sense of being a part of it - Look, Herod, you're a Jew, you've lived with these people, you should be able to think like them and to understand them.
- H: Think like a dirty shepherd off the desert!
- P: Well, I mean, you know all the customs and that sort of thing. Can't you think of any nice way out of this mess? Some way of keeping them from demanding Barabas.
- H: Something in keeping with our customs, eh? Something like - Ah ha! A goat!
- P: A goat?
- H: Yes, the old custom of the scape goat - a substitute. Perhaps you could substitute someone - offer the people a choice between Barabas and someone else - someone they'd feel even more strongly about.
- P: Is there such a person?
- H: Perhaps "the King of the Jews" -
- P: Not you, my friend! Besides, I'm not at all sure the people -
- H: Not me. No, of course not me! I mean this Galilean prophet, Jesus of Nazareth, I think he calls himself. King of the Jews, that's what he claims to be. I hear he's in Jerusalem now for the festivities - or rather over in Bethany. Some of the servants were telling me this morning when I arrived - seems he came into town on a jack-ass at the head of a small group of followers and the peasantry held a bit of a triumph for him - honored him with palm leaves and such.
- P: Oh yes, I think I heard something about that.
- H: He seems to have quite a following. Colorful sort of character. I've heard all kinds of tall tales about him from the servants. Cures the plague, raises the dead, foresees the future, that sort of thing.
- P: So what? Prophets like that are a denarius a dozen, especially during the holy days/
- H: But this one has such a large and faithful following. Teaches a curious line, too - peace.
- P: Peace! And he has followers among the Jews? Hades, man, we've been trying to teach these bastard barbarians of yours Roman Peace for

years without a measure of success. Just who is this Jesus anyway?

H: According to the servants he was begot directly by (he hesitates, then pronounces the name) Yahwe on some young country girl - got her into a bit of trouble with her husband, you know. Anyway, he's a relative of that John the Dunker we had the trouble with a while back. The two of them are supposed to have studied at the Essene colony out in the desert for a while and then they either left voluntarily or got kicked out and started bumming around Judea spreading their own version of the Essene teachings. (Pauses.) The way Jesus tells it, the downtrodden masses, as you call them, are the chosen of (he hesitates at the name again) Yahwe, and all their misery is His way of testing them. If they bear up under their troubles and don't complain, when they die their spirits become godlike and rise to a heavenly estate. The kingdom of heaven shall belong to the poor, the meek shall inherit the earth, and the persecuted are blessed. Things like that. (Pause.) They say he makes good wine out of water, too. I've been thinking of catching his act while I'm in town.

P: If he really is succeeding in teaching these shepherds to be quiet and behave under their "yoke of Roman oppression", to quote Barabas, he sounds like the kind of man we need here in the provinces. You say he really has a mass of followers with a line like that?

H: All over Judea.

P: I suppose in a way it's a good compromise for these proud shepherds. They're an eternally dissatisfied lot, but rebellion and change take more than just dissatisfaction. You think your Jews really might choose him in place of Barabas?

H: Hard to say for sure.

P: It would be a choice between the direct action against the oppressors that Barabas symbolizes, and the maintenance of status quo - and the security of Roman rule - with the added compensation of golden hope for the future after death that this Jesus teaches.

H: Which would you choose?

P: I'd pick action myself, but of course, I'm a Roman. What about you?

H: I'm a Jew, and we Jews are a proud and warlike people, you know.

P: Which puts us back where we started. (Pauses.) You know, Herod, we just might be able to work something out with this Jesus. Supposing we were to play it like this: offer them a choice between Barabas or Jesus and if they take Jesus everything is fine and we crucify Barabas according to schedule. But if they choose Barabas, we build something out of the Jesus business. Put it to his followers that we are really on their side and don't want to crucify him at all, but the rebel lot has forced us into it. We just might be able to cause a schism in the ranks of the masses - give them something to fight about among themselves. Give them an image of this Jesus as a martyr. Rome, of course, will have to keep her skirts clean. We Romans will tolerate the followers of Jesus in our typically decent Roman way and lay all the persecution to the rebel factions. Keep it on a level of Jew against Jew. As long as we can keep the dissatisfied Jews from uniting, we'll be able to handle any trouble that arises.

H: You're positive nothing can go wrong? I'm not sure I like it.

P: That's the Jew in you, my friend! You've got to keep in mind that you're the King of Galilee by the grace of Rome. If you want to stay King, you've got to think like a Roman, not a provincial. Hades, man, if you're right about Jesus's followers they'll pick him over Barabas and the whole problem will be over!

H: Yes, I suppose they may, at that. I hope they do. I really would like to catch this shtick with the water into wine.

1970BN - PRESS RELEASES

ISSHEMEAL-KEP: MJIX today put down the Harem gril rebellion by himself. "I showed them how to forget nature and act like the superior race that we are" said MJIX when he came back from the arnea.

OJUGRAAIA: Pandit the bandit today disclaimed that he had a twin sister by the name of Bustya. "I'm bustya when I want and Pandit when I want."

HYDUNDERABAD: Hasha revieled him self to the lost troops and led them out of the forsaken land. Though MJIX and Pandit forget you the high god of all, me, shall never forget you until you are as high as I! Hashasaid as he vanished into thin air! This is

HYDUNDERABAD: MJIX today said what the troops saw was from thin air. " the thinness of the air got to their brains and brought forth this vision of the thing the hate most. I now close Hydunderabad to all peoples and will build a monument to the greatest of all Turks , ME" O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame

ISSMEAL-GAKA: An interview in a secert part of the palace took place between the High Priestess of Hashain reglion and a reporter of the Italian Gov. O Optic
N Nerves

REP: Bustya said that if Hasha has risen that it would be a miracle. has he risen? # 463

HP: Of course he has! I should know I was his #1 Harem gril, and boy could he rise!!! But since he past from us he has come back to me a few times in fact he was higher than ever before.

REP: Then the miracle has taken place?

HP: Of course!! He might appear before your eyes soon, I feel him in this room now! Oh Hasha please show yourself to this disbliever.
(Hasha comes into focus)

REP: He has in fact risen and is he ever big!!!

HP: I told you so.

Hasha: I've left this world to help make my people better, but frist they must believe on me, if they don't I will have to punish them. I don't want to hurt them but till they all follow me MJIX shall keep his harsh rule upon them. I give to you a potion that will make you and all you give it to followers of mine.

(What is this potion tune in tomorrow or some other time we will still be here)

ISSMEAL-GAKA: The high priestess today annouced that all followers of the Hasha reglion will not use any written language until hasha says to.

ISSHEMEAL-KEP: MJIX said that all hasha followers were dope fiends on were to arrested on sight. al-Kap is the only god to ever live a good life. Never did he give into nature in anyway but over came it. You must over come nature or nature will over come you. If nature over comes you you fflow the needs of the body instead of the mind. After which nature called him to the Johns

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

[The dates of the letters, where known, are indicated.
Comments of the editor are in square brackets.]

BRENTON VER PLOEG, #6, 566 Fell St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102 (13 May 1971): Once again, John, I agree with most of what you say about the Barnard article. ["How to Get Shot", GRAUSTARK #238.] Its possibilities, I know, are chilling. But, then too, the government has had this power for a long time. If one renounces that much faith in the system, you may as well fuck it off entirely and move into a commune, waiting for the axe. Myself, I prefer to attack it from within. The matter about the Tonkin Gulf is something that I have chided you about before. It's like saying that because a youngster plays cowboys when he is young he is thereby disqualified from ever opposing war. Tch. I know better, because I am an enactment of it. Just who would you be able to elect if you stuck to people that voted against the resolution? Two-fold and defeated (although admittedly admirable) men. I fail to see this as an alternative...I think that since the war is opposed by 75% or so, there is emerging some sort of "elitism" in war opponents as to "who was first". May I suggest that this is a consideration of little importance? Under this alternative, you impugn me, for instance, because I turned against the war in 1967 or late '66. But can you doubt where my sympathies lie? Am I less esteemed because of that fact? Alas, too many people on both sides have been treating the war as a cultural game for far too long. I agree that no bright presidential candidates are on the horizon, but it would take a great deal of effort to do worse than a President who received his foreign policy initiations from John Foster Dulles and hasn't changed since. Would Kennedy appoint an Attorney General whose sole qualification for the office is a moderate expertise in municipal bonding issues?

[There are numerous members of Congress, elected on the wave of revulsion against the war, whom I consider admirable. Examples are Representatives Abzug, Badillo, Chisholm, Koch, and Rangel of New York, Drinnan of Massachusetts, Dellums of California, and Mitchell and Sarbanes of Maryland.

[But, in practice, "working within the system" is going to mean working, in 1972, for the election as President of a man who voted for the war in 1964 - most probably either Hubert Humphrey or Henry Jackson, to judge from the way the professional organization of the Democratic Party is now indicating its support. And the promoters of revolutionary violence seem unaware of who actually owns the guns in this country. Kent State is the precedent. The Berkeley campus has already been gassed from the air, and could be bombed from the air with no unpleasant repercussions to anyone in the government.

[It is argued that these men, who voted for the war in 1964 and now profess to oppose it, have undergone honest changes of mind. If this is the case, then they are offering as their credentials for the presidency the uncontested fact that they are capable of making an error of judgment of catastrophic proportions. But in practice they oppose the war only as a means of continuing to get elected. One can check this out by seeing what their views are on potential Vietnams in other parts of the world. If I had a dollar for every politician who runs on "Bring our men home from Vietnam, and more help for Israel" I could give away my elderly Gestetner 120 and have Al Schuster print this by photo-offset with raunchy illustrations.

[A few weeks ago I was briefly surprised to see a heading in the New York Post: "Javits Urges Troop Withdrawal". From Sina'i, I speculated, hope springing eternal? But alas! 'twas only from Vietnam.

[And would the appointments of a Democratic President really be any better? The American invasion of Vietnam was the entire doing of the appointees of President Kennedy: Dean Rusk, Robert McNamara, Walter and Eugene Rostow, McGeorge Bundy. And recently, when President Nixon opposed Senator Mansfield's proposal to withdraw large numbers of American troops from Europe, he trotted out the whole membership of an Old Cold Warriors' Home to show that his policy merely continued that of every American President since 1945. This policy was made by Harry Truman and Dean Acheson; John Foster Dulles merely inherited and continued it. The next Democratic Secretary of State will almost certainly be someone who worked under Acheson or Rusk and is wedded to these policies. Nor were Kennedy's domestic appointees preferable. Justice Cox of the 5th Federal Circuit Court, who called Negro litigants "chimpanzees" in his court, was a Kennedy appointee. And Robert Kennedy, as Attorney-General engaged in wire-tapping in a manner that would warm John Mitchell's heart.

[So - yes, hide out until the axe falls. It may fall anyhow, but if you bug out of political action and into whatever sort of escape suits your personality and your means, you may delay it - and you will certainly have a better time until it comes. And there are a great many ways by which one can go into a sort of "internal exile" - board game fandom, science-fiction, the Howdy Doody revival, stamp collection, sex, drugs, astrology, oriental mysticism, or religion, so long as it is a navel-contemplating sort of religion that doesn't urge you to set up crusades against the heathen or soup-kitchens in the slums. Currently people are finding their own sorts of escapes. Frank Baum's Oz books are enjoying a great revival now, and there has sprung up a vogue in the collection of different types of barbed wire, a hobby particularly appropriate to our repressive society. If you like social action, go in for some form that does not threaten the existing order. If, for example, you go in for prison reform, don't question the social causes of crime or the high percentage of the poor or the black in jail - just bring round bibles, games, or unideological fiction. Ecology is another "sanctioned protest", as long as it does not threaten the profits or power of our corporate masters. Even the natural sciences, in realms not germane to military application, can be a helpful form of escape. For the old strictures against "escapism" no longer apply. Faced with our present society, the wise man will choose a sort of escape conformable to his own character and inclinations, and make it.]

PHILIP M. COHEN, 187-40-4892, Box 1179, Student Detachment MDW, Ft. Myer (S. A.), Va. 22211 (27 May 1971): I've just finished reading GRAU-STARKS 110-238, less gaps, a long & interesting process...

Many pleasant things to read, even for one who still doesn't own a Diplomacy set (Me; planned to last year but rulebook revision rumors stopped me.), Beaucaillon, 4½ Kingdoms, Hogwashington all great fun. 1966AA unfortunately puts all other propaganda in the shade but there have been many goodies both fore and aft; the return of Pope Joan is particularly pleasant.

My disagreements with you on matters political and procedural need not be stated - others have covered them well - but I would like to enlarge on ^{one of} the latter class; the [sic]. There have been misspellers left unmolested all down the line, so this usually acts as a polemic device. While misspellings often drive me up the wall (I endure the pain of Barents releases only for the URRP follow-ups. Barents-Gemignani indeed boggles the mind and stomach, by the way), I recognize that my reaction is out of step with the offense. This is a petty thing to concentrate on. The implied "this guy is a jerk because he can't spell; thus, too, his arguments" is invalid (or Barents would have been out of 1970BN in Spring 1899) and, when you [sic] slips of the pen, absurd.

(I think this is a valid thing to read into your [sic]'s; you nei-

ther [sic] all goofs nor none, and this seems to be the criterion. Why [sic] at all? We know you can spell, except for slips of the typewriter.)

[I try to catch and correct without [sic]'s obvious slips of the typewriter. But some writers have a distinctive style which it is unjust - and often impossible - to render in correct spelling, grammar, and syntax. Would you correct the spelling and grammar of Artemus Ward or George Ade? Would you render Mister Dooley's words as "Do you remember the time we went down to the Coliseum and he came out in a black alpaca coat and spoke some of the finest words you ever heard in all your life?" Of course not; you rejoice in Finley Peter Dunne's original text: "D'ye mind th' time we wint down to th' Colocesyum an' he come out in a black alapaca coat an' pushed into th' air th' finest wurruds ye iver heard spoke in al ye'er bor-rrn days?" Or what would Jesse B. Sample be left with if you corrected: "These young peoples nowadays know a plenty and they act like they knows more. But when you come right down to it, sometimes they don't know B from bull-foot."

[And slips of the pen are one thing, but if a man spells the word "gorly" three times in a single sentence, it is hard to avoid the impression that this is how he believes the word "glory" ought to be spelled. See GRAUSTARK #236, p. 12.]

What irritates me most of all is your using [sic] on people who write "Viet Nam". This is a perfectly acceptable alternate spelling; the Viet-namese themselves put in the space. I hope the spelling Mau Dzodung in #238 is indicative of a new tolerance toward freedom in importation of foreign names. (Incidentally, in #218 you say people are unaccountably calling the Yi King "I Ching". Accounted for thus: the Chinese call it I Ching. A still more accurate transliteration is I Xing, the new Yale method; accurate in that it (one hopes) leads those who see it to the realization that the first sound of [the ideograph illustrated above] has no English counterpart.) (I Jing is probably as close as we get.)

[Thanks for the correction; I had somehow got the impression that "I Ching" was a Cantonese version of a Kwo YU form "Yi King". I am credibly informed that the Yale system of transliteration is the best, and I believe that the spelling "Mau Dzodung" is in that system. The sound in "I Xing" is not unfamiliar to games fans. The Chinese variant of the original Indian game of Chess is "Xiangqi" in the Yale system. As for the spelling of "Vietnam", that will have to wait until the next issue.]

GRAUSTARK #240

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F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

Why is
William L. Calley Jr.
still alive?