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# GRAUSTARK

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## THE 1978 IGNOBEL PRIZE

GRAUSTARK and its sister publication EMPIRE have frequently reported on the annual award of the Ignobel Prizes in Wogastisburger-Neustadt, capital of the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schl#mpenb#ttel, high in the Balkan Massif. These prizes were established according to the will of the international financier, currency manipulator, war profiteer, and cartel manipulator Alfors Ignobel (1838-1937).

Every year, in the Hotel de Wogastisburg et Metropole, a glittering assemblage of financiers, grand ducal officials, tourists, and freeloaders assembles in the Salon du Grand-Duc to hear the awards read by Aloys Ignobel, 72, only son of the late financier and of Mata Hari. The selection committee for the awards is a self-perpetuating board whose membership is traditionally kept secret, but includes Aloys Ignobel and the international banker Rumpelslipstick, the famous Z#rlich Gnome and chairman of the Bank der Sieben Zwerge, which manages the immense Ignobel fortune.

(According to the Bureau of Usually Reliable Sources, International Travelers, and Intelligence Spokesmen - BURSITIS - the other members of the Selection Board are Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Henry Kissinger, Victor Louis, Sanjay Ghandi, and Abel Muzorewa. The Selection Board has repeatedly refused to confirm or deny that it will refuse to confirm or deny this rumor.)

This year the ceremony was held on 28 December 1978, and was heavily attended by travelers on their way back from the Winter Solstice Festival in Skandalutz. (At this orgiastic and immeasurably ancient festival, the new King of Skandalutz is chosen by an allegedly honest lot from among all men who attend. The climax of the Festival is a great banquet at which the previous year's King is killed and eaten.) There was much conversation about the Queen's obvious pleasure at getting rid of the 1978 King, the Komsomol leader Nikita Stakhanov, who obviously did not live up to the reputation of his famous hard-working grandfather. The 1979 King is the virile Italian-American film actor Sylvester Millevolta, star of Saturday Night Lively and Gism.

Even before the formal awards began, controversy took over when the exiled American Yippie leader Julius Orange announced that he had advance word on who would get the awards. Since this has never happened before in the 40-year history of the Ignobel Prizes, several reporters showed up for his press conference, which was held on Christmas Eve at the Convent of the Holy Foreskin.

"The War Prize," he said, "will go to Prince Sihanouk, who is secretly backing the Cambodian government that threw out the Cambodian government that threw him out. He hopes to conquer all of Indo-China and proclaim himself Emperor and Chairman of the Council of People's Commisars. The Espionage Prize will go to Linda Lovelace, who exposed the whole Watergate plot under her cover name of 'Deep Throat'. The Provocation Prize will go to Charles Beikman, an ex-Marine and CIA agent who infiltrated the People's Temple, stuffed Jimmy Jones with drugs, and brought off the Jonestown Massacre to discredit the forces of the Left. The Genocide Prize will be awarded to Nicholas Monsarrat, who killed several hundred thousand Africans by sinking the island of Pharamaul in the South Atlantic Ocean."

"But there is no island of Pharamaul in the South Atlantic Ocean," a reporter for the United Rabble Rousing Press interrupted.

"I told you he sunk it in the ocean," Orange repeated. "Finally, the Military Science Prize will go Dr. Thaddeus Bodog, who invented the laser beam that the Pentagon is turning on my brain - turning on my brain - turning on my brain - hey, anybody got a hit of coke? Horse? Hey, I'll even settle for yohimbine - cantharides, maybe - hey, guys, don't go - wait'll the rush hits me - hey, don't walk out - you with the three eyes and the purple hair - help me - HELLLP!"

On the actual day of the awards, three groups of variously motivated and mutually hostile demonstrators showed up at the hotel. These were the Yippies, the fascists of the Stalwart National Iron Fist (SNIF) under the leadership of the Temporary Roman Empire's P. Vigurus Macho, and an environmentalist group, the Clambrained Alliance, led by an Arab named Rashid al-Nadir. SNIF accused the Yippies of being Communist hirelings, and Macho told reporters that Julius Orange is wanted in the United States on charges that, during the disturbances at the 1968 Democratic convention, he raped a police dog. Orange retorted that SNIF, which had ruled the Kingdom of Pundschruck with as firm a grip as a Pundschrucki can manage, was "overthrown by the righteous wrath of the great Pundschrucki people in the Revolution of 1947" and was being supported financially by the CIA. The Clambrained Alliance had showed up to protest the replacement of a 14th-century water mill by a direct current generator in the Suur River, a project recently undertaken in the Grand Duchy which would have given it the most modern system of power generation in the entire Four And A Half Kingdoms. The Yippies claim that the Clammies are "trying to maintain the reactionary feudal way of life of the decadent Grand Duchy", while SNIF favors capital punishment and feels that electricity will make possible the introduction of the electric chair. Fortunately, the magnificently uniformed men of the Grand Ducal Secret Police kept the three groups apart, and out of the Salon du Grand-Duc.

The War Prize, traditionally the first to be awarded, went to a surprise entrant, Robert Denard of Belgium. "This heroic soldier of fortune," said Aloys Ignobel, "added new renown to the ancient and honorable profession of mercenary soldier. For the first time in many centuries, we have seen a coup by mercenaries which took over the government of a country - the Republic of the Comoros, on May 13, 1978. General Denard arranged this coup, and is now commander of Comoro's armed forces. Meanwhile, novelists all over the world are praising the mercenary soldier as the man of action of our times, a most welcome change from a few decades ago when the profession of mercenary was presumed to be extinct. And why should Africa's white soldiers of fortune, recruited from all over Europe and America, have to fight for ungrateful and perfidious African dictators when they can set up a country of their own in the grand traditional manner?" Gen. Denard's award was accepted for him by the American writer Gordon Dickson.

For the sixth time in the past eight years, the Espionage Prize went to an American, this time the retired CIA agent James Jesus Angleton. Mr. Angleton's defense of a noble profession was praised, as well as his expertise in the "Department of Dirty Tricks" operations without which no modern espionage division is really complete. Despite rumors that the Reverend Jimmy Jones would be posthumously honored, the Genocide Prize went to Pol Pot, the current year's dictator of Kampuchea, for the slaughter of his own people and of many Vietnamese civilians in both Kampuchea and Vietnam.

This last prize was strongly protested by Wang Long, the Chinese Ambassador to Skandalutz. "The present government of Cambodia - er, Kampuchea," he said indignantly, "is merely a continuation of the ancient struggle against the Vietnamese by just about everybody who has ever lived or done business in Southeast Asia. Instead of using the loaded word 'genocide', I suggest that the Ignobel Prize Selection Board institute an inquiry about just what it is in the Vietnamese people that makes everyone want to slaughter them." The Chinese diplomat was backed up by American charge d'affaires D. David O'Juniority, who said, "Love me, love my dog - and my dog's dog."

No claimant appeared representing either of these two winners, so Wang Long agreed to transmit Pol Pot's prize to him, while the American said that Angleton's award should simply be mailed to him. "Never mind if you don't have his current address," he cheerfully told Herr Ignobel. "We have an agent in the Dead Letter Office."

The Red Brigades of Italy received the award for the best agents provocateurs, since their kidnapping and murder of President-Elect Aldo Moro had swung Italian political opinion sharply to the right, and turned the Communist Party into a defender of the established order. The Red Brigades' award was accepted for them by six men in identical rubber masks, all of whom claimed to be Abbie Hoffman.

For the first time in the history of the Ignobel Prizes, the award for Military Science went to a woman - Dr. Jane Goodall, whose researches with chimpanzees in western Tanzania has demonstrated that war is an institution even among apes. "For too long," said Herr Ignobel, "we have seen Pacifistic pseudo-scientists claiming that the

noble old institution of war is an unnatural aberration that ought to be expunged from human society. Many Military Science prizes of the past few years have gone to scientists who have loyally proved the contrary - that war is natural to all animal species including our own, and that its abolition is a biological impossibility. Robert Ardery, Konrad Lorenz, Sir Cyril Burt, Edward Wilson, and now Jane Goodall have been honored with Ignobel Prizes for their contributions to this ongoing research effort."

By this time, small groups of demonstrators had managed to infiltrate the ornate Gilded Age salon, and all three cried out against this award - SNIF because they are against evolution, and the Clambrained Alliance because they are against all science. Julius Orange shouted, "Those research reports of Goodall's are a pack of lies!"

Herr Ignobel smiled benignly from the dais. "They may be lies or they may be true," he responded. "We really don't care. They are plausible, generally accepted, and useful." Dr. Goodall's prize was accepted for her by J. Fred Muggs Jr., son of the late American television actor.

As the Grand Ducal Secret Police herded the demonstrators out of the room, the festivities concluded with a tribute to the new King of Skandalutz. There was a Balkan Massif premiere showing of his last film, Inch by Inch, co-starring Ms. Lily Tomboy.

#### 1976IB - GAME REVIEWS

((The Gamesmaster believes that, with these articles, he is completely caught up with the game reviews which have been sent in by players in completed games. If anyone has sent in a review that has not yet been printed, he should let me know, and I'll ransack the files again for it. My apologies for being so late with these, but space pressures are terrific in GRAUSTARK these days. - JB))

JACK BRAWNER (England): This is my country-by-country analysis of 1976IB. Let me say first that stabbing is part of the game (along with deceit) and I hold no grudges against anyone who attacks me, stabs me, lies to me, or forges my handwriting. This is all in the spirit of "the game", doing what you feel is best for your country. Almost everyone in 1976IB played to do the best they could from their position. (Notice I said "almost"?)

AUSTRIA - Dave Schwartz inherited an enemy-filled position. Even the Germans were attacking. He defended well, and when the Franco-Russian juggernaut began to become apparent, he did his best to ally with Turkey to do their part stopping Russia.

TURKEY - Ron Robinson defended flawlessly against the original Austro-Russian alliance. He later allied with Austria to stop Russia. John Malay, who entered later, held out as well as anyone could against the Italo-Russian attack.

GERMANY - Dick Trtek made a mistake by creating two monsters - one on each side of him. When I retreated to the British Isles, France and Russia hit Germany full force. Dick, who had already turned his interests south, did a super job forming an Italian/Austrian/Turkish alliance. When this failed (due to a missed move by Turkey) his dying effort was to create a large Italy, eventually spelling Russia's and France's doom.

ENGLAND - me. After Russia's 1902 stab (can't blame him for getting off a losing horse) I retreated to the English mainland and there I stayed for many game years. Only when France began to collapse under the forced Russo-Italian did I join in the battle. When Italy showed signs of winning, I did my best to put my units in the positions where I'd be needed in any draw effort to stop Italy. It almost worked - it should have.

ITALY - Tom Thornsén, who is the best player I've run across in Diplomacy, with the possible exceptions of Eric Verheiden and Dan Mathias, played a sound straightforward game. He attacked Austria in 1902 (with German help). When France stabbed Russia after Germany's demise, Tom was giving Russia Turkish centers in order to maintain the raider fleets that eventually meant France's collapse, which Tom took full advantage of, and eventually won.

FRANCE: Paul Gallagher played a good game. It's true that he attacked/stabbed me, then Germany, then Russia and Italy, but he was in good position each time, and it seemed the best thing to try for the relatively quick win. He might

This is

O At  
P Great  
E Intervals  
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# 905

have made it. (At one time he had Munich, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Sweden, etc.) If he hadn't let so many units behind his front lines (2 English, 2 Turkish-supplied Russian). After his collapse and the threat of Italian victory, he also joined me in trying to stop the Italian win and therefore a 4-way draw.

RUSSIA - Jake Walters stabbed me in 1902 - it was the right thing to do; I was a hopeless cause. He and France worked well together and did a beautiful job of eliminating Germany, and I was all but gone when Jake was stabbed by Paul. Jake's diplomacy was good in allying with Italy and eventually pushing back the French. When the Italian win became a threat, Jake made the moves to stab Italy and prevent his win, but then decided to let Italy win. I hope he is happy with his second-place finish. It's a shame that a well-played game like this had to be marred by such an attitude.

PAUL GALLAGHER (France): 1976IB began with the forged letter scandal between Dick Trtek and Jack Brawner, and that incident seemed to set the tone of the entire game, a game which eventually became a battle of conflicting personal gaming philosophies, and in retrospect, possibly to a large degree marked by misinterpretations of other player's motives. Jake Walters and I allied and managed to exploit the rift created between England and Germany, and by 1905, Germany has been eliminated, England completely contained and isolated, and Jake and I the dominant powers on the board. If we had remained allied, I feel fairly certain we could have achieved a 17-17 draw, but I chose instead to stab Jake at this time. My stab was motivated by 3 reasons: one, Jake had left himself so wide open that the temptation was too great not to succumb to; two, the object of any game is in my eyes to win and I had no qualms about stabbing, for I took that to be an integral part of the game (to Jake - I honestly do not believe that "honesty is at a premium" in the game of Diplomacy) and three, since I don't participate in a number of games concurrently, I wanted this one to be "exciting", for I perceived that a successful, steadfast, dual alliance would yield only a drab and dull game. The stab proved premature, principally because we'd never polished off Jack when the opportunity existed, and his remaining fleets plus Jake's two had me flanked in the north, leaving me holding more territory than I could possibly defend since every point was to some extent vulnerable. My forces were tumbling and it was obvious my position was so precarious that it couldn't possibly be sustained, and Tom had emerged as the visibly upsurging power on the board. Yet, despite diplomatic overtures that I felt just pointed out the reality of the situation, I remained the target of everyone's attack while Tom continued to waltz unscathed to victory. Jack (he of little faith), as became later characteristic of him, kept pulling off these irritating minor stabs on me, outlining a plan to contain the seemingly inseparable Italo-Russian duo, then swiping a center or two from me and telling me "it's hopeless to try to stop them" and Jake was completely unyielding in his pro-Italian position. Finally, half in desperation, half in disgust, I ordered the removal of 2 key defensive fleets, leaving my back door wide open to Italy, partially thinking something that drastic was apparently needed to get Jake and Jack to see how desperate the situation was about to be by aggravating it some, and partially, being P. O.'ed and thinking "the hell with it", if those two are so intent on handing the game to Tom and getting even with me, I can play that game too. Since no one was communicating with me during this period, I got into a bad habit of sending my moves in very early, bad because after I had ordered the 2 fleet removals, I finally received what I'm fairly certain was a sincere proposal from Jake to turn on Tom. I told Jake I had ordered these removals, which I didn't perceive as a major problem for I thought I could just call in and change them, but worse, out of frustration (and stupidity) I had told Tom what I was doing. I think Jake was rightfully a bit upset over all the scheming we'd be forced to do not to arouse Tom's suspicions, but still was prepared to move on Italy. I then called John to change my winter removals and discovered I had developed a worse habit, that of not being familiar with the rules, for it was pointed out that Rule 17 prohibits the changing of winter removals, sticking me with what appeared as concessionary removals and a senseless double crossing of Jake. I wrote and called Jake as soon as I could explaining what had happened, he seemed understanding and we agreed we could still force the draw, only now the plan would have to include Jack, a fact Jake was not overly pleased with. A 3-party plan to be executed over 2 seasons was co-ordinated which I feel was sound enough to successfully force a

draw (and perhaps even vault Jake into the commanding position) but during the Fall 2nd stage, Jake chose to renege, stab Jack and I and assure Tom the win. In Jake's defense I know he did not want to deal with Jack, had by now more than ample reason to doubt my credibility, and was soon to be leaving the country and therefore wanted his games to conclude. Still, I don't think that was enough to justify his actions. First off, in the spring, in accordance with the plan I moved my forces away from Russia and that, coupled with the fact that it would be completely pointless to batter at Jake now that he'd agreed to stop Tom, the leader, I believe should have restored my credibility at least concerning this issue. And therein lies the crux of the issue. I stabbed and participated in "dirty play" in an attempt to win, to become the leader. Jake did so in order to hand someone else the game. When he was 2nd in power and the most capable to do so, he did not attempt to prevent someone else from winning, instead choosing to reward that player for "loyal and fair play". Certainly his right to do so, but a decision that was contrary to my basic gaming tenets, particularly since I feel that the very nature of Diplomacy reserves only a very small place for loyal and fair play, assuming that everyone's objective is to win. And inherent in that assumption is that it's imperative to "kiss and make up" irregardless of what has previously transpired when someone is on the verge of victory. The last glimmer of hope seemed to be the fact that Jake would soon be leaving the country, and consequently the game. It is for that reason that I did not vote for the concession to Tom. And here is where I feel Jack also blew it. All through 1912, Jack persisted with these irritating attacks on me and supported Tom to more centers. I know he thought the situation hopeless, and by now was primarily interested in only survival, and to achieve that end, a speedy conclusion of the game. Admittedly, chances were slim, but the events bear me out. Jake withdraw and Jake's hand-picked substitute failed to submit orders, indicating that a new, reasonable, non-Walters mouthpiece would probably be ruling Russia when the next maneuvers were due, a ruler that would have to be receptive to the idea of trying a last-ditch effort to stop Tom. Sorry Jack, your perseverance in this game was admirable as was your general tactical play, but on that count, I think you had to eat crow twice in a row.

Because of the Rule 17 removal blunder, I certainly can't claim total innocence of what eventually transpired. But I still find it incredulous that after the pendulum of power swung to Tom, that for the succeeding six years, I, who was getting demolished on all counts, was making virtually the only sustained effort to stop Tom. And due to the circumstances around me, that attempt was mighty feeble. My congratulations go out to Tom Thornsens as winner of this game, and my appreciation to all who participated.

((The roster and supply center chart for this game will be found in GRAUSTARK #389. Anyone who wishes to rebut anything in the above commentaries will be able to do so in the pages of GRAUSTARK. And players are reminded that it is not a good idea to try the "kiss and make up" strategy if you are (a.) male, (b.) straight, and (c.) playing in an across-the-board game with Rod Walker. - JB))

1977B

"Winter 1912-Spring 1913"

## CLOSE TO THE END

Following "Fall 1912" moves, Germany built A Kie & F Ber, and France built F Bre.

FRANCE (Ripper): F Con-Ank; F Aeg-Eas; F Gre-Aeg; F Adr-Ion; A Pie S A Ven; A Par S A Bur; A Edi-Yor; F Nat-Nrg; F Eng-Wal; F Bre-Eng; F Lon S F Bre-Eng; A Bul, A Ven, A Bur & A Gas hold.

GERMANY (R. Gallagher): F Nth-Nrg; F Yor & F Bel hold; F Hol & A Ruh S F Bel; A Kie S A Ruh; A Mun & A Vie S A Tyr; A Tyr & A Bud S A Tri; A Tri S A Ser; A Ser S A Rum; A Ukr-Sev; A Rum S A Ukr-Sev; A Sev-Arm; F Ber-Bal; A Den not ordered, holds.

TURKEY (van Alkemade): F Bla-Con; A Smy S F Bla-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1913" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 1979.

1978HW (GAME LXXVI)

"Fall 1903"

## AUSTRIAN EMPIRE NOW DOING BUSINESS IN A NEW LOCATION

ENGLAND (Burns): F Yor-Edi; A Edi-Liv; F Bar-Nwy.

FRANCE (Joria): F Eng-Wal; A Naf-Tun; F Wes S A Naf-Tun; F Tyr-Nap; A Pie S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tri-Ven.

GERMANY (Thornsen): A Lon holds; A Mun-Sil; A Boh S A Mun-Sil; F Hel-Den; A Swe-Nwy; F Nth S A Swe-Nwy.ITALY (Bolton): A Apu-Rom; A Ven S A Apu-Rom; F Tun holds.AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Chafetz): A Tri-Ven; F Adr-Ion; A Rom S A Tri-Ven.RUSSIA (Baker): A Nwy-Swe; F Bot S A Nwy-Swe; F Ska S ENGLISH F Bar-Nwy; A Vie S TURKISH A Ser-Tri; A Gal-Bud; A War-Gal; A Liv-St.P; F Rum-Sev.TURKEY (van Alkemade): A Ser-Tri; A Alb S A Ser-Tri; F Ion-Adr; F Con-Aeg.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Italian F Tun & A Ven are dislodged. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv. (2)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Rom, Ven. (2)

FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Nap, Par, Por, Spa, Tun. (7)

RUSSIA: Bud, Mos, Nwy, Rum, St.P, Sev, Vie, War. (8)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Lon, Mun, Swe. (8)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Ser, Smy, Tri. (7)

Turkey may build three new units, and Germany and France may each build two. England and Austria-Hungary must each remove one unit, and all remaining Italian units are removed. The Gamesmaster would like to congratulate Roy Bolton for hanging on in the face of my having mis-written his address, and of his being served by the second worst postal system in North America. When new games are opened in GRAUSTARK, he will be entitled to a free entry under Postal Rule 6.

The deadline for "Winter 1903" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 1979.

1978IE (GAME LXXVIII)

"Winter 1902-Spring 1903"

## BULGARIAN TRAFFIC JAM

Following "Fall 1902" moves Russia retreated F Swe-Ska. In "Winter 1902", Germany built A Ber and Russia built F St.P(n.c.).

ENGLAND (Kelly): A Swe S F Nwy; F Nwy S F Nth; F Nth S GERMAN F Den-Ska; F Liv-Nat; F Lon-Eng.FRANCE (Katz): A Spa holds; A Bur-Mar; A Pic-Bel; F Eng S ENGLISH F Liv-Wal; F Nat-Liv.GERMANY (Liverani): A Hol-Bel; F Den holds; F Bal & A Kie S F Den; A Ber S A Mun; A Mun S A Ber.ITALY (Conrady): A Gre-Bul; F Ion-Aeg; F Eas-Smy; A Syr S F Eas-Smy.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Ripper): A Tyr Ven; A Sil-Gal; A Bul-Ser; F Alb-Tri; A Bud S A Sil-Gal.

RUSSIA ("Oaklyn" or whatever): A Rum-Bul; F Sev-Rum; A War-Gal; F Ska-Nwy; F St.P (n.c.)-S F Ska-Nwy.TURKEY (Salcedo): F Bla-Bul(e.c.); A Smy holds; F Con S A Smy.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1903" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 1979.

1976EG

"Winter 1914"

France retreats F Nwy-Nrg. Germany builds A Ber, Italy builds F Nap & F Rom, and Russia removes A Ukr. The deadline for "Spring 1915" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 1979.