

# GRAUSTARK

#547

"Mid-Term Issue"

5 March 1988

## IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL, AND OTHER THINGS

So many "Immediate Return Mail" requests were made of players in the last issue of GRAUSTARK, two weeks ago, that I have decided to bring out an issue of GRAUSTARK rather than just put postcard announcements into the mail. This also provides me with an opportunity to print a large backlog of press releases, and to make a couple of corrections of misprints and adjudication errors in #546.

1984V

In "Winter 1921", England builds F Lon and F Liv, and Germany builds F Kie. No removals came from the Austro-Hungarian player, so the gamesmaster removes A Con and F Gre. With these moves 1984V becomes the third longest game in GRAUSTARK history. The only longer ones were two two-player draws: 1967U went to "1928" as a draw between Michael Miller's Germany and Frank Clark's Russia, while 1965Q was drawn in "1922" by John Koning's England and Terry Kuch's Turkey.

1985CY

In "Winter 1911" France builds F Bre. No orders ever arrived from the German or Turkish players, so the German builds are postponed, and the gamesmaster removes the Turkish fleets in Adriatic and Greece. Ray Ulman's phone number is 313-893-2762.

1985HF

In "Winter 1911" Turkey builds F Con, A Smy. No Russian build or English removals ever arrived, so the Russian builds are postponed, and the gamesmaster removes the English fleets in Skaggerak and North Sea. Ben Austin has yet another new address: 1024 Hamilton Court, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025; phone (work) 415-321-8977.

1985HL

In "Winter 1911" Austria-Hungary builds A Vic and Turkey builds F Smy.

1986AM

For Ben Austin's new address see the report of 1985HF, and for Warren Ball's see the report of 1986AV.

1986AV

Following "Spring 1908" moves Austria-Hungary retreats A War-Ukr. Warren K. Ball's new address is #54-B Horizon Park Apts., 4900 N. MacDill Ave., Tampa, Fla. 33614; phone (home) 813-874-7034; (work) 813-878-6316.

1986AZ

No Austro-Hungarian "Winter 1907" build ever arrived.



The other players in 1987AZ are assured that the Austro-Hungarian press release which appeared in #546 did not, at the time it was printed, represent the author's policies. In fact, the Austro-Hungarian player had asked me not to print it. However, by the time his request arrived it had already been printed.

Two contradictory proposals have been put forward in the vote which is due with the "Spring 1908" moves: A concession to Austria-Hungary and a draw. A player who votes "Yes" on one of these may also vote "Yes" on the other.

## 1986CW

Some players apparently did not notice the last-minute announcement that went into #545 at the top of page 3. The Russian "Winter 1906" removal was not F Aeg but F Bul(e.c.).

Following "Spring 1907" moves, Germany retreats F Bal-Ber.

## 1986HI

In "Winter 1905", Austria-Hungary builds A Vie and A Bud, and Italy removes A Par.

## 1987HQ

No English retreat ever arrived for the dislodged F Nth, and it is therefore removed. The Turkish unit in Bulgaria, printed as an army in the last issue, is actually a fleet on the east coast.

## 1987IY

The gamesmaster mis-read the German "Fall 1901" orders. The move printed as "A Sil-Gal" was actually "A Sil-War". This means that the Austro-Hungarian order "A Gal S GERMAN A Sil-War" was also valid. Warsaw is therefore a German rather than a Russian supply center. Germany has two builds rather than one, and Russia has none.

The German order "F Den-Swe" and the Russian "F Bot-Swe" stood each other off, and so both failed. Sweden is still unoccupied.

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"In conversation, Gen. Charles Gabriel, head of the United States Air Force, and his opposite number in the Chinese Air Force, Comdr. Wang Hai, discovered that they had met once before in aerial combat over the Yalu River on Aug. 29, 1952. The Chinese pilot was an ace with nine American planes to his credit. But in that encounter, the American general shot down the man he faced across the Joint Chief's conference table. Mr. Wang parachuted from his stricken MIG and survived to climb the ladder of success in the Chinese Air Force." - Bernard E. Trainor, New York Times, 11 January 1988

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Matthew Grasse writes that he is looking for over-the-board Diplomacy gaming in the Greater New York City area. Announcements by people looking for over-the-board gaming are posted on the bulletin board at The Compleat Strategist, 11 E. 33rd St., in Manhattan. (Granted, most of these announcements are for Dungeons & Dragons, but a few are looking for other gamers.) Anyone with information should phone Grasse at 718-381-4842. If any games develop, and I get advance word early enough, I will publicize them in GRAUSTARK. I might even run one here, although my wife is of the opinion that Diplomacy players make an even bigger mess of the place than do science-fiction fans.



## EARLY PRESS RELEASES

1986AF

VIENNA: The Empire expands!

In a peace treaty sanctioned by the pope and forced upon Europe by the might of arms, but welcomed by the affected peoples, the borders of the Hapsburg Empire have been extended.

The following regions have been added to the domains of the Hapsburg dynasty: Malta, Greece and the Greek areas of Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, Serbia, northeastern Italy, the Ukraine, all Polish areas, the Baltic states, the area along the Black Sea coast up to the new nation of Armenia, and all of the former Empire of the Hohenzollerns (Germany).

Finland, Syria and Armenia are now fully independent states. Constantinople becomes a free city. Moscow and St. Petersburg are returned to the tsar, and France is restored to her former borders. The Italian peninsula is now divided into various autonomous kingdoms, principalities, duchies and city-states. In Germany, the Hohenzollerns retain their Kingdom of Prussia, as the House of Wittelsbach keeps its Kingdom of Bavaria; however, all of these and other German crowns now owe allegiance to the Hapsburg Imperial Throne.

This new Empire will become one vast trading area, free from any barriers to the exchange of goods within its wide borders.

In summation, the Hapsburg Empire has vastly expanded, and of the other major powers which entered the war, only England and France did not lose territory!

1986AV

CONSTANTINOPLE: Fatima glanced up from her copy of Sunset Magazine to send in her orders. "Now," she says, turning back to the glossies, "where is that article on shell craters as decorative planting areas?"

LONDON: From the Queen, a poem.

Down with Russia  
Down with Germany  
Down with France  
And stuff that Turkey.

1986CW

HELGOLAND BIGHT and BALTIC SEA to WORLD: (sing to the tune of "We Are The Old Nyvee")

We're here from Berlin, the old navy crew.  
We're going to teach ya'll that water's still blue.  
Last year we beat you, today we'll defeat you!  
Navy is coming through, Navy is coming through!

CHORUS: We're the German Nyvee!

We're the German Nyvee!

We don't have to march like Hung'ry's boys,  
Ride with the Cossack's noise,  
Fire England's little toys.

We can beat you without any toll,

We're the German Nyvee!

DUCHY OF GRAND FENWICK to WORLD: (via Kiel): The Duchy formally announces the annexation of the wine-producing areas of Burgundy to the Duchy. These vintners will be allowed to continue production, but such wines will bear a stamp designating them as "Grade B" wines.

TURKISH EMBASSY to SWINE-POPE LEO: Several of your sullen and yet threatening messages have been received here. The Turkish Government remains ready to accept the



unconditional surrender and demilitarization of all Italian Army and Naval units, subject to the supervision of the International Control Commission. Italian troops wishing to give up should approach Turkish positions waving the white flag, the international symbol of surrender.

SILENT TURK to OTHER PLAYERS: If I haven't written I apologize. Too much work, not enough time to get to your letters. Hey, by the way, there's a game opening in a new sub-zine in Kathy's Korner/Whitestonia. Called UPSTART, it is produced by yours truly.

KAISER STEVE to WORLD: Rumors still persist that Der Rote Kriegspieler is still alive. I believe that Our Hero is, in fact, wounded and in the hands of our longtime ally Germany. Things have calmed down in Vienne. Food shortages have eased due to Aid from Kaiser John and his Great Nation. It is hard to believe that only five years ago I had the world at my feet. Actually the Central European Alliance had the world at OUR feet. All that is history now. Back to the defenses...

BERLIN to ST. PETERSBURG: My thanks to the Russian Navy.

1986HI

BUDAPEST: Long live the new Austria and High King Hogwash.

ROME: The New Italian Tyrant wishes to reopen diplomatic with England, France & Germany. Please write.

1987AD

ENGLAND to AUSTRIA: You are strange, sir. Strange.

BROOKLYN (URRP): Ganz gewiss.

KING OF ITALY to KAISER GIBBY: All hail Kaiser Gibby! I wasn't sure if my navy could help you any. Although the Central European Alliance has been shaken and all but destroyed, Italy is still with you.

ITALY to GERMANY: Kaiser Staurt, please remember this: I am but an Italian row-boat in the wake of an Austrian Man of War!

BUDA (Danube Bas A. P.): Amusing to note that King Steve can't realize we have no Kaiser, nor even an Archduke. And seems to think France took Tunis from him, an even worse delusion, as Europe must face the fact that injustice to France is a crime and must soon be rued.

1987CD

FRANCE to ENGLAND: I sense you have some difficulty communicating, but if your price for an alliance was Belgium, why didn't you just say so earlier? Why don't you write or give me a call? We can work it out.

FRANCE to GERMANY: Whatever happened to that second promised attack on Tyrolia? I thought all our differences were past us, both to our benefit and to this Austrian dominated world. When are your people going to wake up? There's a red acid rain storm brewing in the East and our meteorologists are predicting a wind shift due West any time soon.

FRANCE to ITALY: May you burn in eternal damnation you sacrilegious ameoba! Oh yea, and thanks for the Christmas card too.

PARIS (where the citizens dance in the streets): What goes on here? France has as many enemies now as she did after the Revolution. Alright already, we're sorry. We apologize to the world. We'll go back to the monarchist way of doing things. We'll place "Le Roi du Soleil" back on the Parisian Throne. Our ideology will revert back to exactly how yours is now; One Lord in power, appointed by God, of course, who can do whatever the hell he wants. Now if that's not progress, nay, excellerated progress, I don't know what is.

So tell me my dear neighbors, are we "Brothers in Arms" again or what?

FRANCE to TURKEY and RUSSIA: Never place your faith in the decadent and immoral



West. It has something to do with their uncanny ability in shirking moral responsibilities.

This is

PARIS: Due to the sudden nervousness of the citizens of the once great and proud French Empire a lift on all laws banning the use and importation of all hallucinogenics and euphoric narcotics has been announced. Within 24 hours of this notice the citizens of the ancient province of Brittany voted for the militia to set sail for the bustling ports of North Africa with the intent to take control of the booming and profitable "Black Lotus" market by force if necessary. Future plans are not completely certain but rumor has it that the French General Staff are looking into the possibility of a military excursion near Tunis next season. Vive la Guerre! Vive la France!

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

ENGLAND: SO write me.

# 1481

TURKEY to WORLD: Look at all of those red splotches, like little drops of blood, spanning the European continent! Come on, let's do something. It may already be too late.

TURKEY to RUSSIA: I'll forgive you for last Spring's attack on my fleet -- it was Austria's idea, not yours.

1987CX

SULTAN to CZAR: How about sending some English women down to me when you get some, I am always in the need for new concubines.

1987HQ

BUDAPEST: The Austrian Jihad takes to the hills: Bids for ownership are being accepted.

1987HR

PARIS to LONDON: Damn! Well we now know who can't be trusted, at least for now. You've effectively hamstrung me in the Atlantic area. It's now up to the Herman. I can only hope that he sees that your's is the star that's falling and mine rising.

PARIS to BERLIN: The Kaiser can rest assured that his base will be unhindered by the glorious French army. Only the two leaders who have polluted France have to fear.

PARIS to MOSCOW: A resounding victory for the stalwart Russian Northern Command. I can but apologize for allowing the English dog enough resources to maintain his current level of forces.

BERLIN (Williamstrasse): The High Command is happy that the Wehrmacht is now at full strength.

VIENNA to BERLIN: It looks like you've gone as far as you can go peacefully, so where to now.

VIENNA to PARIS: I have received your offer and will consider it.

1987IY

RUSSIA to WORLD (via Berlin): Et tu Brute.

GERMANY to ITALY: Where are you Brute?

GERMANY to RUSSIA: In an attempt to withdraw troops stationed in the Warsaw area, the restrooms in town were crowded with German soldiers preparing for the long trip home.

GERMANY to TURKEY: Let's Party.

AUSTRIA to ITALY (via Berlin): Wake up & smell the coffee.

FRANCE to RUSSIA (via Berlin): We'll accept the refugees for many reasons. Most importantly, the money we'll get selling your women.

TURKEY to RUSSIA (via Berlin): Was it something You said?



ENGLAND to RUSSIA (via Berlin): Have you ever considered taking up Parchesi?

RUSSIA to TURKEY (via Berlin): This is something I dread.

GERMANY to RUSSIA: Russians do make better lovers. They can't fight worth anything.

RUSSIA to RUSSIA (via Berlin): At least you'll stand by me.

RUSSIA to RUSSIA (via Berlin): Maybe.

WORLD to GERMANY (via Berlin): Quit speaking for us.

VIENNA (UPS): Responding to the desperate pleas from the Greek gov't. Emperor Arthur orders his newly built and untried navy, to their aid. To show their gratitude, the queen Diane Andreassi, offered the brave Admiral Eric Von Greylame the use of her ladies in waiting.

BUDAPEST TIMES: The 2nd Budapest Light Infantry Brigade (also known as the STICHKUPON ERGREIFEN BRIGADE), who are stationed in Galacia, today helped the German forces liberate the province of Warsaw from Russia. Speaking from his mountain H. Q. General Karl Balinor was confident of victory, but only after a long and bloody struggle.

#### THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

GRAUSTARK, the very first bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy, is published every fourth Saturday (with occasional additional issues) by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226-5302; 718-693-1579. Diplomacy was designed by Allan B. Calhmer and is published by Avalon-Hill Inc.

Postal Diplomacy games are open in GRAUSTARK at a game fee of \$25, which includes a subscription as long as the game lasts. With your entry fee send in a list of the countries that you'd like to play in your order of preference, and I'll try to place you as high on it as I can. If you do not already have a copy of the postal rules, which were last published in #525, let me know when you send in your entry fee. Subscriptions for non-players are 12 issues for \$10. Back issues from the beginning of 1987 are 10 for \$3.

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The 25th anniversary of the founding of GRAUSTARK takes place in May, and I am planning an especially large issue to mark the event. But this is only a minor matter, compared with the other notable anniversaries coming up in 1988. The months of July and August will see the 400th anniversary of the English triumph over the "invincible" Spanish Armada, and I plan to reprint in that 25th Anniversary Issue of GRAUSTARK a review of several books about the defeat of the Armada. So, as a lead-in, I am putting into this issue a review of a book by the English historian Garrett Mattingly about one of the preludes to the Armada - the break of King Henry VIII with the Church of Rome.

We also have in 1988 the 200th anniversary of the ratification of the U. S. Constitution; for further details on that see my book review in DAGON #366 of Larry Gonick's The Cartoon Guide to U. S. History and Eric Lurio's The Cartoon Guide to the Constitution of the United States (\$6 each from Barnes & Noble). And in November will take place the 300th anniversary of Great Britain's "Glorious Revolution", which finally ejected from the throne the worthless House of Stuart, and inaugurated limited monarchy and freedom of religion. And there will also occur the 100th anniversary of the Great American Poem, that perfect Aristotelian tragedy in 13 four-line verses, "Casey at the Bat".

There are some personal anniversaries this year, too. August will mark the 25th anniversary of Perdita's and my wedding, which was solemnized in City Hall by a City Clerk who has since resigned under indictment. And 3 July 1988 ("Old Style") marks the 350th anniversary of the landing of Samuel Boyeman at Ipswich, Massachusetts, inaugurating the American branch of the family. (As nearly as I can make out, the Boardmans came to America because of religious persecution. The government wouldn't allow them to do any.)



## CATHERINE OF ARAGON - HEROINE OF THE REFORMATION

"This monstrous regiment of women..." - John Knox

"...And Christian hateth Mary whom God kissed in Galilee." - G. K. Chesterton, "Lepanto"

"We...intend to go on...offering incense to the Queen of Heaven, and pouring libations in her honour, as we used to do, we and our fathers, our kings and our leaders." - Jeremiah 44:17

The issues at stake in the divorce between King Henry VIII of England and Queen Catherine are still with us today - so much so that any history of this event must be considered in terms of the bias of the historian. Fortunately Garrett Mattingly, in his biography Catherine of Aragon (Vintage, 1960), lets us know what his are, albeit in a roundabout manner. He does this in his treatment of Eustache Chapuys, ambassador in England of Catherine's nephew Kaiser Karl V, from 1529 until her death in 1536. Mattingly goes deeply into Chapuys' background and character, and shows how he became in effect her counsel and public relations manager during the divorce controversy, even to the prejudice of the interests of his imperial master. This Mattingly has also done; he is not Catherine's biographer but her advocate.

The sixteenth century was pre-eminently the century of the monarchs. A state was regarded as the estate of its king, and its policy as the extension of the will of the king. And the European monarchs of the century were well fit to play leading roles on this stage; almost all of them were men and women of native intelligence, high spirit, and firm conviction. They did many evil deeds, and a few good ones, but no small ones. Their characters are inextricably mixed with the policies and histories of their kingdoms: Henry VIII, Mary I, and Elizabeth I of England; Louis XII and François I of France; Ferdinand V, Carlos I, and Felipe II of Spain; Maximilian I of Germany (Carlos of Spain was also Karl V of Germany); Vasili III and Ivan IV of Muscovy; and some of the most ferocious and worldly popes who ever reigned.

Foremost among these formidable rules was a remarkable dynasty of women: Queens Isabella I of Spain, and Catherine and Mary I of England. Mother, daughter, and granddaughter, all were intelligent, well educated, firm in the defence of their rights, sexually faithful to husbands whom any modern woman would regard as excellent excuses for taking lovers, and pious Roman Catholics to the point of fanaticism. Yet all these qualities were ultimately detrimental both to their countries and to their faith.

At the beginning of the century, the major monarchs of Europe were old, close-fisted, cautious men, carefully circling for advantages by which they might add a few more gold pieces to their coffers and acres to their realms: Henry VII of England, Louis XII of France, Maximilian I of Germany, and Ferdinand V of Spain. This last had a wild ambition: the defeat of France, a nation that far outweighed his own in population, wealth, and centralization. To this end he needed alliances with England and with that loose conglomeration of German states that went by the name of 'Holy Roman Empire'. He accordingly pledged a couple of daughters to this end, marrying Juana to Maximilian's heir and Catherine to Henry's. (Two other daughters went to successive Portuguese heirs to secure Spain's other boundary; one of them eventually produced a daughter who was matched with Kaiser Max's grandson Karl V.)

These women were pawns, and everyone knew it. Juana's husband died in 1506, and her father Ferdinand in 1516. She should have succeeded to Spain, but her father had already declared her mad so he could rule Castilla in the place of her late mother Isabella I. Her son continued this farce, keeping her shut up for the remaining 39 years of her life despite the lack of any evidence for her madness that a modern historian would credit.

Meanwhile, Henry VII and Louis XII had also died, so that western Europe was now in the hands of three young men in their twenties: Karl V of Germany and Spain, Henry VIII of England, and François I of France. Hopes were high for the patronage of the



arts and the other activities characteristic of the ideal Renaissance Prince. For a few years, these hopes were justified. However, the accession of the last of these three, the cold, pious, and subtle Karl V (who moreover had more brains than the other two combined) put an end to these hopes. He continues the anti-French policy of his grandfathers, and English diplomatic history for the rest of Henry's reign and beyond was an attempt by France and the Habsburg empire to bid for English support.

The young and impressionable English king was led by the nose by his Spanish father-in-law in his first venture into European politics. This was accomplished by Queen Catherine, who, while she was Queen of England, was also the accredited Spanish ambassador to England! This interesting situation brought about a joint Anglo-Spanish expedition into France, which resulted in Englishmen doing most of the dying and the paying while Ferdinand collected the rewards. Mattingly makes this event a crucial one in transforming Henry from the open-hearted outgoing young Renaissance Prince into the suspicious old tyrant of popular history.

It should not be forgotten that for most of the time from their marriage in 1509 until Anne Boleyn first came to the king's attention in 1526, King Henry and Queen Catherine had a quite successful marriage, and she was very popular with the English people. King Henry was married to her for more than twice as long as he was married to his other five wives combined. Anne, in fact, was regarded by most of the English as a sleazy intriguer. The parvenu Tudor dynasty needed foreign royal alliances to make its position accepted, and the people would rather see their king married to a foreign woman of royal rank than to some English noblewoman with a horde of grasping relatives. Mattingly tells the story of one Englishman who called the new queen "a goggyl yed hoore".

Mattingly makes Henry's scruples about the succession a mere excuse to get rid of an aging, plain wife for a beautiful young one. Yet these scruples were quite real. England had never had a female ruler, and no one was sure how Catherine's daughter might be accepted if she should succeed. Several English noble houses had shirt-tail claims to the crown if the Tudors should die out, and no English statesman wanted a repetition of the wars of succession of the previous century. That Henry VIII should leave an undoubted heir, whose title was untouched by questions of his own legitimacy or his mother's adultery, was a point far more important to the peace and safety of England than any question of foreign alliances or what religion the English should profess.

Central to this question was the obdurate attitude of Pope Clement VII. Of the English refusal to accept his judgment on the divorce, Mattingly writes: "A momentous question was posed: Is there a human justice in the world to which anyone can appeal when the state refuses justice?" By forbidding appeals to Rome, Mattingly implies, Henry VIII answered "No!" to this question and thus inaugurated modern statism. But to raise this question implies that the pope is the impartial arbiter of the internal dissents of Christendom - a situation light-years remote from the realities of 16th-century European politics. Pope Clement was a puppet of the Kaiser, whose armies had thoroughly sacked Rome at about the time King Henry began hanging around the Lady Anne's bedchamber. The only political question concerning the divorce was not whether England was to be under the absolute rule of an arbitrary prince, but whether that prince was to be an English king or an Italian priest.

Pope Clement refused to give his consent to the divorce out of fear of Kaiser Karl. Queen Catherine refused to retire to a convent out of devotion to the Roman Church. The pope's cowardice and the queen's courage combined to lose England to Rome forever. King Henry VIII had no doctrinal objection to Roman Catholicism; he had written in its defense against Luther, and to the end of his reign persecuted Protestants who did not believe in transubstantiation or free will. For centuries popes had obliged kings who wanted to rearrange their family lives in this way. Had Clement done so, Henry would have had no reason for breaking with Rome. England was not, in his reign, like Scotland, Sweden, or Holland, whose entire populations had gone quickly, enthusiastically, and permanently to the reformers' doctrines. And what could the Kaiser have done? Gone Protestant? Executed Pope Clement? Invaded England - with



hundreds of thousands of armed Turks in his rear? To raise these questions is to answer them.

Once having decided to secure the succession in this way, King Henry went the rest of the distance. A court under his authority pronounced the divorce. The pope's attempt to crowd himself onto the English throne was ended forever. The rich church lands, free from taxes for centuries, came under English ownership, thus securing for the king and for the Reformation the loyalty of a whole influential class. By the time that Anne Boleyn's daughter came to the throne in 1558, the English people knew that the legitimacy of their queen, the security of their country, the title by which they held their property, and their very lives were bound up with the interests of Protestantism.

This was true not only for England, but for Europe. Governed by these considerations, England became the great moral, financial, and military arsenal of continental Protestantism. Without English aid, Kaiser Karl's successors would have crushed Protestantism by force of arms in Holland, Switzerland, and Germany as they had crushed it in Poland and Bohemia. Mattingly makes the dominating conviction of Catherine's life her loyalty to the Church of Rome. By that loyalty she did it more harm than Luther, Calvin, Knox, and Cranmer combined.

(This review first appeared in EMPIRE #22 on 20 September 1975. I should like to thank Dainis Bisineiks for sending me a copy of Catherine of Aragon.)

#### WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING

Besides GRAUSTARK, I also publish another war-gaming fanzine EMPIRE, and a fanzine for science-fiction, fantasy, comic art, and related topics, DAGON. EMPIRE appears every fourth Saturday and DAGON every third Saturday; each is 12 issues for \$10. Subscription to DAGON also brings ANAKREON, which is published every three months and carries filksongs, generally of a satirical nature, by myself and others. Recent issues of EMPIRE have included the following items:

#249 (15 August): Play continues in four postal games of Victory's Pax Britannica. In the first, proposals are set before a Congress of Europe called to settle a dispute among Great Britain, Russia, and Spain over Morocco. In the second and fourth, new game turns begin, while in the third, Great Britain conquers Venezuela, getting the U. S. antsy over the "Monroe Doctrine". Cheryl Lloyd's Dungeons & Dragons filksong "Lord of the Dice" is printed, and I have the 14th installment of my continuing series "Dungeons and Christians" about the Christian attempt to suppress Dungeons & Dragons and other games. This one has a review of a book by a crazy Texas preacher, who claims that not only D&D but also Care Bears, Rainbow Brite dolls, and Cabbage Patch Kids are the work of Satan.

#250 (12 September): Morocco is carved and served in PB-I amidst imminent danger of a world-wide war. In PB-III a compromise is proposed over Venezuela, while in the other two games Congresses of Europe are called to settle great-power disputes. In a game of postal Lost Worlds, a Colddrake is wreaking havoc among a hunting party composed to a Knight, a Man-at-Arms, a Barbarian, and a Dwarf, while a Unicorn clips a Manticore on the wing, and a new battle begins between Sammy the Samurai and Gargle the Gargoyle.

#251 (10 October): In PB-I a Chinese rebellion breaks out, leading to a Great War and ending the game with a German victory. The other three games are in Congresses of Europe. There is a review of one of the books in Tor's new "Crossroad Books" series, in which the reader gets to play out an adventure in the world of De Camp's and Pratt's Harold Shea stories.

#252 (24 October): The Colddrake wins his Lost Worlds battle, while the Gargoyle knocks out the Samurai, the Unicorn continues to score points on the Manticore, and a new vattle begins between the Shortswordman and a Lizardman. War seems near in PB-III as several powers refuse to accept the treaty negotiated in the Congress of,



Europe.

#253 (7 November): PB-III ends, largely through player inertia, as a British victory in only the second Game-Turn. A treaty is agreed by a Congress of Europe in PB-II, but only at a cost which leads to a Great War and in Italian victory on the next turn. The Congress of Europe in PB-IV breaks down over a failure to agree on Indo-China.

#254 (21 November): Reviews appear of the completed Pax Britannica games, and it looks like war in PB-IV. In Lost Worlds, Scott Cameron's apparently invincible Shortswordsmen knocks out my Lizardman, while my Unicorn inflicts more damage on Howard Dawson's Manticore.

#255 (5 December): Another installment of "Dungeons & Christians" appears, with my comments on the most recent newsletter of a pack of nuts called "the National Council on Television Violence" (NCTV). (Loren Wiseman of GDW sends me copies of this mishigoss.) Hasbro is accused of marketing "Satanic toys", and we also see an inter-necine attack of one set of Christians on another, concerning the allegedly violent toys marketed by a Christian toy firm in Houston. Also, a TV show which NCTV calls "Buggs Bunny" is clocked at the rate of 56 acts of violence per hour, two worse than Platoon. To add to the complications, Platoon is condemned on one page of this newsletter, and praised on another!

Meanwhile, the powers in PB-IV back down from their casus belli and instead slap down the Boxer Rebellion, while the Unicorn triumphs over the Manticore.

#256 (19 December): The Chinese are slapped down, and Germany declares war against France and Russia in PB-IV. A fifth postal Pax Britannica game begins.

#257 (2 January): The war in PB-IV ends almost as soon as it begins, with a defeat of Germany. The editor reviews Chronicle, a month-by-month history of this century.

#258 (30 January): In both PB games the empires stake their claims, leading to several casus belli, including a dispute between France and Japan over control of Madagascar. In a new Lost Worlds game, I send a Hobbit against Scott Cameron's triumphant Shortswordsmen. I also comment on the meaning of an important event which took place on this date 339 years ago.

#259 (27 February): Congresses of Europe are called to settle the disputes in both Pax Britannica games, and yet another new PB game is announced. The rules for a postal game of GDW's En Garde are announced; anyone who sends in the \$20/year game fee by 26 March can get in on the first turn of the game. There is also a review on PennCon I, where I refereed the Pax Britannica and Empires of the Middle Ages games.

DAGON goes to all members of APA-Q, an amateur press association, and also to other subscribers. Recent issues have included:

#361 (31 October): There is a review of Frederick L. Schodt's Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics, which looks into the history of the liveliest school of comic art in the world today. Another review praises Kenneth J. Hsu's extremely informative book The Great Dying, about the extinction of the dinosaurs. The FBI's attempt to get librarians to act as informers is also examined, not gently.

#362 (21 November): This leads off with a review of Bimbos of the Death Sun, a so-so murder mystery by Sharyn McCrumb, which is placed at a science-fiction convention and solved during a D&D game. An installment of "I'll See You in the Funny Papers" examines how current U. S. comic strips explore such issues as strikes, censorship, and a senile president. The first of a series of speculations and reviews of the new Star Trek show appears.

#363 (12 December): This issue carries the same review of Barefoot Gen that appeared in GRAUSTARK #544, and also an observation on how the international character of science overcomes petty nationalistic antagonisms fostered by mere politicians. (I'll bet you didn't know that committees of the U. S. National Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R. have been regularly meeting with each other since 1980 to study methods of confirming arms control agreements.)



#364 (2 January): This issue leads off with the first of a series of two articles on "Chronological Problems in the Detective Novels of Dorothy L. Sayers", with an attempt to sort out an apparently insoluble problem in dating her first two "Lord Peter" novels. There are also comments on the Gary Hard campaign, the closing of an excellent specialty bookshop in Manhattan, the collapse of the Oliver North mystique, the increasing problems in making the "Strategic Defense Initiative" believable, and Pat Robertson's belief that only born-again Christians and a few token Jews are qualified to hold U. S. government jobs.

#365 (23 January): This starts off with a report on Hexacon, a weekend science-fiction convention in Pennsylvania. Also, we look into the fact that Dorothy L. Sayers gave, in two different novels, two different accounts of where Lord Peter Wimsey spent New Year's Eve of 1929-30. The article on the life of the Japanese cartoonist Keiji Nakazawa is here, which also appeared in GRAUSTARK #545, and there are some comments on Tony Hendra's book on the humor of the "baby-boomer" generation, Going Too Far. The idea that a thirty-year cycle governs many aspects of American life, from popular literature to politics, is again explored. A week later, ANAKREON #37 carries my "A Moral Victory" about the futility of the primary election campaign, and several other folksongs by Mary Lou Lacefield, Cheryl Lloyd, Fred Kuhn, Burr Kansas, two Kellys who didn't send their first names, and the California branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism. (Would you believe "Attila the Hun" to the tune of the anthem of the Mickey Mouse Club? Then how about "Khaddhafi's Privateers" to the tune of "Barrett's Privateers"?) There are also comments on the way some churches are purifying their hymnals, and, to the rhythm of "Casey at the Bat", "Cuemo at the Balk".

#366 (13 February): "I'll See You in the Funny Papers", my column on comic art, has for its 50th installment a review of Larry Gonick's The Cartoon Guide to U. S. History and Eric Lurio's The Cartoon Guide to the Constitution of the United States. These books go into a lot of American history you weren't taught in school, including the reactions of various other people to speeches on "Liberty" by rich white men, the proposal by advocates of slavery to also enslave whites, the way in which a little gang of backroom politicians once reversed the public decision in a presidential election, and how you get a war started without bothering to get the constitutionally required congressional approval.

All issues of LAGON also carry comments on previous Distributions of APA-Q, and information on how you can join as well.

#### WHAT'S A NICE JAPANESE BOY DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

Project Gen, whose activities I have supported in GRAUSTARKS ##504 & 505, has just arranged for the American premiere of the film Barefoot Gen. This film, a largely autobiographical account of the boyhood of the Japanese comic artist Keiji Nakazawa, is an animated version of his most famous work - his experience as a six-year-old boy when the first nuclear bomb fell on Hiroshima. Barefoot Gen is a powerful anti-war work, whose power can only be increased by its translation from comic art into film animation. As such it should be one of the most effective pieces of anti-war propaganda ever produced.

Its American premiere will take place on Saturday 12 March 1988 in, of all places, the Bob Hope Theater (!) on the campus of Southern Methodist University. This anti-war message, with graphic depictions based on Nakazawa's own experiences of the effects of nuclear warfare, is being shown in the most strongly militaristic part of this country. I have no doubt that, when local militarists learn of it, they will raise howls of protest, which will have no effect other than giving excellent publicity to the film. If they attempt to ban it, the publicity will be even better. After all, when Platoon came out, some veterans' "spokesman" on Long Island complained that if a lot of people saw the film, they will not be quite so ready to enlist in another war. Did he think we didn't know that? And, compared to Barefoot Gen, Platoon is virtually Rambo.



Members of Project Gen have been told that the film version of Barefoot Gen is not commercially viable because of Nakazawa's graphic artwork depicting the effects of one nuclear bomb, "small" as such things are nowadays reckoned, on Hiroshima. This, however, can be the film's strongest selling point. Horror films do not exactly alienate American audiences.

## WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

There are some corrections and additions to the list published in the last issue of subscriptions shortly to expire. The following readers' subscriptions expire with the indicated issue of GRAUSTARK. This list is accurate through 2 March 1988.

547 - John M. Weswig	549 - Kenneth L. Peel	558 - Bob Bragdon
548 - Stephen Kwiatkowski	550 - Chris Carrier	John Brennick
Peter J. La Rocco	556 - Jeffrey L. Hoffman	563 - Ted London
549 - John Barnes	557 - J. Eric Brosius	570 - Eric Verheiden
Ralph L. Morton		575 - Gerry Thompson

## FRESH BLOOD

The following people have written in with inquiries about postal Diplomacy. Tonest gamesmasters with game openings should get in touch with them.

J. Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward St., Milford, Mass. 01757  
 Bob Hartwig, 6612 W. 113th Ave., Westminster, Colo. 80020  
 Rob Hetland, 14007 White Birch Rd., Minnetonka, Minn. 55343  
 David Peterson, 5236 Racine Court, Bonite, Calif. 92002

LATE PRESS RELEASE - 1987AD

MOCKBA: Warshava velikaya, Moscka bolshaya!

LATE PRESS RELEASE - 1987CD

TURKEY to WORLD: Anyone out there know taps?

GRAUSTARK #547

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 Brooklyn, New York 11226-5302

Important announcements for the following games are on pp. 1-2:

1984V	1986AZ
1985CY	1986CW
1985HF	1986HI
1985HL	1987HQ
1986AF	1987IY
1986AV	



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