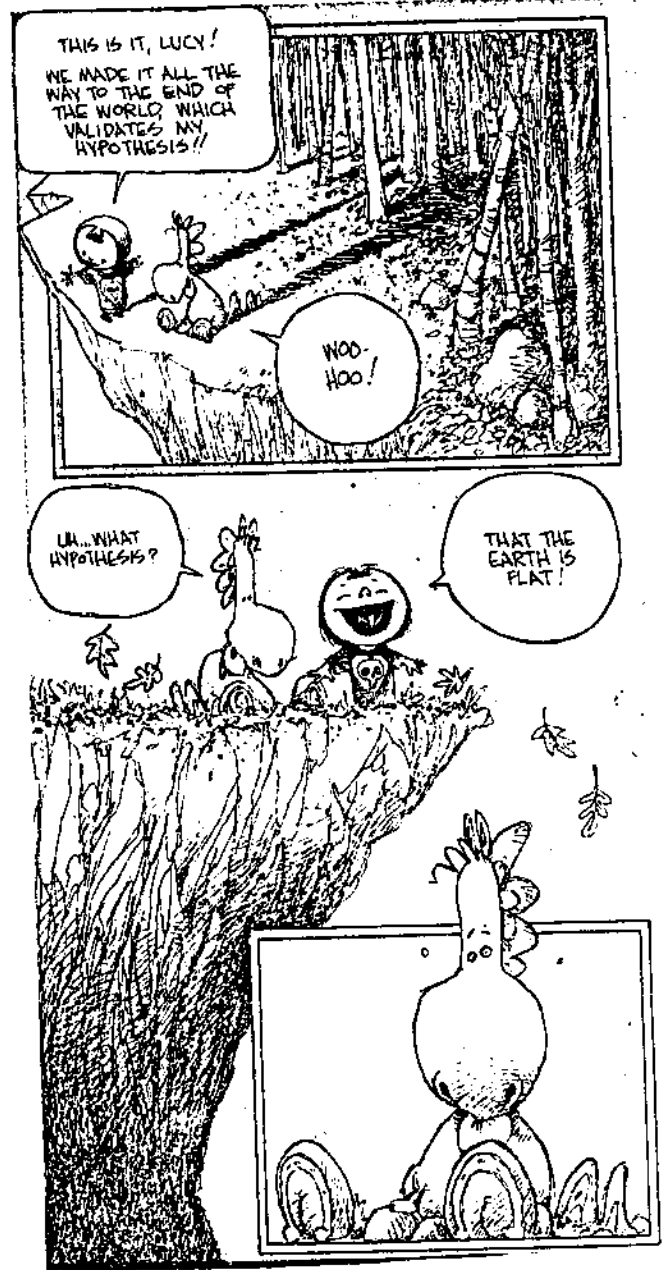
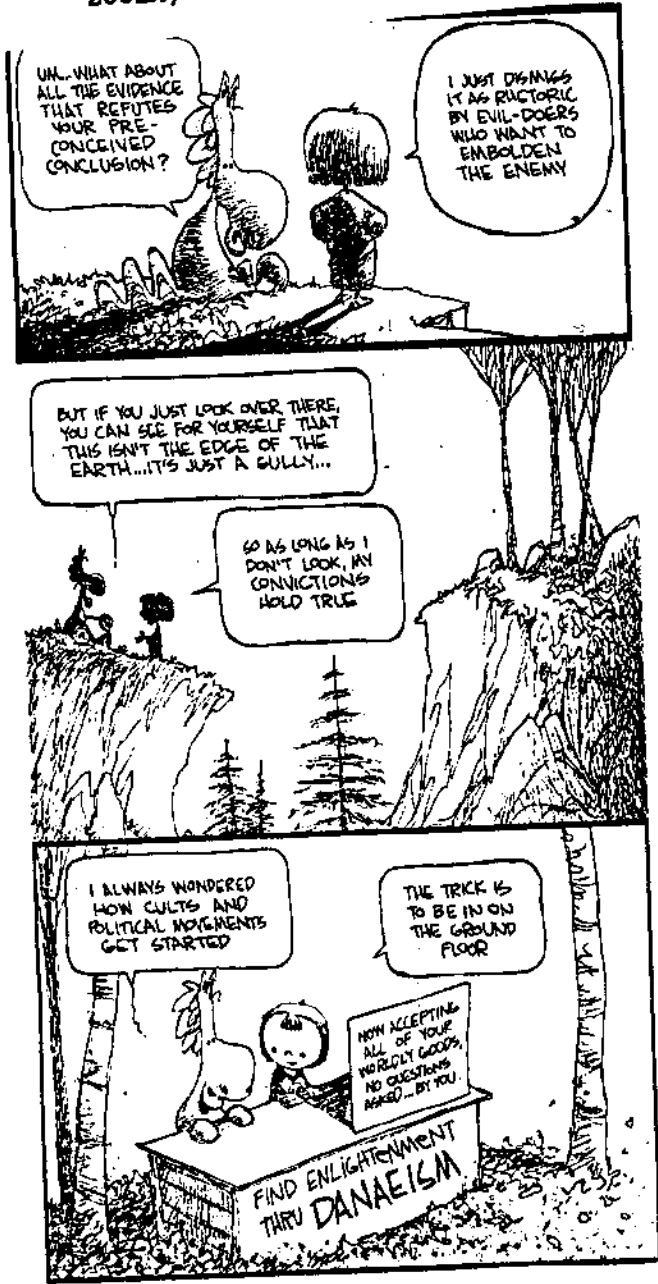


GRAUSTARK

13 November 2004

#759

2002A, "Winter 1909"; 2002D, "Fall 1905"; 2004C, "Fall 1901"; 2001Bea04, "1922"



SOUR TO NUTZ



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THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's terror alert color code is Maple Leaf Red, indicating the direction for young men to travel when the military draft is resumed.

*

This issue of Graustark is dated 13 November, but a partial file crash caused the last issue to be delayed, so I may stretch that date a few days if some players haven't got all their moves in by the 13th. The reconstituted Graustark Directory is in its usual place on pp. 10-11, and as always I request readers to update it as necessary.

*

Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer, and is now published by Hasbro. Now that 2004C is under weigh, another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized here, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100, or 80 80 euros in cash.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of the list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, which were last published in Graustark #749, let me know when you send in your game fee, and I'll send you a copy.

This is

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

#2098

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and 10 issues for \$40 or 35 euros for foreign addresses. Back issues from the beginning of 2001 are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as foreign subscriptions.

Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579 or 718-951-5808, extension 2. There are answering machines which can take your moves if I'm out.

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have taken less than a week to get here, do not assume that this will always be the case.

Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

*

What happens if you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee? Once the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

*

I regret that I cannot report to you on a local production of Aristophanes' first anti-war play, *The Acharnians*.* As soon as I had made up my mind to see it, it just dropped out of sight. It appeared in none of the theater listings. I would guess that poor attendance may have forced it to close earlier than the announced date of 24 October.

*

During almost every presidential campaign there appears a genealogical report such as the one I cited in the last Graustark. I particularly remember such a report during the 1984 campaign in the *New York Post*, which claimed that Ronald Reagan was descended from Brian Boru, who was High King of Ireland during one of that island's rare moments of unity, and who defeated the Northmen at the Battle of Clontarf on 23 April 1014. The *Post* observed that Walter Mondale was of Scandinavian ancestry, and published edited

(continued on p. 11).

2004C

TURKS, RUSSIANS, CUT A DEAL

ENGLAND (Koch): F Nrg-Nwy; F Nth-Eng; A Yor-Lon.

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): F Mid-Spa(s.c.); A Pic-Bel; A Spa-Por.GERMANY (Mathias): F Den-Swe; A Kie-Hol; A Ruh-Bel.

ITALY (Mooney): A Ven holds; A Apu-Tun; F Ion C A Apu-Tun.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Alme): A Bud-Tri; F Alb-Gre; A Ser S F*Alb-Gre.

RUSSIA (Biehl): F Bot-Swe; F Rum-Bla; A Sev-Rum; A Ukr S A Sev-Rum.

TURKEY (Bruce): A Con-Ank; F Bla-Con; A Bul S RUSSIAN A Sev-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy. (4)

FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (5)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun. (5)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven. (4)

France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary may each build two new units, and each of the other Powers may build one. The deadline for these "Winter 1901" builds is NOON, FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2004.

John R. Biehl reports that his telephone number is 604-591-1832, and his e-mail address is <jrb@dccnet.com>.

BERLIN GOOSESTEPPER: The government announced today that the disruption in all forms of communication throughout the country is being attributed to a small band of dissidents. They infiltrated several key positions, and blocked everything.

However, this reporter has learned from a secret source that the Kaiser fears deception on the part of some personages from foreign soil. The military leaders have advised extreme caution in all foreign relations until further notice.

ST. PETERSBURG (Oct. 31, 1901): Czar Ivan VII announced, "We were going to attack the Sultan but now we have decided not to."

"Winter 1909"

2002A

There were a couple of misprints in the reports of the "Fall 1909" moves in Graustark #758. The German army listed as in Bohemia is actually in the Ruhr, and the Russian unit in Norway is an army. Most players caught this, and the builds and removals are not affected.

GERMANY (Bourgeois): Removes A Edi, A Sil,
F Yor.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Watkins): Builds A Tri.

RUSSIA (McKinsey): Builds
F St.P(n.c.).

TURKEY (Jordan): Builds A Con.

The deadline for "Spring 1910" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2004.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. Because of the file crash I experienced while preparing the last issue, some of this information may not be accurate. Please contact me if your listing needs to be corrected. For information on extending your subscription see p. 2.

760 - Jim Dapkus
765 - Mike Fisher
767 - Paul Milewski

767 - Eric Verheiden
W. Andrew York
799 - Brenton Verploeg

OH, CALL IT "NATO"

The German "Spring 1905" move reported in the last issue as "A Pru-War" was actually "A Sil-War".

Jim Grose continues to play Russia in this game. His address, which was left out of the Directory on p. 10, is Apt. 210, 110 Forward Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4S9, Canada; 613-728-8493; <JimGrs@aol.com>.

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Nwy-Fin; F Nrg-Nwy; F St.P(n.c.) S F Nrg-Nwy; F Bar & F Lon hold.

FRANCE (Lischett): F Tus-Tyr; F Lyo & F Wes S F Tus-Tyr; F Naf-Tun; A Pie-Ven; A Tyr S A Pie-Ven.

GERMANY (Quirk): A Sil-Boh; A Mun S A Sil-Boh; A Liv-Pru; A Pru-Sil; F Bal-Liv; F Swe holds.

ITALY (Verheiden): F Tyr-Tun; F Ion S F Tyr-Tun; F Rom-Tus; A Ser-Gre; A Ven-Tri.

RUSSIA (Grose): A War & F Con hold; A Mos & A Ukr S A War; A Bud-Vie; A Gal S A Bud-Vie; A Bul-Gre; A Ank-Smy; A Arm S A Ank-Smy.

TURKEY (Alme): F Aeg-Smy; F Tun S ITALIAN F Ion.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Turkish F Tun is dislodged and annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St.P. (5)	ITALY: Gre, Nap, Rom, <u>Ser</u> , Tri, <u>Tun</u> (6) +1
+1 FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Ven. (7)	RUSSIA: Ank, Bud, Bul, <u>Con</u> , Mos, Rum, Sev, Smy, Vie, War. (10) +1

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe. (6)
 Hay, France, ~~Germany~~, and Russia may each build one unit. The last Turkish unit is removed, and Turkey is out of the game. The deadline for these "Winter 1905" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2004.

2001Bea04 (Colonial Diplomacy)

THE WEAK GO TO THE WALL

"1922"

The Japanese fleet listed in Graustark #757 as being in TS is actually in JS.

BRITAIN (Watkins): A Tib-Ben; A Ass & A U.Bur S A Tib-Ben; A May holds.

HOLLAND (Floyd): F GOM-Hyd; F BOB S BRITISH A Tib-Ben; F Eas S F Cey; F SIO-WIO; F Cey, F Sum, A Ban & A Ran hold.

JAPAN (Biehl): F New-TS; F MP-LP; F Tok-UP; F Ota-OS; F Sul.S-CS; F GOS-Mal; F Sun.S S F GOS-Mal; A Ton-N.Sam; A Cam S A Ton-N.Sam; A Can-Ton; A Nan-Chu; F ECS-SCS; A Sha-Nan; A Kyu-Sha; F JS C A Kyu-Sha; F JS S F New-TS; A Chu-Yun; A Sik S A Chu-Yun; A Mon & A Lan S A Sik; A Pek S A Mon; A Irk-Kra; F HK S A Nan-Can [sic]; F SCS-GOS; A Kyo not ordered, holds.

RUSSIA (Quirk): A Kra S A Ilru; A Kag S A Uru; A Omsk S A Kra; A Uru & A Tas S A Kag.

TURKEY (Mooney): A Kam S RUSSIAN A Kag; A Pun-Tib; A Ben S A Pun-Tib; A Nep & A Luc S A Ben; A Hyd S A Ben; A Del-Raj; A Nag S A Hyd; F Mad & F GOA S F WIO; F WIO & F PG hold; F Aden-Ara(s.c.); A Bom-Kar; F Ara.S C A Bom-Kar; A Mys S F Mad.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Turkish A Ben is dislodged and annihilated. The deadline for "1924" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2004. For John R. Biehl's telephone number and e-mail address see the report of 2004C on p. 3.

PATRIOTISM - XXXIII

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is a barrage of portentous government warnings, just before the election, that terrorists would mount a major offensive to disrupt them.

PATRIOTISM is Republican reference to Barack Obama, the newly elected Democratic senator from Illinois, as "Barack Osama".

PATRIOTISM is a flier, circulated before the election in African-American neighborhoods in Milwaukee allegedly by a "Black Voters League", which claimed that "people are not eligible to vote if they have voted in any previous election this year, if they have ever been found guilty of anything, even a traffic violation, or if anyone in their family has ever been found guilty of anything." (Bob Herbert, *New York Times*, 1 November 2004) "Violators" could allegedly go to jail for two years, and their children would be taken away from them.

PATRIOTISM is the statement of John Perzel (R), Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, that "The Kerry campaign needs to come out with humungous numbers here in Philadelphia. It's important for me to keep that number down." (Herbert, *ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is a remark by John Pappageorge, a Republican state legislator in Michigan, that "If we do not suppress the Detroit vote", which is more than 80% African-American, "we're going to have a tough time in this election cycle." (*New York Times*, 7 October 2004)

PATRIOTISM is leaflets in African-American districts in Baltimore, informing voters that they must pay up all overdue rent and parking tickets before they can vote. (*Ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is leaflets in African-American districts in Louisiana, informing voters that they can vote three days after the scheduled Election Day. (*Ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is telling new voters that photo identification is required to vote, which is not true. (*Ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is the plank in the Republican platform in Texas "to evict the United Nations from the United States," supported by the rejection by Governor Perry (R) of a presidential request to proclaim 24 October as United Nations Day.

PATRIOTISM is the statement to a reporter by a senior adviser to President Bush rejecting the concept that "solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality." Instead, "That's not the way the world really works anymore. We're an empire now, and when we act we create our own reality." (Ron Suskind, *New York Times Magazine*, 17 October 2004)

PATRIOTISM is mailing out, to 11,000 New York City voters, notices falsely claiming that they will not be eligible to vote until a week after Election Day.

PATRIOTISM is a Republican candidate for the state senate, in an East Harlem district, painting on a wall a huge portrait of his incumbent Democratic opponent with Fidel Castro.

PATRIOTISM is the Department of Homeland "Security" ordering a Latino group in Miami to stop registering new citizens as voters.

PATRIOTISM is encouraging voter registration on military bases in New Mexico (whose residents usually vote Republican) but forbidding it on Indian reservations (whose residents usually vote Democratic). (*Washington Post*, 6 October 2004)

PATRIOTISM is the successful television campaign ads of a Republican candidate for the U. S. Senate in Oklahoma, showing dark-skinned hands reaching for welfare benefits, and accusing his Democratic opponent of making things easier for illegal immigrants.

PATRIOTISM is the refusal of the voters of Alabama to remove from their state's constitution a prohibition against "recognizing any right to education or training at public expense".

PATRIOTISM is the nomination of Alberto Gonzalez as Attorney-General after Gonzalez claimed that President Bush has "the right to waive anti-torture law and international treaties providing protections to prisoners of war.

PATRIOTISM is the post-election letter from Bob Jones III, president of Bob Jones University, to President Bush, telling him that "You owe the liberals nothing. They despise you because they despise your Christ."

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CLXXVII

"The secular states of modern Europe do not understand the fundamentalism of the American electorate. It is not what they had experienced from this country in the past. In fact, we now resemble those nations less than we do our putative enemies.

"Where else do we find fundamentalist zeal, a rage at secularity, religious intolerance, fear and hatred for modernity? Not in France or Britain or Germany or Italy or Spain. We find it in the Muslim world, in Al Qaeda, in Saddam Hussein's Sunni loyalists." - Gary Wills, *New York Times*, 4 November 2004

This column relies heavily on reports from the Games Manufacturers Association (GAMA), the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGa) and CAR-PGa Newsletter. This newsletter is published monthly by Paul Cardwell Jr., 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418 at \$12.00 a year for domestic, and \$13.50 a year for foreign, addresses. It keeps us posted on attacks on Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and other role-playing games (RPGs), and provides us with arguments and strategies to be used against attempts to censor or ban games. It also lists upcoming gaming conventions.

*

Once again, the Christian Right neglected D&D for issues of greater moment during the recent presidential campaign. Their most important issue was a proposed constitutional amendment that would have outlawed marriage among homosexuals. This failed to get through Congress, but did energize the Christian Right to the point where religious fanatics were able to pass referenda which amended eleven state constitutions to prohibit marriage, and in some cases even "civil unions", among homosexuals.

This is not the first time that an amendment "defining" marriage has been proposed for the U. S. Constitution. In 1911 Representative Roddenberry (D-GA) proposed an amendment that would have had the affect of prohibiting marriage between people of conspicuously different skin colors. This also failed to get through Congress.

And those state constitutional amendments are likely to generate letters such as this:

Cosmodemonic Telecommunications Inc.
1 Cosmodemonic Plaza
Zenith, Winnemac 50000

Sirs:

I wish to thank you for your glowing approval of my application for a position in your Research Department. Such statements as "The most highly qualified applicant our firm has encountered since Nikola Tesla" have encouraged me greatly in these difficult times. And your salary offer is beyond my wildest expectations.

However, I regret to inform you that I have decided to turn down your offer. I am instead taking a position with the Miskatonic University Research Foundation of Arkham, Massachusetts. Their salary offer is not nearly as high as yours, but in Massachusetts my life partner and I will be able to marry, and to enjoy all the social and legal benefits of the married state.*

Sincerely yours,

Marion Ambo, Ph. D.

(For extra credit, identify the three works of fiction from the 1920s, which are cited in the above satire.)

*

More generally, the high expectations of the Christian Right, following this election, are doomed to failure. We New Yorkers are not going to let our "moral values" be dictated to us by a pack of red-state snake-handlers. It didn't work eighty years ago with Prohibition and the "Monkey Trial", and it won't work now.

*

Next to Election Day, the scariest holiday of the current season was Hallowe'en, two days earlier. A few days before, I dropped around to Christian Publications, on West 43rd Street in Manhattan, to see what scare tactics they had worked up for Hallowe'en this year. On the same table were pamphlets with titles like *Mommy, Why Don't We Celebrate Halloween?*, which calls Hallowe'en a diabolic holiday and urges Christians to avoid it, and pamphlets and books showing Christian parents how they can instead assimilate the conventional Hallowe'en celebrations into their own belief system. Most of these tracts, including a couple by the infamous Jack T. Chick, were left over from previous years, and have already been cited in this column.

But much more prominently displayed were three books about the spiritual life of George W. Bush. We are intended to get the impression, both in this bookstore and in campaign material, that Bush was the Christian candidate, in a sense that no other candidate was. (John Kerry is a Roman Catholic, and for centuries many Protestants have preached that Catholics are not really Christians.) It is going to be amusing to see how the Christian Right reacts when it develops that, no matter who he appoints to the Supreme Court or the Department of "Justice", their expectations for a Golden Age of Fundamentalist Christianity are going to be disappointed.

*

In the 175th installment of this column, in Graustark #755, I contrasted Christian agitation about allegedly ungodly stage performances with their silence about Wagner's opera *Die Walküre*. I did not describe the plot correctly. After Siegmund's affair with Sieglinde, which is both adulterous and incestuous, it is Sieglinde's husband Hunding who kills Siegmund - with a little help from the god Wotan, the evil genius of the whole Ring Cycle.

Of course, this is no guarantee for the future. After the Federal Communications Commission slapped a huge fine on CBS because Janet Jackson's costume came open over her right breast during the Superbowl half-time show, a telecast of *Die Walküre* could easily be the next victim. Already, numerous nervous local affiliates refused to go along with the ABC network showing, on Veterans Day, of *Saving Private Ryan* because they were fearful of being fined over the violent bloody actions, and the rough soldierly language, that appears in that film, which won its director an Oscar. Eventually, only 159 of the 225 ABC affiliates showed it, and that was enough to generate thousands of viewer complaints to the FCC. (*New York Times*, 16 November 2004) This leaves us wondering why prudes out in the boondocks object to the violent things soldiers say and do in a realistic war film, and yet do not object to send their sons and daughters into the armed forces where they will also learn these things.

*

(continued on p. 14)

SOUP TO NUTZ

By RICK STROMOSKI



IN DARKEST BRITAIN

Lindsey Davis, *The Jupiter Myth* (2003, Mysterious Press, NY; \$13 tpb) For reviews of the thirteen previous books in this series, see Graustarks ##606, 608, 639, 641, 654, 671, 683, 706, 717, 731, and 745.

In nations which were once provinces of the Roman Empire, authors of historical novels naturally tend to concentrate on Roman involvement in their own countries. In particular, the adventures of Marcus Didius Falco in Britannia have been based by Lindsey Davis on recent archaeological discoveries there. This was the case with *The Silver Pigs*, the first book in the series.

In the book previous to this one, *A Body in the Bath House*, Falco is sent to the Roman province of Britannia on the orders of the Emperor to investigate corruption in the building of a palace for the loyal (to Rome) British king Togidubnus. Falco is already familiar with Britannia, of whose people and climate he does not think highly. He made his first visit there in 61 under the command of General Vespasianus (now the Emperor), to take part in the vicious suppression of the vicious revolt led by the priestess Boudicca. It is now 75, and the province is relatively quiet. Its Roman governor is the civil engineer and ex-consul Sextus Julius Frontinus, whom we have already met in *Three Hands in the Fountain*, set in Rome two years earlier. But the real power lies with Gaius Flavius Hilaris, Frontinus' deputy and the procurator of finance. As it happens, Hilaris is married to Aelia Camilla, the aunt of Falco's more or less wife Helena, which helps Falco's investigations.

Indeed, Falco is quite plentifully supplied with family connections in this book. With him in Londinium, the capital of Britannia, are Helena, their two little girls, Falco's widowed sister Maia Favonia, four of her children, and several of Maia's suitors including Falco's old army buddy Lucius Petronius Longo, who is what we would call a police detective. There would be even more, but Helena's two aristocratic twit brothers and Maia's oldest son have gone on a hunting trip outside Londinium. And there also appears a troupe of female gladiators, led by a woman who under a different name had been Falco's lover before he met Helena. You can imagine how well Helena likes this.

The first victim - and we will have several more - is Togidubnus' right-hand man Verovolcus, who was implicated in the murder in the previous book and, as a result, had been about to go into exile. Verovolcus is found drowned head down in the well of a seedy dive on the Thames waterfront.

The governor assigns to Falco the job of finding the killer(s), and here his responsibility converges with that of Petronius. A gang of Roman mobsters, under investigation by Petronius, has apparently extended its operations to the provinces, and the murder of Verovolcus seems to be their doing. This is a situation not unknown to us, since American big-city drug gangs now have distribution networks in rural regions, to the point where the pain-killer OxyContin is called "hillbilly heroin". Ancient Roman organized crime seems to have dealt mainly in extortion, prostitution, and unlicensed businesses. The very concept of "illegal drugs" would have seemed ludicrous in that time and place.

The investigation has its climax in an unscheduled melee in the local arena, which involves Falco, Petronius, Helena, the female gladiators, two mutually hostile gangs of mobsters, loyal soldiers, disloyal soldiers, a pack of hounds, a chariot, a bear, and a thunderstorm. Then it's just a matter of sorting out the survivors, burying the others, and wondering how the crime boss got away. We can, of course, expect to meet this ancient Roman equivalent of the Gotti brothers or the Kray brothers in a future novel.

Oh - the "Jupiter" thing in the title? This has little to do with ancient Roman religion; the mob has simply named its criminal enterprises after persons and places in the myths about the god Jupiter. Well, it does sound a little more elegant than "the Purple Gang" or "Cosa Nostra".

A map of Roman London is included, and upon it is superimposed the locations of a few modern buildings. An archeological afterword locates the few remnants of Londinium in terms of the geography of modern London.

Two more novels in this series have been published, set in the years 75 and 76, and will be reviewed in future issues. They are *The Accusers* (2003, Mysterious Press) and *Scandal Takes a Holiday* (2004, Mysterious Press). *The Accusers* brings us back to

Rome, and involves Falco in a complicated legal case which gives us an insight into the operations of the ancient Roman legal system. *Scandal Takes a Holiday* is set in Ostia, the port city at the mouth of the Tiber, which ancient Romans apparently held in the same regard that modern New Yorkers hold Newark. This latter book has an updated version of Falco's family tree, which last appeared in *Poseidon's Gold*, the fifth book of the series, set in 71.

Falco's weak spot for waifs and strays has added a new member to his household, whom we will also meet in *The Accusers*. She is Albia, a British waif who was orphaned by the Boudiccan Revolt and its suppression, and who has since had some horrible experiences at the hands of the crime syndicate. She figures in the investigation of the murder of Verovolcus, and in the battle in the London arena, and returns to Rome as the nursemaid of Falco's and Helena's children. Also, Helena's two younger brothers return as the "Associates" in the private detective firm of Falco and Associates, and at last begin to show some signs of becoming mature and competent adults.

The myths of early Rome are dealt with harshly in the books reviewed in these pages. Since all of Rome's early records were destroyed in the Gallic invasion of 390 BCE, we have only the writings of such unreliable fabulists as Titus Livius, who was more concerned with arousing patriotic feelings in his contemporaries of the Augustan Age than in rendering an accurate account of early Roman history. (For similar attempts on the integrity of American history, see James W. Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me everything your American history textbook got wrong* [New Press, NY, 1995].) In Roberts' *SPQR VII: The Tribune's Curse*, reviewed in *Graustark* #758, Decius takes time out from his investigation to throw the light of his military experiences on the several variant stories of the allegedly lone defense of a bridge over the Tiber by Horatius Cocles against the Etruscans. (A dubious variant tradition claims that this defense failed, and that the Etruscans actually captured Rome in the late sixth century BCE.) And, although Falco has not yet mentioned it in his accounts of Frontinus, this shrewd engineer and administrator punctured another of those myths. It was the belief of Romans that the tide had been turned in their favor in the Battle of Lake Regillus (496 BCE) by the sudden appearance of the demi-gods Castor and Pollux, fighting for Rome. Frontinus suspected that Aulus Postumius, the Roman commander, had dressed up a couple of young men as "the Great Twin Brethren" and sent them into battle to raise the spirits of the Roman troops.

Such stratagems were not unknown in ancient times. In 559 BCE, Peisistratos, the exiled Tyrant of Athens, restored himself to power with the aid of a tall, stately, handsome woman named Phya. She was dressed up as the goddess Athena, and rode into the city in a chariot proclaiming that Peisistratos was under her protection, and ordering the Athenians to restore him. According to Herodotos, it worked, but only for a few years.

*

King Togidubnus of the Atrebates (a Belgic tribe settled in Britannia) represents a feature of the imperialism racket which is still with us. If you look at a map of the Roman Empire in a historical atlas, you will find a vast expanse of real estate colored pink. (It is not exactly an accident that the Roman and British Empires are given the same color in atlases. During the height of the British Empire, when it encompassed one fourth of the human race, British politicians and intellectuals - who had all, as boys, studied Latin - saw the Roman Empire as a precedent and precursor to the British Empire.) But, in both empires, much of that pink area consisted of nominally independent realms whose monarchs were addressed with much respect by the imperial power, but in reality were managed by imperial advisers whose "advice" was not to be distinguished from commands. Togidubnus was one of these "Friends of Rome". A better known example were the princes of the Herodian Dynasty, who did the bidding of Roman emperors in the frequently difficult Kingdom of Judaea.

There were similarly situated subject rulers in the British Empire. And now, the new government of Iraq, no matter what claims of sovereignty are made for it in Baghdad and Washington, must be understood as a 21st-century analog to Herod, Togidubnus, or some heavily jeweled, extravagantly titled, but compliant maharajah in British India. No matter what claims are nominally made by or for him, Prime Minister Allawi of Iraq is in practice a high-level employee of President Bush, and his deeds and words must be judged accordingly.

THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in the current postal Diplomacy games, and the postal Colonial Diplomacy game, are indicated by its Boardman Number or Miller Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating an active stand-by player. (E. g., "2002A-G" or "2001Bea04-TS".) For the meaning of a "+" in an entry, see p. 2. Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

N: entrant in a new postal Diplomacy game now being organized in Graustark. (See p. 2 for details.)

T: trade copy

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 9 November 2004. Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;
<stephen@stephenagar.com>

Hank Alme (2002D-TS, 2004C-A), 506 Paige Loop, Los Alamos, NM 87544; 503-672-0883;
<almehj@alumni.rice.edu>

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THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 2)

pictures of Reagan wearing a crown, and Mondale wearing a horned helmet - which, it should be observed, the Vikings did not wear.

In less than ten years, the thousandth anniversary of that battle will be marked. It was one of the few Irish victories over invaders, and several Old Norse sagas also mention the Battle of Clontarf, often with accounts that differ from the Irish traditions. We can expect a major commemoration, from the descendants of both victors and vanquished, to mark this anniversary. The Irish are said to do this sort of thing very well, so, especially if you have Irish and/or Scandinavian ancestry, you might start planning to attend.

Meanwhile, another genealogical connection surfaced in the last weeks of the campaign. The fiercely anti-Kerry *New York Post* reported, on 19 October 2004, that John Kerry is the second cousin of Michael Paine. This otherwise obscure name is familiar to every conspiracy geek in the country, since Paine was a good friend of Lee Harvey Oswald, and at one time stored the rifle with which Oswald later assassinated President Kennedy. The major conspiracy geek A. J. Weberman claimed, in his book *Coup d'Etat in America*, that Paine had two in-laws "closely connected with the CIA", which probably means that they ran a hot dog stand in Langley, Virginia.

There is still controversy over whether anything done by the U. S. government caused the collapse and partition of the Soviet Union. But one good piece of evidence might be the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Insofar as the games have a national winner, in 2004 it was the United States of America, with 35 gold, 39 silver, and 29 bronze medals. In second place was Russia, with 27 gold, 27 silver, and 38 bronze.

But suppose the Soviet Union had not been partitioned? Adding together the medals won by athletes from ten formerly Soviet republics, we get 45 gold, 52 silver, and 65 bronze. The downfall of the Soviet Union was clearly a Good Thing for American national prestige on the international athletic scene.

More recently, the election of President Bush has repercussions on the Olympic Games, for which all New Yorkers should be grateful. President Bush's obvious belief, that the U. S. does not need to cooperate with, or even pay any attention to the views of, other nations has caused great resentment abroad. This will make it unlikely that the American bid to host the 2012 Olympics in New York City will succeed. We New Yorkers will therefore be spared the construction of an enormously expensive and inconvenient Olympic stadium in Manhattan, and the horrendous traffic problems which the games would create. And imagine the difficulties of getting athletes, media crews, and spectators into the United States over the objections of paranoid "Homeland Security" goons with their "No Fly" lists.

The strongest bid for the 2012 Olympics comes from Paris, which already has an Olympic stadium. *Vive la France!*

*

Okay, let's report the current score on Iraq. The Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Spain have already pulled out their troops. (El Salvador is now the only Latin American nation with troops in Iraq.) Norway has pulled out all but 15 soldiers, and Moldova and Singapore have also withdrawn most of their troops. Bulgaria, Hungary, the Netherlands, and New Zealand are now in the process of withdrawing their troops. Despite Bush's crowing over Polish support, most Polish troops will be withdrawn from Iraq by the end of 2005.

"Coalition of the Willing," anyone?

*

As this issue is printed, the Battle of Falluja is in progress. When it seemed imminent, media columnists and commentators were gurgling with glee over the forthcoming downfall of the Iraqi Resistance. But a memory poked at the back of my mind, and I looked up its text to check. What we now call "columnists" were once called "prophets" or "augurs":

"There be thirty chosen prophets,
The wisest of the land,
Who always by Lars Porsena
Both morn and evening stand:
Evening and morn the Thirty
Have turned the verses o'er,
Traced from the right on linen white
By mighty seers of yore.

"And with one voice the Thirty
Have their glad answer given:
'Go forth, go forth, Lars Porsena;
Go forth, beloved of Heaven;
Go, and return in glory
To Clusium's royal dome;
And hang round Nurscia's altars
The golden shields of Rome.'"

I will not insult the intelligence of readers by citing the author or source of these lines. We need only note that, today, men are defending their homes, their families, their country, and their faith from foreign invaders. But these men are not Americans.

*

Several of the items in the "Patriotism" list on p. 5 date from before the recent election, but after the last previous issue of Graustark went to press. Since I have on hand a heavy backlog of this material, there will be still more manifestations of patriotism cited in future issues.

I regret that this election did not live up to my expectations. A John Kerry administration would clearly not have differed in any significant manner from the one that will take office in January. However, the kicking and screaming that a Kerry victory would have elicited from American conservatives would have been wondrous to behold.

More generally, this election did not live up to the climactic expectations of commentators of any political allegiance. As a percentage, the voter turn-out was bigger than in any election since at least 1968. And only two states changed sides from their narrowly made choices of 2000. (Maybe three, but the votes are still being counted in New Mexico.) New Hampshire, which I had seen as a possible indicator for the rest of the country, went from Republican to Democratic, but by such a narrow margin that it failed to be significant for the rest of the country. And Iowa went from Democratic to Republican. The announced total of electoral votes for the 2000 election, after the Supreme Court had made a total hash-up of it, was 271-266, omitting a Democratic Elector from D. C. who abstained. Re-apportionment following the 2000 census would have shifted this count to 278-259. Even assuming that New Mexico winds up Democratic, this year's count is 281-257 for Bush.

This may not be the whole story. Already, one Republican Elector from West Virginia, pledged to Bush, has announced that he will not vote for him - something he is perfectly free to do under the Constitution. Others may also kick over the traces - and, in the unlikely event that eleven more Republican Electors do this, it'll be Constitutional Crisis Time. I once knew a professor of political science at Iowa State University who, much to everyone's surprise, was on a winning slate of Democratic

Electors in 1948. He toyed with the idea of voting for Jane Russell, then the reigning sex goddess of Hollywood, as a protest against this antiquated voting system. However, in the end he decided against it, and cast his vote for Truman. (Besides Russell, who is happily still among us, was then only 27, and thus not eligible. Tallulah Bankhead, who came from a political family, or Mae West would have been a better choice.)

*

After it became evident that Senator Kerry was not going to contest Republican claims that President Bush carried Ohio, the immigration websites of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

reported an enormous number of inquiries from Americans in the blue states who wanted Out. And some website fanzine publishers, or "bloggers" as they prefer to call themselves, have instead decided that, rather than going to Canada, they want Canada to come to us. They propose that Canada and the blue states unite to form "the United States of Canada", while the red states form a separate nation to be called "Jesusland".

This last suggestion prefigures the fate of President Bush's apparent plan to reformulate the government of the United States of America on what he, and the presently dominant faction of the Republican Party, imagine to be Christian principles. This can only serve to bring Christianity into disrepute, as Islam is now in disrepute among the younger



THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow

A FEW RANDOM REASONS GEORGE BUSH WAS NOT DEFEATED IN A LANDSLIDE

TOO MANY AMERICANS WERE UN-TRoubLED BY THE ABU GHRAIB PHOTOS AND ALL THAT THEY IMPLIED. THOSE WERE JUST THE HARMLESS FRATERNITY-STYLE RIJINGS OF A FEW BAD APPLES!

I PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS MISGUIDED APPLES!



TOO MANY AMERICANS BELIEVED SADDAM DID HAVE WMD'S, AND/OR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 9/11.

IF WE HADN'T ACTED WHEN WE DID, AMERICA MIGHT BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PILE OF RADIO-ACTIVE RUBBLE BY NOW!

I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE A HEADACHE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.



TOO MANY AMERICANS BELIEVED THAT JOHN KERRY WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN THE WAR ON TERROR SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

SIR, WE'VE GOT OSAMA PINPOINTED--

NOT NOW! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT KEN AND BARBIE ARE ABOUT TO GO ON A DATE?



TOO MANY AMERICANS AGREED THAT GAY MARRIAGE POSES AN IMMINENT THREAT TO SOCIETY.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT JOBS OR HEALTH CARE OR ANY OF THAT DEMOCRAT NONSENSE--

--THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HOMOS CAN'T GET MARRIED!



AND TOO MANY AMERICANS DIS-AGREED WITH BUSH ON SOCIAL ISSUES--BUT VOTED FOR HIM ANYWAY.

I REALLY WANT ANOTHER \$300 TAX REBATE!

I'M SURE THE SCALIA COURT WON'T BE THAT BAD!



generation of Iranians, 25 years after that nation's infamous "Islamic Revolution". (See the graphic novels of Marjane Satrapi for how this has developed.)

*

Conspiracy theories are still flitting around the Internet, about how the 2004 vote was allegedly gimmicked. Persistent reports out of southern Florida claim that if you touched Kerry's name on a computerized voting machine, the name "Bush" came up on the screen. And in Ohio Walden W. O'Dell, a manufacturer of voting machines vowed in 2003 that he was committed "to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the President next year". How difficult would it be to design a voting machine that would register a vote for Bush if a button or lever were pushed for Kerry?

There is another chapter to this story, but we probably will not see it until after President Bush is out of office. Some Republican apparatchik from Florida or Ohio will step forward and brag about what he or she did to alter the results of the election of 2000 or 2004, or both of them, to prevent Democrats from voting, or from having their votes counted. This person will defend such actions as a necessity for the preservation of America against the horrendous consequences of a Democratic victory, and will clearly expect to be praised for their patriotic service to the nation.

*

But, when all is said and done, simple mathematics explains the results of this election. John Kerry supported the war with Iraq, and the "USA PATRIOT Act", and lost with 48% of the vote. In this congressional district, Representative Owens opposed the war and the "USA PATRIOT Act", and won with 94% of the vote. That says it all.

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS (continued from p. 7)

This year there was an attempt to ban trick-or-treating on the grounds that Hallowe'en fell on a Sunday, which is "a day for the Lord, not for the devil", according to Barbara Braswell of Newnan, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. (*Newsday*, 17 October) So some people sent their kids out on Saturday the 30th instead, probably to be regarded as weak-kneed compromisers by those who want the tradition abandoned altogether. Newnan's City Council had tried moving trick-or-treating to Saturday in 1999, the last time Hallowe'en fell on a Sunday, which had produced "howls of protest".

Even in enlightened New York City, attempts were made to keep Hallowe'en symbolism out of the public schools. (*New York Post*, 29 October; *New York Times* and *New York Daily News*, 30 October) On 27 October Chancellor Joel Klein "said schools should not allow students to wear costumes, host Halloween parties, or...trick-or-treat during school hours or after class."

After a deluge of complaints, the Chancellor claimed that this was not an order but merely "guidelines". Orders or guidelines, some public schools openly defied them with parties or parades. And, admittedly for more serious matters than this, Klein's job is now in jeopardy.

GRAUSTARK #759

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"All right we are two
nations." - John Dos Passos

