

# ARCHIVES

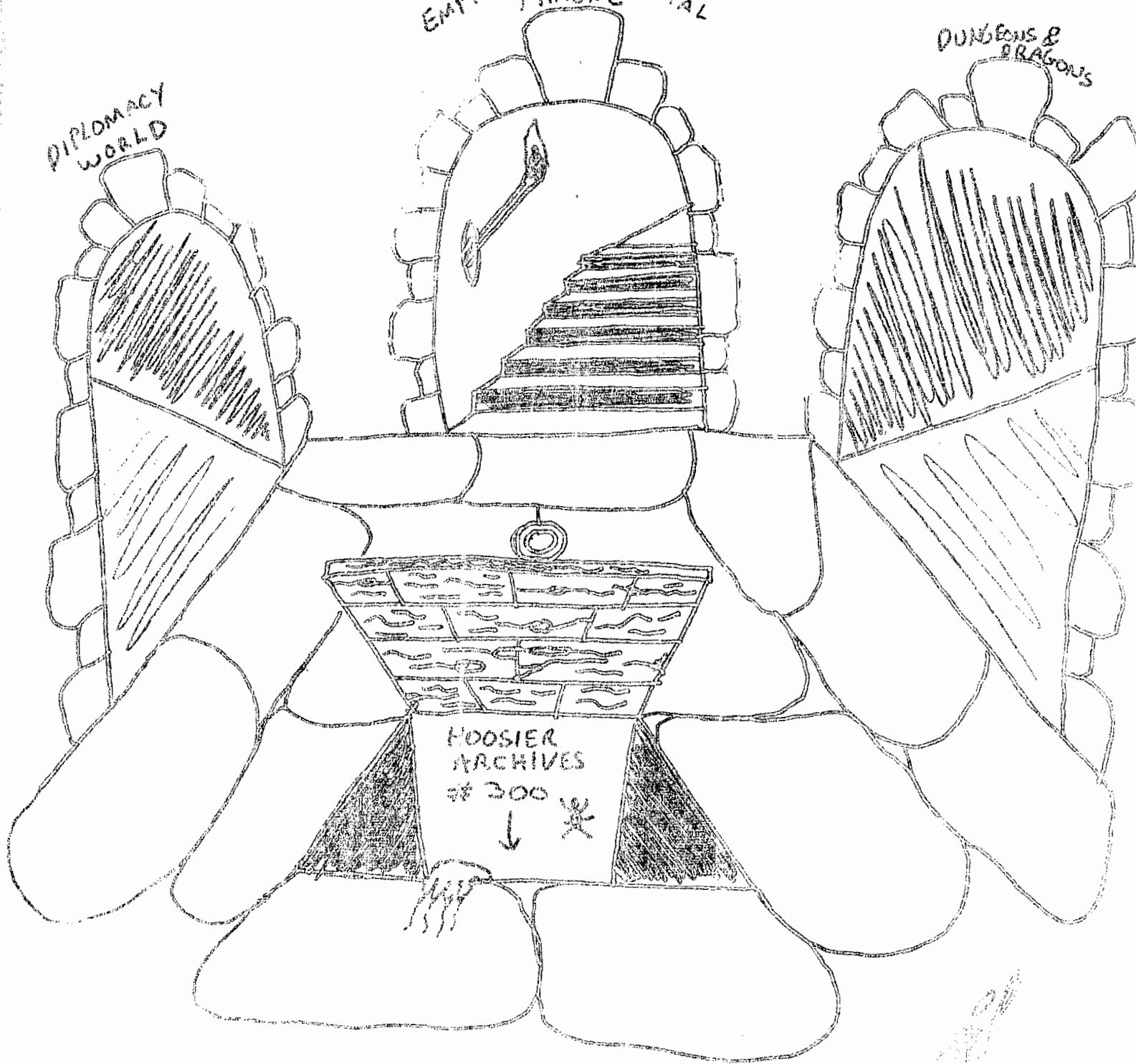
# 200

NOW WHICH WAY WALTER?

DIPLOMACY  
WORLD

EMPIRE OF THE  
THRONE PETAL

DUNGEONS &  
DRAGONS



Hoosier Archives is a Diplomacy gazette published by Walter Buchanan, R. R. #2, Box 374, Lebanon, Indiana 46052, telephone (317) 482-2824; Director of Information Retrieval for Boardman Number Custodians. It is devoted to running analyzed demonstration games played by experts, such as the Prince John Douglas Invitational Game (1976EG) now in progress. The game is then reprinted several seasons at a time with analysis in DIPLOMACY WORLD for the benefit of the Diplomacy community at large. Information from my Diplomacy archives is vital for DIPLOMACY WORLD and is available to the public as well. Although the archives is virtually complete in at least xerox form, missing undamaged originals are solicited, either for purchase or a loan to permit xeroxing. Many original spares are now available from the archives; more are solicited so as to make them available to others. A subscription to Hoosier Archives is 10/\$2.00 or 26/\$5.00 (Indiana residents add 4% sales tax). Subs outside the U.S. are 8/\$2.00 or 26/\$6.00. Back issues are 30¢ apiece. This is Albatross Press publication #211.

## HOOSIER ARCHIVES DEMONSTRATION GAME (1976EG)

(The Prince John Douglas Invitational)

Fall 1904

## KELLY DRIVEN FROM HOMELAND

AUSTRIA: (Su04: F Gre R Alb) F Alb-Tri. Ows: ~~Alb~~ (0). Oct.  
(Pitsch)

ENGLAND: (Su04: F Eng R Lon) F Lon-Eng, F Iri S F Lon-Eng, F Nth S F Lon-Eng, A Bel H /a/, F Swe-Den, F StP(nc)-Nwy. Ows: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, Swe, StP, Den, (7). Build 2.  
(Verheiden)

FRANCE: F Spa(sc)-Mid, F Bre S F Spa(sc)-Mid, A Por-Spa, F Eng-Nth /r/  
(Kelley) (Wal, d), A Pie S GERMAN A Ruh-Bel, A Hol S GERMAN A Ruh-Bel.  
Ows: Bre, Por, Spa, Hol, ~~Alb~~ (5). Remove 1.

GERMANY: (Su04: A Kie R Ruh, A Sil R Pru) A Ruh-Bel, A Mun-Bur /r/ (Ruh,  
(Kelly) d), A Pru-War. Ows: ~~Alb~~, ~~Kie~~, ~~Bel~~, Bel (1). Remove 2.

ITALY: F Mid H (R Nat), A Mar-Bur, F Iri-Mar, A Kie S RUSSIAN A Sil-Mun,  
(Birsan) A Boh S RUSSIAN A Sil-Mun, A Tyr-Tri, A Ser S RUSSIAN A Rum-Bul,  
F Ion-Aeg, F Gre S F Ion-Aeg. Ows: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, Tri,  
Vie, Ser, Mar, ~~Nap~~, Gre, Kie (10). Build 1.

RUSSIA: (Su04: A Bul R Rum) F Bel S ITALIAN A Kie, A Sil-Mun, A Her S  
(McIlvaine) A Sil-Mun, A Cal-War, A Rum-Bul, F Sev-Bla. Ows: Mos, Sev,  
War, Bul, Bud, ~~Nap~~, Ser, Mun (7). Build 1.

TURKEY: F Bla-Rum, A Bul S F Bla-Rum /r/ (Con, d), F Aeg-Gre /r/ (Con,  
(Key) Smy, Eas, d). Ows: ANK, Con, Smy, Bul (4). Build 1.

WINTER 1904 ORDERS are due not later than noon (9:00 A.M. for phone calls) on Saturday, 25 September 1976. Conditional spring orders are requested at this time.

Moves were received from all standby except Germany and Turkey.

NOTE: Bruce Schlichbernd has resigned as England. The new English ruler is Eric Verheiden, Cal Tech 1-86, Pasadena, CA 91126. His telephone number is (213) 795-2279.

The new standby for France is Arnold Vagts, 2824 Vexano Place, Irvine, CA 92664. His telephone number is (714) 833-9542.

DEDICATION: Although still far behind Graustark, Hoosier Archives, with this issue becomes the second Diplomacy zine to reach the 200th issue. We'd like to dedicate it to Conrad von Metzke, who followed Rod Walker in making the hobby what it is today through his many service projects and tireless effort.

THE ROYAL JESTERS' TALES

PARIS: The Three Messengers: A Messenger had approached Chateau d'Aigle on horseback from the north. His approach, viewed from the battlements, had shown clearly that something was wrong with both rider and steed. Since the messenger wore the colors of the French national courier service, Henri immediately dispatched a mounted group to investigate and assist. As the party from the castle rode out under the main entry, the cry came down from above on the walls that the rider's horse had fallen, apparently dead, but that the messenger was staggering on towards Chateau d'Aigle and now was only about two kilometres out.

Alas, the message bearer was seen to collapse shortly before the rescue party could reach him. As his body was borne in through the gate, Henri was there to see what the situation was. An aide gave Henri the messenger's diplomatic pouch, the seal to which was unbroken.

The message within directed that Henri return to the north of France to direct the war effort in France's darkest hour. Strangely, the former Regent, Estevean, had been forced to step down due to unforeseen domestic problems. But certainly, France's greatest crisis was in its foreign relations. The forces that would do France in were strong and unceasing in their efforts.

Plans were laid immediately to begin the trip north the next morning. Hardly had preparations begun when another messenger was seen to be approaching. This rider was dressed in a navy blue uniform and was obviously not of French origin. Although an armed party was made ready, they were not sent forth since it appeared that the foreign messenger was heading directly toward the castle and into their hands anyway. The castle gate remained lowered and soon the rider made his way through. He pulled up within the courtyard, clambered from his mount and ran toward Henri. At a distance of perhaps ten meters from Henri, the courier was seen to grasp his throat as though held by an invisible hangman's rope. Within two more steps he was on the ground. As the witnesses gasped, a few rushed forward to try to help the unfortunate individual. As the first Frenchman reached the stricken man's side, he heard the dying man gurgle out the single word, "holmbly." Then he too was gone. What could this mean?

With some delay and much discussion, preparations again got underway for tomorrow's departure.

After about an hour, a strange presence was felt by all within Chateau d'Aigle. In the recounting afterward, some would say they "saw" only a blinding light, others a Buddha-type human form, while others insisted this "messenger" was a Christ-figure. The court chemist swore he saw a large flying wheel suspended not far outside the castle, but of course this couldn't be true.

Henri "saw" the approach of a huntsman. The hunter was surrounded by a glowing aura and advanced with his open hands extended in the universal sign of friendship.

As the two had touched hands for a few seconds, a "message" was passed. Although no words were spoken, the "message" was there. The hunter's name was Jadgverd and although it was not a part of the "message", Henri realized that Jadgverd was a seeker. A seeker of something that eluded him. Somehow it seemed that his hunt could go on forever, transcending human confines of body and time.

As quickly as the presence had come, it was gone. Although everyone agreed something had occurred, it was most unsettling that no one could agree on what had happened. The only sign of any occurrence was a medallion found in the courtyard. On one side of the medallion was a picture of a mountain, the top of which was higher than the surrounding clouds so that the peak was in the sunlight of the sun which completed the picture. On the reverse side were the letters G-H-O-D.

PARIS FREE PRESS: Congratulations on hitting #200 in Hoosierville. Hmmm, you are only a couple of months behind the U.S.A.!

COW PASTURES: Merry thanks for the congratulations--do you realize what a bunch of junk I've had to type over those 200 issues?! It had indeed seemed like it's been 200 years since we started this monstrosity. Albatross Press is aptly named, although little did I realize it that fateful day when I came up the name!! Grown.....CA

INTO THE ARCHIVES NO. 79

Although I've been a Diplomacy publisher now for almost 6 years, I have never written an editorial. There have been several reasons for this, but I won't go into that now because what follows is a combination editorial and article. By coincidence this 200th issue came at a time when I felt I really had something that needed saying to the hobby, so on this occasion I am dropping my traditional neutrality in Rossier Archives, if not in DIPLMACY WORLD. This special issue is going out to all active North American publishers and I would consider it a favor if you would reprint this article/editorial along with your comments.

AN ORGANIZATION HISTORY OF THE HOBBY  
by Walt Beshara

When I entered the hobby in the fall of 1970, there was no hobby-wide player organization. Although an abortive attempt had been made in 1966 under the proposed name of the International Diplomacy Federation, all that existed in 1970 was a gamesmasters group led by Red Walker. Although this group accomplished quite a lot under Red's leadership, it wasn't the same as a hobby-wide player group, and coming into Diplomacy from the postal chess hobby, I had seen what an organized player group could do for a hobby.

Near the end of 1970, John Beshara began corresponding with me as a result of a letter of mine that appeared in John McCallum's Serenity about a Diplomacy Archives. We soon found out that we were each interested in a hobby-wide player organization, and in March of 1971 when John Beshara formed The Diplomacy Association and asked me to be on the board of directors, I was happy to accept. John's idea was for this small board of six to administer service projects for the hobby, and the plan seemed a good one to me. The members of the original board consisted of John (as Chairman), John Boardman, Edi Birsan, Brenton Ver Ploeg, Jerry Model and myself. Things got off to a pretty good start, membership grew rapidly, and a club wine, Wagir, was started.

However, almost immediately danger signs appeared. It soon became apparent that John was using TDA as his own private ego trip. Although I have long kept silent during John Boardman's periodic ranting and ravings in Craustack about how TDA was later formed to run John Beshara out of the hobby, here is what really happened, and I have a whole archives of data to back me up. John insisted on running TDA his own way, the first obvious example being using Wagir as a platform from which to attack Red Walker, the current Boardman Number Custodian, due to a feud they were engaged in (John was displeased over a ruling Red as CN had made in a game that John was a player in). Although elections were promised to the members, they were never held, and, in fact, Edi Birsan resigned when he found out that John intended to pack the membership with his non-Diplomacy playing friends so that he could keep an iron grip on things. For this reason, John kept the membership list secret and when I protested, he said in so many words that TDA was bought and paid for by himself and the membership list was his own personal property.

Before all this came to a head and we had found out why Edi resigned, John talked the rest of us on the board into agreeing to the appointment of Richard Miller as Edi's replacement. This is a decision I'll always regret as it turned out that both Richard and John Boardman were complete yes-men when it came to John Beshara's whims. Too late the three non-New York members of the board called for a vote to add a seventh member, Larry Peery, to the board as a way of getting more regional balance and preventing John from completely running the show. I had been corresponding with Larry and he shared my concern over what was happening with TDA. Also, since Larry at the time was a friend of John's, we figured John might agree to his addition to the board. Alas, John apparently suspected something and refused. The result was a 3 to 3 deadlock on the question of Larry's admission. At this point it seemed logical to me that since the board was deadlocked on this issue, we ought to take the vote to the general membership and let them decide. It was at this point that John was adamant about keeping the membership list secret and said that it was his property. We who were in opposition to what John was

doing with TDA were therefore stymied in trying to effect changes from within. So were laid the seeds for the creation of IDA.

Larry Peery was most instrumental in laying the framework for what was to follow. Through various sources he was able to obtain a large collection of letter exchanges with John Beshara on what was happening in TDA. He used these as references for a paper on what was happening in TDA and what should be done about it. The paper was called "Veritas Vincit." Although we didn't have the official TDA membership list, through other sources we were able to compile a list of over 50 people that we knew were TDA members. Larry then sent them a ballot on various options, the end result being that if Beshara wouldn't agree to reform, we would set up a constitutional drafting committee for a new democratic organization. Needless to say, although the vote was ten to one for reform, Beshara refused to listen, and Bob Johnson and myself were appointed co-chairmen of a constitutional drafting committee.

To put all this in time frame, "Veritas Vincit" was presented at DIPCON IV in San Diego and the constitutional drafting committee was organized in September of 1971. It was not until DIPCON V at Chicago the summer of 1972 that the final constitution was ironed out and then it was done in person. Ratification didn't come until that fall. In the meantime, in February of 1972, I sent out an individual hobby-wide mailing for charter members, and interim officers were elected that spring for the new organization that was eventually to be called the International Diplomacy Association.

The reason I am relating all this history is to give you a background for the basis of my thoughts on the current status of IDA. As you can see, IDA was formed as a backlash for the way an autocratic TDA was run. We were determined to have a democracy, and my feelings now are that we went overboard. IDA was formed with very good intentions, but four years of experience has shown me, anyway, that it is very hard to make a postal democracy work. IDA was formed with an original 11-man council which was later expanded to 13.

What we have ended up with on the council is a debating society. Two terms on the council as Vice-President/Treasurer were enough for me. I saw too many minor issues debated and discussed that should have been decided on an individual basis by the officer most closely involved. It was also my feeling that the regional secretaries, who had no specific jobs, were superfluous. This was in spite of the fact that several regional secretaries started regional newsletters and tried very hard to make something out of their job. In the end though, it seemed that all they could do was add to the debating log jam. At one point, it was even proposed that officers ought to be evaluated on the length of the total comments they sent in! Anyway, what we found out was that without the instantaneous feedback of in-person communication, it was a lot easier to debate than to make decisions.

Although there have been signs for quite a while about what the average members think about this state of affairs, as many of you know by now, the whole thing came to a head at the IDA General Meeting at DIPCON IX this summer. In all my years in the hobby, I have never seen such a consensus as I saw there. It is hard to relate the situation to someone that wasn't actually there, but if you knew any of the personalities involved, you will know that when Len Lakofka and Lew Pulipher on one hand, and Bob Lipton and myself on another, all agree to something, it must be on something pretty fundamental. After two hours of debate on mostly other issues, a player-member, Pat Walker, finally blew his stack on the subject of what IDA should be doing and about its constitution. Pat didn't give a damn about debate. All he cared about was action. As Pat saw it, IDA should act as an umbrella service organization to provide the legitimacy and finances for an individual who wants to take the ball on a service project and run with it. I couldn't agree more. If you stop and think about it, almost all really significant service projects in the hobby are run by individuals and not by committee. But an organization can go a long way in giving an individual the support he needs as well as provide for continuity in case the problem of succession arises.

It is my opinion that the proposed IDA constitution as worked out at DIPCON IX goes a long way toward doing this. By cutting down the council to only five members, all of whom have specific jobs, I think we go a long way in cutting out the chaf of debate and

preserving the grain of action. For one thing, communication will be a lot easier since it can be carried out by carbon-copy letter, and the very size of the group should facilitate decision making.

In fact, almost all the criticism I have seen on the new constitution, so far, has dealt with procedure and not substance. This I can well understand, so the people that were not at the IDA General Meeting did not get a chance to get their two-cents' worth in initially on what was happening. And this is the purpose of my entire article. What is the alternative? If the amount of debate that took place at DIPCON IX was done by mail, it would be at least a year, based on past experience, before we would have a new constitution. The question is, given the great drop in membership, what would be left of IDA then?

What we are really doing with the new IDA constitution is going back to much the set-up of the original IDA, but this time with the safeguards of an election built in. In my opinion, this combines the advantages of both original groups. We have the efficiency that a small number of decision maker makes possible, but we have the sanctions of elections to keep someone from stepping too far out of line. Nothing is perfect, but I think it would take a lot of doing to make the proposed new IDA constitution significantly better. Also, once it is adopted, we can then start to worry about amending it. As things stand now, I think almost everyone would agree that it is an improvement over the old constitution. Although non-North Americans especially may feel disfranchised, I would point out here that the new constitution encourages cooperation with a new international umbrella organization. Also, IDA/UK and IDA/CER have been pretty autonomous in the past anyway, especially in the fiscal area. Due to the problem of mail time-lag, this seems the only practical method of operation.

It is now my understanding that rather than immediately announce the count for the election on the new constitution that was due on 1 September, we will now wait for a debate issue of Diplomacy Review. I think this is an acceptable compromise and we could still have the new constitution take effect by the end of the year. I would like to urge you to vote for this, unless you can figure out another way for IDA to function as a useful service organization. I, for one, can't, and feel that it may be the hobby's last hope for an effective service organization before the hobby gets too big and chaos reigns. I am in agreement with Avalon Hill that we need to get our house in order if the organized hobby as we know it is to survive.

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RESEARCH & ANALYSIS  
BY NAME  
1967-1968

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS  
1967-1968