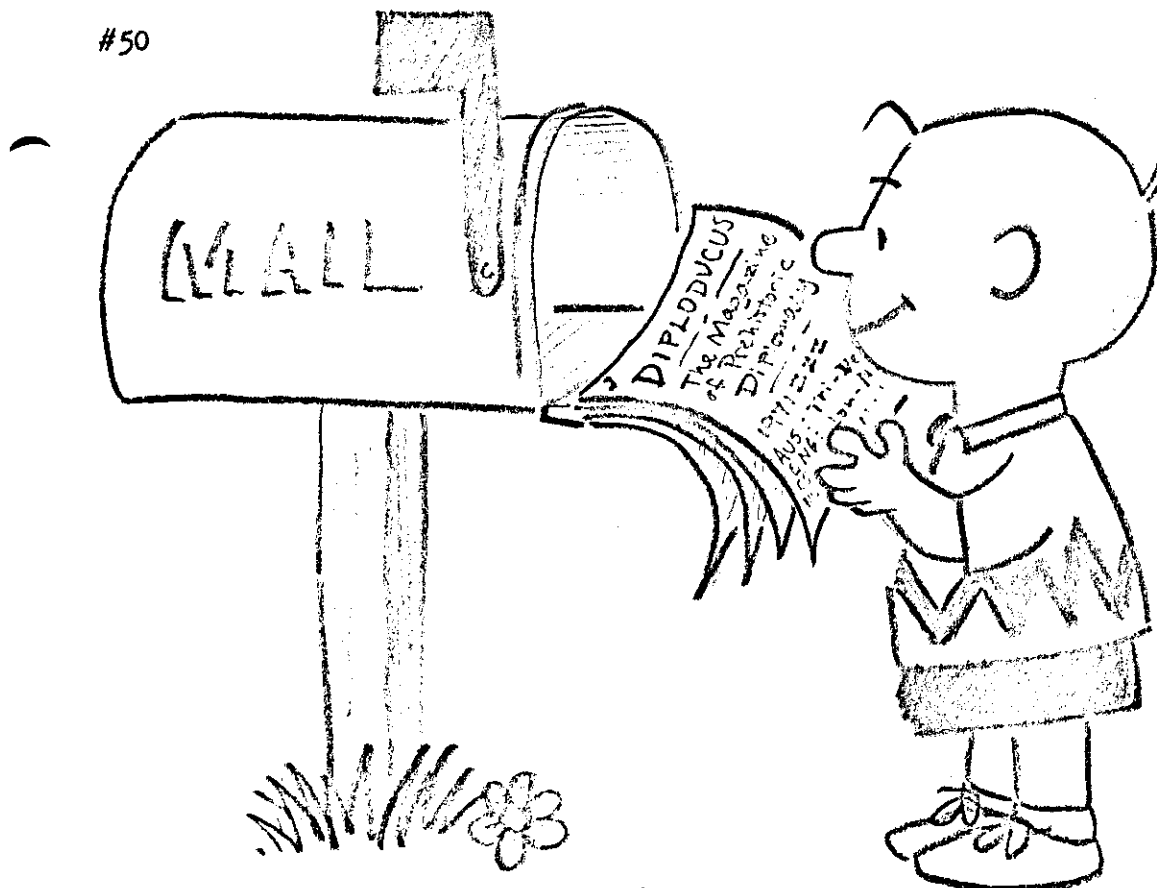


# WOODSTOCK

# ARCHIVES

#50

18 December 1971



HAPPINESS is not playing  
truly in the new game!

GH

Hoosier Archives is a periodic listing of the Hoosier Archives at 12124 Kankakee, N. W. of  
 Madison, Indiana 47024, telephone (317) 882-2222; Archives Director, 4341, a Director of  
 the Hoosier Association and a member of I. A. S. Since the archives is virtually complete  
 in its latest series from back to 1951, the archives listing will only appear quarterly, the  
 listing is issue 55, or as further substantial additions are acquired. News of addi-  
 tions to the archives are solicited, either through originals, which are available, or  
 requests for photocopies. Also, postage fees will be paid for applications that they are  
 to be made available to others. any original copies are now available. The main purpose of  
 Hoosier Archives is to make available information from the archives, such as Hoosier  
 articles, game news, etc., as well as to serve as a medium for original articles,  
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 issue #49. This is Allatross Press publication #53.



### THE OFFICE GAME (1971)

Well, my dear kibitzers, it has finally happened! That long-awaited game of the season,  
 the Office Game, is finally underway. Its revival was announced in January 17 of 1971 but a delay was caused due to the replacement of some of the original players. In any  
 case, a majority of the original field was retained and, in fact, the revised player field  
 leads more wins between them than the original field, an unbelievable 39-21! Whether  
 or not I shall say correct me if I'm wrong. But it is believed that the assembled players  
 have starting 1971 had more wins between them than any prior postal diplo ever. And  
 to increase the excitement, some of the players have long-standing feuds going. It should  
 be an exciting game to watch with stars being rampant!

To increase the spectator interest, the game will run under a strict 2 week/3 week/  
 2 week deadline (except for Spring 1971, a 4 week deadline to allow for initial negotiations)  
 and an anonymous player of expert status will give a blow-by-blow game analysis. Also a press  
 release unit is encouraged and will be aided and abetted by the editor of Hoosier, better  
 known in New York City circles as the Hoosier hatchet! All in all, 1971 should be the  
 year to watch, and I will do my best to see that it is run smoothly.

And now, an introduction to the participants: (A majority of the players were the ori-  
 ginal field players herein wanted a new drawing since two of the original players were re-  
 placed. Carol pulled the countries out of a bag, by the way.)

RUSSIA:

"Winter 1960"

ALEXIA: Len Lakofka, 1806 N. Richmond Street, Chicago, Illinois 60647. Len is the  
 president of IFA, has written many fine articles on Diplomacy, and currently ranks on the  
 second board of the latest Archives Publishers Poll (AIP). It's too bad you didn't get  
 Russia, Len. I'd like to see you get four builds in 1971 in this game! (Len is the only  
 person in postal Diplomacy history to realize Russia's full potential in Spring 1961.)

SPAIN: Gene Krosnitz, 200 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Gene ranks  
 first in the latest Meyerlein poll (LPP) and is considered by Brenton van Fleet to have  
 authored the greatest articles on Diplomacy strategy ever written. In any case, Gene is  
 renowned as having one of the finest minds on Diplomacy strategy in the belly.

ITALY: Edi Hirsan, 48-20-39th Street, Long Island City, New York 11104. Edi ranks  
 first in the latest Calhoun Point Count Rating List (CPCRL). Edi is one of the most  
 experienced players in the belly and in my opinion has written the most brilliant articles  
 on Diplomacy ever produced for opening play.

ENGLAND: Jeff Key, Apt. 1-B, 4011 North Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112.  
 Jeff has three wins to his credit and is surpassed by only four other players in world point  
 average score on the latest Numerator Rating System. He also placed third in the latest

Western Point Coast Rating System (APCFE).

**FRANK:** Rod Walker, 5058 Massey Blvd., San Diego, California 92116. Rod is ranked fourth in the latest APF. He is also the most prolific writer of diplomacy articles on opening play and has written many of them for Strategy and Tactics. (An example of one of his articles is seen later in this issue.)

**FRANK:** John Smythe, 621 East Prospect, Girard, Ohio 44320. John is recognized by most old timers and publishers in the hobby as the world champion Diplomacy player. To learn this out, he took a crushing lead for first place in the latest APF, receiving seven first place votes out of eleven.

**FRANK:** Buddy Bretick, 3702 Sandy Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906. Buddy had five wins to his credit and placed on the second board of the latest APF. He is known to be very fine in tactics and is probably the most tenacious player in the hobby.

**FRED SHANNY:** Doug Leyerlein, 3934 NW Southern, Seattle, Washington 98116. Doug ranked ninth in both the latest APF and APF. It is therefore obvious that he is universally recognized as an outstanding player. Of course, maybe his five wins or ranking sixth in the latest APCFE had something to do with this?!

SPRING 1961 ORDERS are due on Saturday, 15 January 1972. Also, submission of General Orders at that time is strongly encouraged.

#### INTO THE ARCHIVES NO. 18

We are glad to have Rod Walker with us for the first time since his last article in Hoosier Archives #31. As you will see, Edi Hirsan's article on opening play for Italy got Rod to thinking along these lines for England. Now between Edi and Rod, we have original articles on openings for Austria (to be published soon), England, Germany, and Italy. Maybe with a little cajoling, we can get Edi and Rod to come up with openings articles for the other three countries?!

#### THE CHURCHILL OPENING

by Rod Walker

This article owes its genesis to two sources, which I would like to acknowledge. First, Edi Hirsan, whose brilliant essay "The Lepanto Opening" got me thinking along lines of classic or specific openings. Second, Phil Castora, playing England in 1970B (Serenity), who observed to me that if he ordered, in Spring 1961, "England makes the standard opening," the order would be unambiguous. Here on the latter in a moment. Anyway, my thanks to Edi and Phil for their help, unintended as it was.

The similarity of Diplomacy to Chess has been noted in many places. One of my own articles in Strategy and Tactics is entitled "F-44" and is an article on openings. Much of what I will say in this article, in fact, I have said in "F-44", in my article on the last in "The Diplomacy Cookbook" series in the forthcoming Tactics and Variants, and elsewhere. The concept of the opening is very important in Diplomacy. It is especially important to novices, who tend to make ineffective and even dangerous openings. There are in Diplomacy plenty of equivalents to E11-E14.

Phil Castora's remark about England's "standard opening" was clear in the right context. It was well-known in the extremely small Diplomacy world of 1944-5, and played extensively in the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society, one of the groups which learned the game directly from Allan Ballner himself. In those days, England's standard and almost inevitable opening was "Stilly, Lonath, & Liv-Yor. That is England's F-44, without a doubt. It is mildly aggressive, but at the same time (as we will see) partly defensive.

In the years between 1966 and 1971, during which Phil was not active in postal Diplomacy, a variant of that opening developed. It is England's F-44, a flashier, more aggressive, and more defensive opening. It changes only one of the older standard moves; namely, it uses

I call this the "Churchill Opening." It recalls the last days of the "Phony War" phase of World War II, when England assembled an army in Scotland and prepared for a descent upon Norway as a means of flanking Germany (only to find that Germany was descending on Norway as

a year of planning, besides). It recalls, further, Churchill's plan for opening a "second front" by a similar attack on Norway, rather than France, in 1943.

At first glance, the move to Edinburgh rather than Fozzshire would seem to change very little. Either position is useful for a convoy to Norway in fall 1901 (although in the context of diplomacy, such a convoy turns out to be anti-Russian, not anti-German). Furthermore, the A Yor has one advantage A Edi does not. In the event of a French move, F Ire-Eng, A Yor can defend London while England can still support himself into Norway (in the event a Russian move, A Nos-StP, makes this necessary). From Edi, the defense of London requires using F Wth (F Wth-Ion or A Edi-Ion C by F Wth), so that a supported attack on Norway becomes impossible. That is the weakness of the Churchill Opening.

What are its strengths? The strength lies in aggressive flexibility. In order to assess this, it is necessary to note what England could do with F Hrg, F Wth, A Yor, first. There are several options: (1) convoy an Army to Norway and support it in, (2) support a fleet in, (3) attack Norway and place a fleet in Iarents, (4) attack Norway with a fleet and use the other fleet (with or without the army) to meddle in continental affairs. This leaves out the defensive options, already discussed.

With a Edinburgh, England can do all these things as well. The secret lies with the fact that the Army can now be conveyed by either fleet. This adds two new offensive options: (5) attack Norway with the army and still have F Wth free to meddle in continental affairs, and (6) attack Norway with the army and move a fleet into the Skaggeiak. This latter move is based on an English strategy to attack Russia via Sweden first, rather than through St. Petersburg. These two new options give England greater flexibility, not only in movement, but in negotiation, a decided asset in a nation whose offensive possibilities are limited and must be created by combination with other powers.

Finally, what about that weakness? There is one circumstance in which it becomes a real problem.

If France orders F Ire-Eng, England can still defend London and put a unit in Norway, thus obtaining the build he will need to hold off the French.

If Russia orders A Nos-StP, England can still take Norway with support and get a build.

The danger lies in games where France orders F Ire-Eng and Russia orders A Nos-StP. The question is, how often is this likely to happen? The answer is, not very. For France, F Ire-Eng involves giving up all claim to Belgium\* or failure to secure both Iberian centers in 1901. For Russia, A Nos-StP involves Russia's "northern strategy," which promises slim pickings, at best, and foregoing the (usually) more profitable "southern strategy." There are circumstances in which such moves become attractive, and even necessary. They are both, however, rare openings. The game in which they are both used is seldom seen. The dual move suggests a Franco-Russian alliance, but that is more reasonably directed against Germany. A fear of Anglo-German alliance could provoke this sort of things, however. Another alliance which provokes this move is Fra/Eng/Rus, an alliance which has as its only object the elimination of Allan Calhaver's "Wicked Witch of the North," England.

In the final analysis, then, England is taking a bit of a risk with the Churchill Opening. However, if he has been astute and persuasive in his diplomacy, he should have nothing to fear. Even should France and Russia move against him, he still has not lost. He must now simply cope with a problem which he risked when he selected this opening--and a problem which would be of only slightly smaller magnitude had he been more defensive, anyway.

\*Very occasionally, France will choose to be really aggressive on the question of Belgium, moving F Ire-Eng, A Yor-Fic, and even A Yor-Lur (thus giving up all hope for Iberia). Such a move is wholly unwise--first, because it antagonizes England unnecessarily; second, because it sacrifices a sure gain of 2 for a merely probably gain of 1; third, because it puts all of France's eggs in one basket before he knows which basket really needs his attention.

((About George Harter's cover, Ned--it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy!! Don't blame me; Carol drew the countries! ((Don't blame me!!! C.))) Ah, well, maybe you'll get England next time.))

ADDRESS CHANGE: From December 22 to 29 we will be visiting Carol's folks in Colorado. The address is W Nelson B. Saunders, P.O. 1, Box 576, La Junta, Colorado 81050.