



LORD OF HOSTS

Is devoted to variant Diplomacy. In these pages will be found Miller numbers and designators, variant game announcements and results, occasional articles and editorials, and (given a special request and a hefty bribe of \$3.00 per player, in addition to maintaining a subscription) games of variant Diplomacy. The price for subscriptions and back issues will be cost plus postage, rounded up to the nickel (so that I can produce additional copies). Offers to trade will be considered. Issues will be published at least quarterly; more frequently if there is sufficient material or games.

Miller numbers will be assigned on receipt of gamemaster's name, address, magazine, year of game, type of variant, and list of players and countries; postage would be appreciated but not required; subscribers and traders will receive their number with their next issue. Anyone may reproduce an issue in its entirety; partial reprinting is permitted upon attribution, except for articles by other authors who herewith retain full rights to their own material. This entire effort is yours courtesy of Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway, Apt 5-V, NY NY 10034, (212) 942-3572.

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If some of you would send in articles, then this would come out more frequently, and this would be more fun to read for everyone else. Hint?

() Resub now!
 Amt remaining
 in sub:
 () see page

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 FIRST CLASS

LORD OF HOSTS
 Robert E Sacks, MNC
 4861 Broadway, 5-V
 NY NY 10034

DIPLOMACY VARIANT COMMISSION

1

Robert Sacks/4861 Broadway, 5-V/NY NY 10034 (Secretary, MNC)
 (Peter Berggren/Davistown Schoolhouse Rd/Orford NH 03777 (Asst Secretary & MNC))
 Edi Birsan/35-35 75th St/Jackson Heights NY 11372 (IDA VO)
 John Boyer/117 Garland Dr/Carlisle Pa 17013
 Rick Brooks/RR #1/Box 268/Fremont In 46737
 Fred Davis/3012 Oak Green Ct/Ellicott City Md 21043
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 Michel Feron/Grand-Place, 7/B-4280-Hannut BELGIUM (AMNC/Europe)
 Thomas Galloway/16 Paquin Pl/Middletown RI 02840 (AMNC/F&SF & Feedback)
 Walter Luc Haas/Postfach 7/CH-4024 Basel 24 SWITZERLAND (CEVB Dir)
 Will Haven/4 Victoria St/Chorley Lancs UK PR7 2TX (UKVA Dir)
 Raymond Heuer/102-42 Jamaica Ave/Richmond Hill NY 11418 (TDA VO, AMNC/O&S & VORS)
 Dave Kadlecck/1447 Sierra Creek Way/San Jose Ca 95132 (NAVB Dir)
 John Leeder/208 Haysboro Crescent SW/Calgary Alberta CANADA T2V 3G3
 Hartley Patterson/Finches/7 Cambridge Rd/Beaconsfield Bucks HP9 1HW UK
 (Les Pimley/345 Livesey Branch Rd/Blackburn BB2 4QJ UK (VORS/Europe))
 Lewis Pulsipher/Box 1021 Grad Center/Duke Univ/Durham NC 27706 (DW Var Ed)
 Douglas Reif/67 Grosvenor Rd/Kenmore NY 14223

Nominations are now being accepted for membership on the DVC for the 2 year term beginning January 1, 1976. Please submit nominations to the Secretary with biographical data and statements by September 26; election to DVC is by majority vote provided at least $\frac{1}{2}$ vote yes.

There are several positions vacant on the Miller Number Custodian's Staff, some of which carry seats on DVC: permanent back-up to the MNC, VEGA manager (Ray Heuer has renounced (denounced?) it), Feedback manager (Tom Galloway wants to quit), Handbook manager, Catalogue manager, Bibliography manager, and Recategorization manager. Actually I'd like 1 or 2 persons, rather than 7.

PHOENIX, the Journal of the DVC, #9-#16, is available for a self-addressed envelope and 5 ounces postage from the Secretary, Robert Sacks.

Back issues of MN'zines (The Connubial Child Molester #1, Fafhrd & The Gray Mouser #1, and Lord of Hosts #1-#6) are available at 20¢/number plus postage.

Dave Kadlecck is the new Director of the North American Variant Bank (a World VB branch) - write to him for a catalogue.

CEPHEIDS, the zine of the IDA Novice Committee, includes basic articles and game openings (regular and variant). Newcomers should be referred to Robert Correll, 44 Rawlinson Ave, Toronto ONTARIO CANADA M4P 2M9, for a complimentary copy.

THE DARIEN SETTLEMENT about variants in Europe is available from Hartley Patterson.

MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS is edited by Fred Davis; contact him if eligible.

According to IDA sources, GAME OPENINGS "B" NORTH AMERICA is available from Stephen Tihor, 122 Henry, Princeton University, Princeton NJ 08540.

For those of you who wish to get involved in Variants in the worst way, the IDA is proposing to establish a variant committee to rival DVC and a variant orphan games project to disrupt VORS; other actions by IDA recently include attempting to outlaw Intimate Diplomacy, printing attacks on DVC without responses, discouraging postal play of variants outside of North America, and generally declining to consider requests on variant business. Please be advised that the IDA has no right to control Miller Number operations, Variant Bank operations, Orphan Games operations, or the formation of new games, and that such functions are controlled exclusively by the officers (and gamemasters, of course) currently serving, and not their predecessors any number of times removed. The decision as to whether a given game is or is not a variant is especially outside of the jurisdiction of IDA, as is the decision of whether a given game of Diplomacy is regular or not. The reason for the existence of hobby-wide officers is to avoid control of their functions by any general membership group which, no matter how well intended, will subordinate those functions to group goals, and the IDA does not seem well intended to Variants.

GAME RESULTS

1973CNbu. (Youngstown II/Labelle Revision) Zines: The Pouch, Carn Dûm.

GM: Gil Neiger

A-Alex Katzoff; C-Scott Rosenberg; E-Mike Honig (dro W'04), Steve Simmons (dro F'06), Arnold Proujansky; F-Matthew Diller; G-Jeremy Paulson (res S'03), Stephen Tihor (dro F'05), Peter Berggren; In-Cary Fulbright (dro F'04), Robert Goldman (dro F'06); I-Bruce Wachtler (res S'06), Doug McMullin (dro F'06), Evan Jones; J-Eric Robinson; R-Leo Plotkin (res F'04), Fred Hyatt; T-Duncan Smith (dro F'06), Ray Heuer (temp W'03-S'04), Paul Rosenzweig (res F'06). Game abandoned Fall 1907

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
A	4	6	5	6	5	6	7
C	3	6	7	9	9	11	13
E	4	7	8	8	9	10	6
F	4	7	8	9	9	9	11
G	4	6	7	6	4	2	2
In	3	5	5	5	5	3	2
I	4	6	7	8	7	6	5
J	3	5	6	7	7	8	8
R	5*	9	9	5	7	7	8
T	4	7	8	9	9	10	10

	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
CONNACHT	3	2	2	-								
ENGLAND	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-				
KYTHRU	5	7	7	6	4	3	4	4	2	2	1	2
LEINSTER	5	5	6	6	8	7	6	5	4	4	4	3
MUNSTER	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	5	4
ORINEY	5	4	5	6	6	8	7	9	10	10	8	5
SCOTLAND	6	8	7	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	18	21***

1973Ddl. (Scotice Scripti III) Zines: Lost Horizons & Impassable. GM: John Boyer

C-Schleinkofer; E-Stone (out Au'16), Swies; K-Reinsel (out Sp'18), Gemignani; L-Hilliker (out Sp'18), Fujihara; M-Cooper (out Su'17), Dick (out Sp'24), Fanelli O-Keller; S-Tonnesen (won); U-Hollingsworth (out S'16), Nielsen (out Su'17), Drews

1973CJeq. (Hyborian Age II) Zine: Pellucidar. GM: Burt Labelle.

AQUILONIA-Walter Blank (won F'07, concession); CIMMERIA-Chic Hilliker (res F'01), Robert Sacks (res W'03), Peter Berggren (out S'07); FEDERATION-Red Beam (res S'03), Gary Peterson; STYGIA-Greg Dority (res S'02), CD; TURAN-Chuck Boler (dro F'07).

	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
A	3	5	7	8	9	10	10	13*	15
C	3	6	6	6	5	5	4	2	-
F	4	5	5	4	6*	5	5	6	7
S	3	5*	5	5*	4*	2	1	1	1
T	3	4	7	8	8	10	12	10	9*

1975Lgo. (Utter Chaos) Zine: Urf Durfal & Chaos.
GM: Scott Rosenberg. Game abandoned Spring 1902

	00	01		
Gladstein	6	8		
Barlow	6	8	Heuer	6 9
Diller	6	11	Kasanof	6 8
Costikyan	6	7	Paulson	6 6

GOD SAVE THE TSAR (Progress Report)

Something strange is happening to the Calhamer Awards; await developments carefull
Besides the general assault that has taken place against the Gemignani Awards, we have received a few constructive criticisms; accordingly we have again revised the list of awards - changes from this year are indicated.

- 1 Seven Most Infamous Persons in the Hobby (courtesy of Len Lakofka)
- 2 Publication Most in Need of Improvement (courtesy of Len Lakofka)
- 3 New Publication Most in Need of Improvement (courtesy of Len Lakofka)
- 4 Gamemaster/Publisher Most in Need of Improvement (courtesy of Len Lakofka)
- 5 Most Irregular Gamemaster/Publisher (courtesy of Len Lakofka)
- 6 Worst Single Press Release
- 7 Worst Press Release Series
- 8 Worst Regular Game
- 9 Worst Variant Game
- 10 Worst Variant Design
- 11 Player Most in Need of Improvement (courtesy of Len Lakofka)
- 12 Least Reliable Ally (from the fake Paroxysm)
- 13 Least Meritorious Contribution to the Hobby
- 14 Worst Article
- 15 Best Fake Issue (courtesy of Jon Southard)
- 16 Award for Delay (modified suggestion of Lew Pulsipher)
- 17 Award for Confusion (modified suggestion of Len Lakofka)
- 18 Special Award

Nominations for new categories and in all categories are still due January 31.

NEW DESIGNATORS ASSIGNED

3

gp. 260 AD (Scott Rosenberg, The Pocket Armenian V. I # 2)
 gq. Nuclear Holocaust: World War III (David Grabar)
 gr. Gemignani 25-Player (Ruin Stoned #85)
 gs. Excommunication! (Greg Costikyan, Urf Durfal #1)
 gt. Dilatory/Diluvian (Rosenberg & Diller, The Pocket Armenian #13/CHOAM #23)
 gu. Stab-Happy (Diller & Rosenberg, The Pocket Armenian #13/CHOAM #20)

MILLER NUMBERS ASSIGNED

1975Meb (Black Hole II/Nielsen), Richard Kovalcik, E^xponent. A-Scott Rosenberg, E-Karl Schuetz, F-Robert Lipton, G-Robert Reichel, I-David Gladstein, R-Peter Squires, T-Matt Diller.

1975Ngp (260 AD), Scott Rosenberg, Urf Durfal. Gaul-Mike Muchnik, Ger-Alex Polsky, Goths-Adam Gilinsky, Pal-Allan Rothberg, Per-Matthew Diller, Rome-Greg Costikyan.

1975Ocv (Youngstown IV/Phillips), Dave Kadlecck, Speculum. A-William Osmanson, C-Paul Boeth, E-Lee Kendter, F-Steve Tresco, G-Steve Cartier, In-Ben Tobin, It-Chris Downs, J-Jim Diehl, R-Ron Stephens, T-Russell Fox.

1975Pfe (Middle Earth V), Peter Berggren, Turnabout. Ang-John Baker, Dwa-Margaret Gemignani, Elv-Mike Novick, Gon-Fred Bolin, H-R-Joe Pickard, Mor-David Scott.

1975Qgg (Nuclear Holocaust: World War III), David Grabar, -. Arg-John Newton, Aus'l-Kelly Miller, Bra-John McKeon, Can-Skip Allen, Chi-John Burke, Col-Andy Phillips, Egy-Mike Sarley, Fra-John Schaaf, Mex-Gordon Anderson, Rus-Jonathon Burke, S.Afr-Bruce Coy, W.Ger-John Reid, USA-Rich Keller.

1975Rgr (Gemignani 25-Player), "John Leeder", Ruin Stoned. Roland Prévot, Bob Bawtinhimer, Cal White, Dave Davies, Al Burkacki, Richard Walkerdine, Blair Cusack, John Gross, Larry Doble, Joel Klein, Marc Schmitt, Jim Harsney, Harry Drews, Doug Willsie, Ron Kelly, Les Pimley, Bob Normand, Paul Schwartz, Rick Solomon, John Hlland, Tom Burkacki, Doug Ronson, Rich Swies, Herb Barents, Randolph Smyth. (This was a haux issue)

1975Sgs (Excommunication!), Greg Costikyan, Urf Durfal. Ab Isl-Scott Rosenberg, Alb-Eric Goldberg, Almor-Tom Landauer, Byz-Ben Grossman, Cairo-Robert Goldman, Eas. Cr-Raymond Heuer, Eng-Mark Edwards, Fa Isl-Adam Kasanof, Fra-Alex Polsky, HRE-Mike Muchnik, Leon-Wayne Gildroy, Rom-David Barlow, Rus-Robert Sacks, Sel-Adam Gilinsky.

1975Tbk (Kriegspiel), Sam Jones, -. Anonymity.

1975Ufh (Colonia), Michael Homeier, The Master Machiavellian. A-Ron Stephens, E-Karl Scheutz, F-Terry Lucero, Neth-Fred Hyatt, Por-Wiley Carter, R-Ed Schnaath, Spa-Margaret Gemignani, T-Richard Greenwell.

1975Vgt (Dilatory/Diluvian), Scott Rosenberg, Urf Durfal. A-Russell Fox, E-Robert Goldman, F-Eric Goldberg, G-Mike Dominskyj, I-Michael Muchnik, R-Cyril Penn, T-Ben Grossman.

1975Wgu (Stab-Happy), Scott Rosenberg, Urf Durfal. A-David Barlow, E-Tom Landauer, F-Matthew Diller, G-David Gladstein, I-Eric Goldberg, R-Greg Costikyan, T-Robert Goldman.

1975Xcv (Youngstown IV/Phillips), Russell Fox, Centurion. A-David Parker, C-William Adam, E-Ben Thin, F-Jim Diehl, G-William McDonough, In-Chris Bradshaw, It-Karl Scheutz, J-Gary Behnen, R-Lee Kendter, T-Ron Stephens.

1975Ygo (Near Utter Chaos), Scott Rosenberg, Urf Durfal & Chaos. A-Ben Grossman, E-David Barlow, F-Jerry Paulson, G-Greg Costikyan, I-Raymond Heuer, R-Matthew Diller, T-Adam Kasanof.

R Bart/9950 Reseda Blvd #13/Northridge Ca 91324 BOOK OF STAB/\$1+11/\$2: 34-Man
 A&T Burkacki/13201 Dwyer/Detroit Mi 48212 RAGWEED/\$1+postage: Bioplomacy
 R Christopher/15170 Colombet/San Martin Ca 95046 THE DEMONS HOME/\$1+10/\$1.50: Y
 G Costikyan/1675 York Ave/NY NY 10028 URF DURFAL/8/\$2: 1618, Diplomafia, Down-
 fall II, Pacifica, War in the Air, World War III
 F Brenner/2821 W 12th St/Brooklyn NY 11224 EXPONENT/10/\$1.50: Colonia
 F Davis/3012 Oak Green Ct/Ellicott City Md 21043 BUSHWACKER/\$7: Abstraction,
 Atlantica II-R, US II-R
 R Fox/5160 Donna Ave/Tarzana Ca 91356 CENTURION/\$1 (except 1st game)+GD 50¢+8/\$2
 YV
 B Grossman/29 E 9 St #9/NY NY 10003 THE PREDAWN LEFTIST/10/\$2+/\$3: Colonia; \$2:
 Schizoid; \$1: Utter Chaos
 B Hartwig/5030 N 109 St/Longmont Co 80501 PODUNK NEWS/\$2: Anarchy
 D Head/Box 1231/Huntsville ONT CANADA POA 1KO ARRAKIS/\$2+1¢/pg+postage: Antigonis
 Isles
 R Heuer/102-42 Jamaica Ave/Richmond Hill NY 11418 CARN DUM/\$7: 1600, Westphalia
 VIII
 M Homeier/238 N Bowling Green Way/Los Angeles Ca 90049 THE MASTER MACHIAVELLIAN/
 \$1+12/\$2.50: Colonia
 D Kadlecck/1447 Sierra Creek Way/San Jose Ca 95132 SPECULUM/10/\$2+GD \$1+/-0-:
 Scacchomacy; \$1: ME VII; \$1.50: Global, Third Age; \$2: Gigaton Bomb
 J Leeder/208 Haysboro Crescent SW/Calgary ALTA CANADA T2V 3G3 RUNESTONE/\$2 (\$1.
 for IDA)+1¢/pg+postage: Bawtinhimer 8-player, Flintlock II, Gesta Danorum
 M Muchnik/2520 Hyacinth Ct/Westbury NY 11590 VALINOR/\$1+10/\$1.50: ME V
 R Sacks/4861 Broadway, 5-V/NY NY 10034 LORD OF HOSTS/\$3+cost/issue+postage: Down
 fall II, Parlement
 S Solomon/17420 Lake View Dr/Morgan Hill Ca 95037 INFAMOUS/\$1+8/\$1.50: Gigaton
 Bomb

NEW DESIGNATORS AND VARIANTS - Editorial Commentary

There are few things that can be said about diplomacy variants, but a few can be said: Gorgamella is not a diplomacy variant - a fundamental feature of diplomacy variants is the reliance on the actual orders submitted yet a fundamental feature of Gorgamella is the reliance on general orders in the absence of the commander; Kingmaker is not a diplomacy variant, for while it is a multi-player diplomatic game par excellence, it is sequential and involves substantial reliance on random events, and I suspect it is postally unplayable. I draw the line before Parlement though; orders are explicit, simultaneous, without any random reliance.

go. Utter Chaos (Scott Rosenberg, Chaos #1). Without doubt, the frontrunner for the 1976 Gemignani Award for Worst Variant Design. Technically it combines Twin-Earth, Anarchy, 2 varieties of Black-Hole, Schizo, Diluvian, Dilatory, and Dud Diplomacy. It can best (though not truthfully, at least honestly) be described by stating that every turn the GM randomly redraws the (double-) board and reshuffles the units. and the GM has a unit of his own, sigh! This first game of this was abandoned as unplayable, and a revision, Near Utter Chaos (Rosenberg, Urf Durfal #3(?)), has been started which combines 2 varieties of Black-Hole, Schizo, Diluvian, Dilatory, Dud, Squash, Blob, and Mobile Supply Center Diplomacy.

gg. Nuclear Holocaust: World War III (David Grabar). 13 players, global, economic differing supply sources, victory by unanimous consent, each player bids for his country and uses funds left over from the auction for initial defense, diplomatic movement except for planes and bombs, substantial air and supply rules, combat is within a space and is reliant on economic considerations, devastation rules, bankruptcy rules. It's a bloody wargame masquerading as a Diplomacy Variant.

gr. Gemignani 25-Player (Ruinstoned #85). Played on a 5x5 board, one army/one space/player, loss of home square is automatic elimination, builds after each turn, dislodged units are automatically eliminated, each turn the home square of the player with the least amount in his subscription account is blackholed. Ych.

1974AEgc Austrians and Spaniards complete conquest of Italy. Fall 1904

AUSTRIA (Tomary) F Tri h, A Ven-Rom, A Vie-Bud. Build 1/No room.
 BULGARIA (Berggren) A Gre-Bul.
 ENGLAND (Gemignani) F Edi-Cly, F Nth-Lon.
 FRANCE (Bean) A Mun r-Sil. A Pic-Par, A Pie-Mar, A Sil-War, F Tyr-Tun.
 GERMANY (Berggren) F Ber h, A Bur-Par, A Kie-Hol, A Ruh-Bel. Build 1/left over.
 GREECE (Gemignani) A Ser-Bud.
 HOLLAND (Drews) A Mun h.
 ITALY (Drews) F GoL-Spasc, A Rom-Ven/Disl/. Remove 2/OUT.
 NORWAY (Drews) F Iri-Liv.
 PORTUGAL (Tomary) F MAO-Spasc, F Wal-Liv.
 RUMANIA (Bean) A RUM S AUS Vie-Bud.
 RUSSIA (Morris) A Gal S SER Bud-Vie, A StP-Mos, F Swe h, A Ukr-War. Build 1.
 SERBIA (Morris) A Bud-Vie.
 SPAIN (Aronson) A Nap S AUS Ven-Rom.
 TURKEY (Aronson) A Ank-Con, A Arm-Sev, A Bul S RUM, F Con-Aeg, A Sev-Mos.

Gemignani is not resigning from this game. Spring 1905

AUSTRIA (Tomary) A Rom-Ven, F Tri h, A Vie-Bud.
 BULGARIA (Berggren) A Gre-Bul/Disl/.
 ENGLAND (Gemignani) F Cly-Liv, F Lon-Wal.
 FRANCE (Bean) A Mar h, A Pic-Par, A Sil-Gal, F Tun-WM.
 GERMANY (Berggren) B A Kie. A Bel-Pic, F Ber-Pru, A Bur S Bel-Pic, A Hol-Ruh,
 A Kie-Ber.
 GREECE (Gemignani) A Ser S BUL Gre-Bul.
 HOLLAND (Drews) A Mun-Tyr.
 NORWAY (Drews) F Iri S ENG Lon-Wal.
 PORTUGAL (Tomary) F MAO-Iri, F Wal S MAO-Iri.
 RUMANIA (Bean) A RUM-Ser.
 RUSSIA (Morris) B A Mos. A Gal S Ukr-Rum, A Mos-Sev, A StP-Liv, F Swe-Nwy,
 A Ukr-Rum.
 SERBIA (Morris) A Bus S RUS Ukr-Rum.
 SPAIN (Aronson) A Nap-Rom.
 TURKEY (Aronson) F Aeg C Con-Gre, A Arm S Sev, A Bul S Con-Gre, A Con-Gre,
 A Sev S RUM/otm/.

Three powers eliminated in Balkan war. Fall 1905

AUSTRIA (Tomary) F Tri h, A Ven S Tri, A Vie S Tri. Build 1/No room.
 BULGARIA (Berggren) A Gre r-Alb. A Alb S HOL Tyr-Tri. Remove 1/OUT.
 ENGLAND (Gemignani) F Liv-Wal, F Lon S Liv-Wal.
 FRANCE (Bean) A Mar S Par-Bur, A Par-Bur, A Sil-Mun, F WM-Tyr.
 GERMANY (Berggren) A Ber-Mun, A Bur-Par, A Pic S Bur-Par, F Pru h,
 A Ruh S Ber-Mun. Build 1.
 GREECE (Gemignani) A Ser S HOL Tyr-Tri.
 HOLLAND (Drews) A Tyr-Tri. Remove 1/OUT.
 NORWAY (Drews) F Iri-EC.
 PORTUGAL (Tomary) F MAO-EC, F Wal S MAO-EC/Annh/. Build 1/Annh.
 RUMANIA (Bean) A RUM-Ser/Annh/. OUT.
 RUSSIA (Morris) A Gal-Rum, A Liv-War, A Mos-Sev, F Nwy-Nwg, A Ukr S Gal-Rum.
 Build 1.
 SERBIA (Morris) A Bud S HOL Tyr-Tri.
 SPAIN (Aronson) A Rom-Tus.
 TURKEY (Aronson) F Aeg S Gre, A Arm S Sev, A Bul S RUM/otm/, A Gre S Bul,
 A Sev S RUM/otm/. Build 1.

Changes of Address

Robert Sacks/4861 Broadway, 5-V/NY NY 10034
 Paul Bean/13 Grove St, 8/Boston Ma 02114
 Skip Morris/PO Box 288/Needham Ma 02192
 Zoltan Tomary/404 Deerpath E/Lake Forest Il 60045

Anyone to standby for Austro-Portuguese forces?

Spring 1906

AUSTRIA (Tomary) F Tri h/uo/, A Ven h/uo/, A Vie h/uo/.

ENGLAND (Gemignani) F Lon-EC, F Wal S Lon-EC.

FRANCE (Bean) A Mar S Par-Bur, A Par-Bur, A Sil-Pru/Disl/, F Tyr-Ion.

GERMANY (Berggren) B A Ber. A Ber-Sil, A Bur-Par, A Mun S Ber-Sil,
A Pic S Bur-Par, F Pru h, A Ruh-Bur.

GREECE (Gemignani) A Ser-Bul.

NORWAY (Drews) F Iri S RUS Nwg-Nat.

PORTUGAL (Tomary) NBR. F MAO h/uo/.

RUSSIA (Morris) B A StP. A Mos-Sev, F Nwg-Nat, A Rum S GRE Ser-Bul, A StP-Liv,
A Ukr S Mos-Sev, A War-Gal.

SERBIA (Morris) A Bud S RUS War-Gal.

SPAIN (Aronson) A Tus-Pie.

TURKEY (Aronson) B F Smy. F Aeg-Ion, A Arm-Sev, A Bul S Sev-Rum, A Gre-Ser,
A Sev-Rum/Annh/, F Smy-Aeg.

-:)Fall Moves due, Noon, Thu, 9 October 1975(:-

NEW DESIGNATORS AND VARIANTS (continued)

gs. Excommunication! (Greg Costikyan, Urf Durfal #1). A game for 9 military players (Moors, Egypt, Turks, Byzantium, Russia, England, France, Leon, Holy Roman Empire), 4 religious players (2 Moslem, 1 Orthodox, and 1 Christian "heretic"), and 1 who is both (Rome). Religious players have missions supported by religious supply centers, and win when they have converted half the land spaces (religious supply centers by occupation by missions; any other spaces by a convert order by any unit); in addition religious leaders may excommunicate a civil leader under him, putting that player into temporary civil disorder - however each player not under exommunication chooses which religious player he is subject to (without changing between Christian and Moslem); players subject to Rome cannot attack Roman units. One of the best concepts among new variants I have seen.

Middle Earth VIII (Lew Pulsipher). 8 players, 1 move per year, 1 fortress per home country, army/fleet conversion, standard Pulsipher victory condition: majority of units possible + 1 (to guarantee against "false" wins), Elves (located in the center of the board) have a 4th home center, Mordor has 1 home center detached from it in the center of the board. The location of boundaries and fortresses do not make particular sense, given the Middle Earth setting, and the game lacks magic, alignment, and mountains; as a Middle Earth variant it is unappealing, although the design features and concepts would make a good abstract variant.

War of the Ring (Lew Pulsipher). Not so much a game as a game system. Various scenarios, between 2 and 7 players, forts equivalent to stationary units without capability to support external action, multiple units, army/fleet conversion, Gondor and Rohan usually linked, only one scenario uses mountains, varying centers depending on scenario in value and strength, one scenario uses Downfall-type rules for Ring and Nazgûl. A must for Tolkien variant players, designers, and collectors still being developed.

Diplomafia (Evan Jones, Urf Durfal #2). 5 gangsters on a map of Manhattan, rackets short and long range influence and political pressure units, value of rackets is determined randomly for each player each turn. The game is strongly reminiscent of other economic games such as the Brotherhood and Organized Crime, but not as good as they are, so I do not see any particular value to this variant.

