

the MIXUMAXU no. 27

GAZETTE

11 Jan. 1975

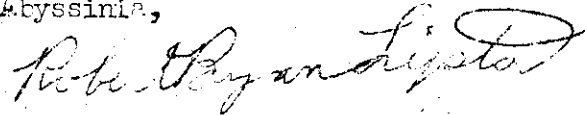
Even this year, the Mixumaxu Gazette is a triweekly magazine of postal Diplomacy and whatnot, at a subscription rate of 5/31, and back issue available at the same price, available back issues are: 1, 3-14, 16, 18-26.

THE PUBLISHER is really, truly cut, with a cover illustration by the inimitable Duncan Smith, and a critical introduction by Rod Walker. It'll cost you \$1, and expensive at half the price.

For all interested or semi-apatetic people, I am a member of Duh New York Mafia Protective Association, TDA, IDA, and the Keaker People Libation Front. Am I a Turtle? You bet your sweet asse I am!

Circulation of The Mixumaxu Gazette is 37. And now, let's hear from other people.

Abyssinia,



Robert Bryan Lipton

|||||

DEAR RY

A MIXUMAXU GAZETTE

QUANTITY PUBLICATION

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SCOTT RASENBERG((182-31 Radnor Road, Jamaica, N.Y. 11432)):

So you're running for At-Large, eh? Oh, well, I suppose that's your privilege, you dirty, rotten so-and-so! ((Scott is also running for the office)). About your review of The Pocket Armenian, though: I am not going to quibble about little points (haha) but I don't see how we ever butchered anyone's press. While it is true we don't place tremendous emphasis on it, the closest we have come to "butchering" it is not printing an entire release because it arrived Saturday, the issue having been printed that morning! In that case there is no way the entire release can be fitted in.

Sorry, I just noted you didn't say "butchered", but "treated as filler". This is even less true than the above.

I also resent your comment about my acting like Nick ((Ulancy)). It's fine to joke about it in person, but to print it in a zine is grossly unfair. Would you like it if I printed you look and act like Ray Heuer? Of course not. ((Only if it was meant seriously. Or derogatoriously. Just because your eyes are developing epicanthic folds and your speech patterns seem to be similar to Nick's is no reason to suppose I'm being serious.))

"Literary value"? If you mean we don't include any Gilbert & Sullivan material, all right. If you mean our press isn't that good, all right (We don't write it!). If you mean some of the poetry is not as good as it could be, all right. But: first, many other people do like it; second, I consider our articles to be among the best of any Diplomacy zine, with the possible exception of Graustark, and John Boardman has a lot of experience behind him, after all. More important, we do print the material. The latest issue of TMG, I'm afraid to say, was rather empty. Frankly, it had almost nothing to read. Now, I consider TMG to be among the best zines in the hobby but, really, I think it is declining a bit. Others agree with me. It still is better than the vast majority of zines. ((Thank you. I am aware of some decline, and I am trying to stop it. Any specific comments would be vastly appreciated.))

HOW I SPENT MY WINTER VACATION

While it's not over yet, by any means, I have just spent two weeks in Jamaica. Not the one in Queens, the one in the West Indies. I spent the time mostly getting a sunburn and swimming in the Caribbean. My aunt and uncle brought down their progeny, and, of course, my sister lives there with her husband, Paul Thomas. We managed a couple of five-player games, both of which my cousin Joe and Paul drew. I managed to get in a good deal of reading too.

But, with a two-week-out-of-touch situation I ran into some problems on coming back. I got back the Wednesday before this issue, and I had only typed the first two pages before I left. Also my negotiations in my various games have become slightly imperilled by my absence (that is not an invitation to stab; I have never missed a set of moves and I don't intend to start now).

It has been very pleasant, but now I have to turn out the rest of this issue in two days...

PROGRESS REPORT: MARXIST PARTY OF AMERICA-- XV

Il marche, Rod Walker, Manager of the West Coast Office, has reported the clever strategem by which he has healed a breach in our philosophy in that area. Let him tell himself:

"Our primary concern has been the semi-revolt of Chicano members of the Party seeking the nomination of Harpo's brother, Chico. We have solved this problem very handily by promising to support Chico for the Vice-Presidency at the Party's National Convention, if any.

"At the same time, other elements of the Party feel this would be too nepotistic. Their proposal for the Vice-Presidency, the late Jack Benny, is a perfect choice. He is well-known for his program of fiscal responsibility and his age, 39, will strongly appeal to the youth vote. We have therefore promised to support him for the Vice-Presidency at the National Convention, if any.

"We are, of course, assuming, unless the Inefficiency Committee acts otherwise, Convention Rules will not forbid the nomination of two or more Vice-Presidential candidates simultaneously."

Although The Central Office (aka National Office, depending on your position) has not considered the idea before, Mr. Walker's idea of multiple vice-presidents has many attractive features. Everyone knows the great value of the position of the Vice-Presidency, the multitudinous actions he must take to perform his office. Perhaps, by splitting the Vice-Presidency among several people we can achieve best the Marxist ideal. Large Corporations, such as the Acme Rubber Stamp Co. of Passaic, N.J. understand the value of such a procedure

Furthermore, this will enable the Party to pay off Political Debts more easily. True, this may contravene the intent of the Constitution, but that has never stopped any Party in the past. The matter is referred to the Inefficiency Committee.

I'm very glad to welcome John Leader back to the list of TMG traders. Ave! He is expanding RUNESTONE, with his usual ... well, whatever. He has some strange openings, such as a periatrics game. To play you must be over 30. Personally, I would hesitate to trust any of the players. Subs are 1¢/page + postage, and I assume he still accepts real money. John Leader, 4910 20 A St., SW, Calgary, Alta., CANADA

TMT 5a6

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MERLIN: THE MAN (2)

by Raymond E. Heuer

Two of the most unusual books I have read in quite some time are The Crystal Cave and The Hollow Hills, both by Mary Stewart, and both available from William Morrow & Co., Inc. (and the Doubleday Book Club).

They are enjoyable in that, while they are two of the most enjoyable books I have read, they also seem to be poorly written. It could be Ms. Stewart is unfamiliar with first-person-narrative novels, or just that the subject matter is covered so deeply by legends no book trying to make the characters look like mere mortals can be satisfactory. There seems to be room for a third novel and I hope the third, if it ever sees print, is a topper for the other two.

There are two binding factors between the two novels. The more important is they are narratives by Merlin on his life. The other factor is a predominance of, to use the euphemistic term, children of questionable parentage. The clinical term is, of course, bastards, and it is used throughout both books. Merlin himself, Arthur and Mordred are the most obvious examples. If the word offends you, don't buy the books.

The first book, The Crystal Cave, begins with Merlin's earliest memories. It concerns his growing up in the royal court of his maternal grandfather, a local king in southern Wales. This king takes a dim view of his daughter's ruining his chance of marrying her off to some powerful ruler's son to increase his holdings. Such men take a dim view of "used merchandise" (unless it's a collector's piece, of course-RBL). His daughter adamantly refuses to tell him who the child's father is. At one point the king has her whipped to the point of losing the baby, but she never tells him the name of the father. In fact, she doesn't tell Merlin until he has already found out from his father. (Anyone who wishes to keep himself in suspense should skip the next paragraph.)

His father is Aurelius Ambrosius.

Merlin has "the sight" since birth, but his skills as a healer and most of his magic was taught him by Galapas, an old man who lived in a cave not far from the family castle. The cave, at one time, was apparently a place of worship for the old Welsh god Myrddin, pronounced "Mer-in". Merlin's full name in Welsh is Myrddin Emrys, after this god. One day, at the castle, Merlin's servant fills the lamps with oil. Some is spilled on a flight of stairs and, while the servant goes to find some rags to wipe it up, the king comes down the stairs, slips, and lands on his head, being fatally injured in the process. The new king is Merlin's uncle Camlach. He has earlier tried to poison Merlin, Merlin being away at the cave, the new king has Merlin's servant killed. On arriving home, Merlin burns the little room in which he, the slave and his old nurse usually slept. While the fire rages, Merlin slips away, falling into the hands of two spies from Aurelius Ambrosius.

Let us pause for a brief moment of explanation. The current high-king, Vortigen, gained the throne through assassination. The rightful king's two sons, Ambrosius and Uther, have fled to Brittany. To protect himself from an invasion from Brittany or revolt within, the high-king has hired an increasingly large number of Saxon mercenaries. To placate the Saxons, Vortigern, a widower, has married the daughter of a Saxon chief. This has alienated his son by his first wife, Vortimer. There are thus four independent factions: Vortigen, Vortimer, the Saxons, and the Bretons under Ambrosius.

Through various convoluted methods, Merlin finds himself in Vortigen's camp. In a dream he foresees the defeat of a white dragon (Vortigen) by a red dragon (Ambrosius). (Ambrosius has already risen in revolt at this time) Merlin's reput-

DEAR RB (Continued from page 2)

DOUG REIF(67 Grosvenor Road, Kenmore, N.Y. 11223; 12/27/74): I've finally reaped a tangible dividend from being a publisher: a \$3 discount on a game. Of course, someone's going to come up to me and say "You just spent \$3 on that!" to which I'll reply "But it was half price!" ((As a precaution I've cashed your check.))

ROD WALKER((4069 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, Ca. 92103; 12/23/74)):... Re: TERMINUS ((the "complete" supply center listing of all games started before 1970)). Regardless of what criteria Walk used to exclude games, he did not designate as irregular any game so designated by the Boardman Number Custodian. While I continue to believe the historical record should be printed anyway, I can understand why some really ridiculous games -- such as 1964 C -- should simply be forgotten. ((Your terminology is slightly vague. When you say 'Boardman Number Custodian' you obviously mean von Metzke, not Doug Beyerlein. Further, it would seem to me the Custodian to determine the regularity of any game would be the Custodian of the time the concerned game was completed. Games completed during Boardman's tenure, considered regular by him, have been subsequently declared irregular.. My major complaint is the omission of local games. We have, of course, discussed these games before, and are in agreement these should be considered irregular. However, the explanation given, that Buchanan 'didn't wish to use extra space' is ridiculous. To have added the 'irregular' games would have added about 10% to TERMINUS. For an 'historical' record to exclude such historically important games as 1963 is stupid.

DAVID HERTZ((451 Harrison Ave., Harrison, N.Y. 10528; 1/6/75): Happy New Year. I hope you didn't start any fires in the fireplace for Santa Claus.((How could you suggest such a thing? I am Jewish. It was for Judas Hamacabee.))

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BRCKEN MYTH

There is a belief among us DeCamp fanatics that DeCamp (known to his wife as "Spraguey") never makes a mistake. Unhappily I have just found this to be false. At PhilCon this year I picked up Martin Greenberg's Coming Attractions, which had in it DeCamp's "Language for Time Travellers", considered to be a classic article on language change. Unfortunately, on page 66 of the book, DeCamp writes "...We can invent a new word out of whole cloth, like gas..."

This is false. "Gas" is from the Greek chaos. So much for another legend...

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