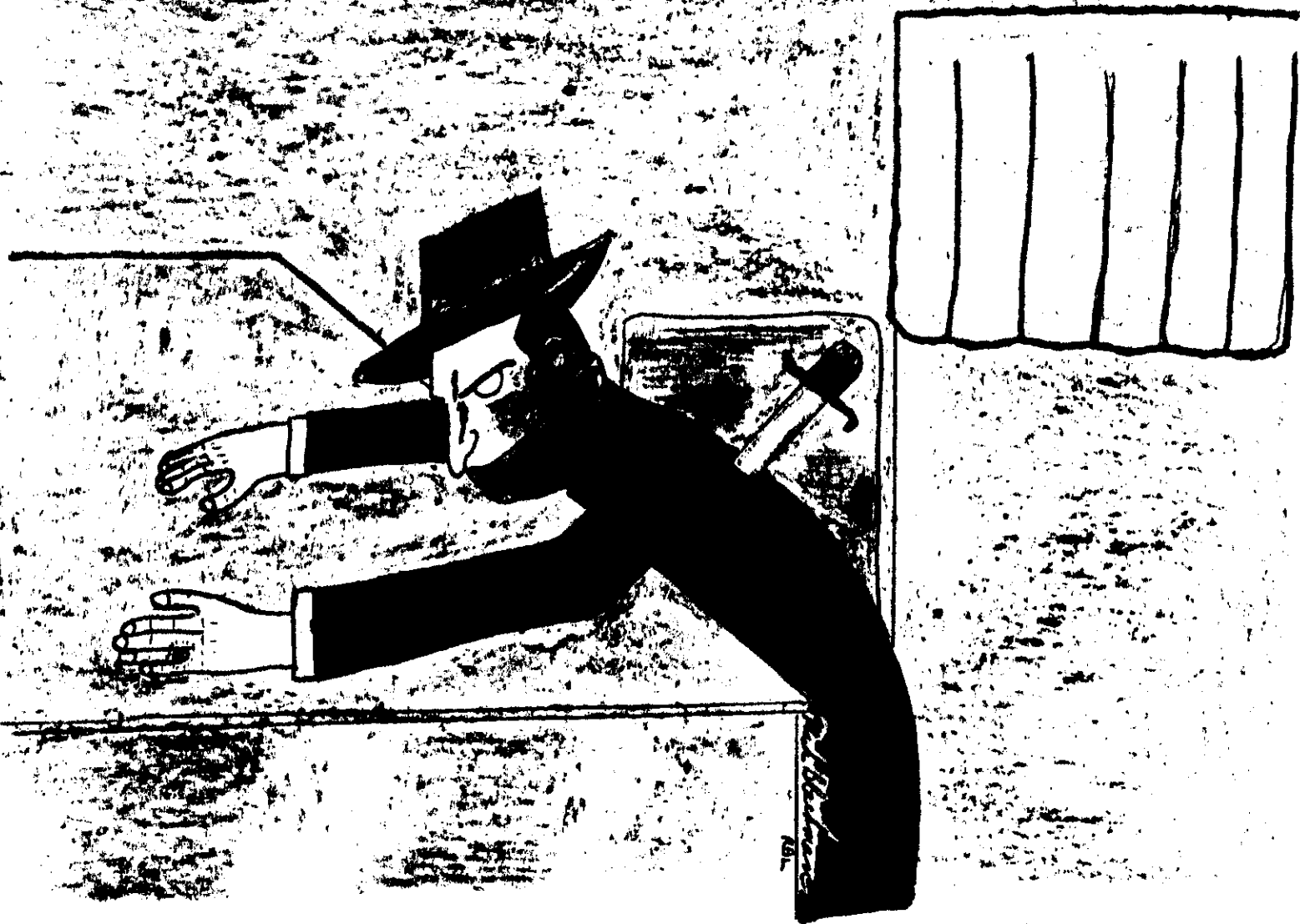


The Mixumaxu Gazette



HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN

The Mixumaxu Gazette is a triweekly publication of postal Diplomacy and whatnot, edited and published by Robert Bryan Lipton, 556 Green Place, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598, with the able gamesmasterial assistance of Robert Sacks, 4681 Broadway, Apartment 5-V, New York, N.Y. 10034. Telephone numbers are respectively (516) 374-4723 and (212) 942-3572. Subscriptions to this long-colophonned rag are 10/issue + postage. I pay for articles at the rate of \$1.50 in subscription credit, for artwork at the rate of \$2 per illustration. I think that's about it.

.....

Long-term followers of this magazine (who seem to hang on. This magazine seems to hold on to its readers; or at least they return) know that every year I take one issue off from gamesmastering around Christmas because the usually bad postal service gets worse than at any time save when the P.O. wants a rate increase. Since, according to my new schedule which calls for official publication on Sunday, the next issue will be published on Sunday, the games in that issue are scrapped. Probably the issue too, since I plan to leave next week for Jamaica and my annual vacation. So don't get excited when three weeks pass and you hear nothing from me. I say this because when Ben Grossman's *The Predawn Leftist* was four weeks late and I remarked upon it, he said he had "understanding players." If your issues haven't arrived by six days after publication, you want to know why I am cheating you. Sigh. Anyway, the five dozenth issue will be out on schedule on 16 January 1977, and it should be larger than the average issue.

Meanwhile, I have been thinking of doing more "specialized issues," such as #57's D&D section. I can't do one on sf, because of the literally hundreds of sercon sf fanzines on the market. One likely topic is that of Diplomacy variants, with another symposium. I can always use suggestions.

I received a letter from John Brennick which he asked me not to print because it would embarass him, but I doubt if he'll mind if I quote a line.

"I think issue #57 was one of the best I've seen in a long time. It was very interesting, and gave me a new perspective on fantasy and D&D..."

This is the highest accolade a writer (or editor) can attain. An honest writer should not try to convert someone to his viewpoint, but should let the reader know about his; he should let the reader understand that viewpoint, enriching the reader. Even if John was the only one whom this issue helped understand D&D, it is enough.

In any case, this is a milestone in my editing, and I am very proud of it. I want my readers to know this and to know that I will try to make this high standard my minimum standard (give me some time, though). Excelsior!

I hope this issue is enjoyable to all of you. And, in advance, may you all have as merry a holiday season as possible, present depression notwithstanding.

Abyssinia,



Robert Bryan Lipton

THE MYSTERY OF THE NEW YORK SQUARE

There is a phenomenon in an area surrounding Lower Manhattan (see the diagram on the left). Within the indicated area thousands of cars are discovered daily in various states of junking: hoods smashed, glass broken, engines collapsed and hubcaps stolen. Science has failed to come up with an explanation of this phenomenon. Indeed, ask any of the so-called "reputable" men of science and they will probably deny that such a thing as the New York Square exists.

These soul-brothers of the men who laughed at Velikovsky may not believe that the New York Square exists, but experienced drivers know about it. Few will dare to enter the area of the New York Square unless something of a vital nature is at stake.

Take for example Mrs. Henrietta Gluck, resident of Tarrytown, N.Y. who has not driven in the New York Square for the past 17 years.

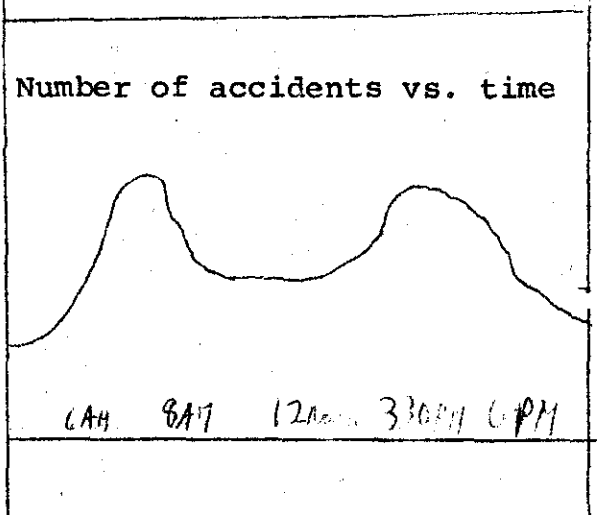
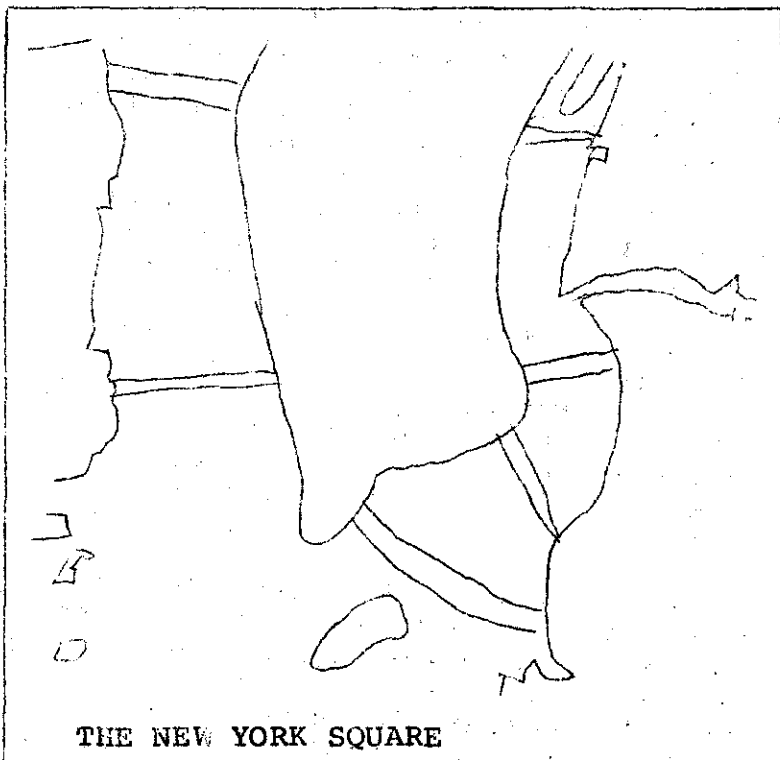
"New York? Drive into New York? You mean to say you want to know if I drive in New York? How can you ask if I drive in New York? I don't know what to say."

This eloquent reply is echoed by Roger F.X. O'Donoghue of Levitown, N.Y. who explains his reasons for not driving within the confines of the New York Square with the words "Drive there? Do you know how many accidents happen there?"

While Mr. O'Donoghue is fully aware of the dangers, the technological Establishment seems intent on ignoring it. Steven Patronis who has graduated from the purblind graduation courses of the archaic California Institute of Technology holds there is no such thing as the New York Square. He claims that he never hesitates to drive in the indicated area. *But this author watched Patronis for two straight days, and on neither Saturday nor Sunday did he drive into the New York Square!* The scientific Establishment

knows there is something there, but for its own reasons withholds this vital information from the public.

Since the Establishment refuses to cooperate, this author has had to conduct his own investigations (this



has doubtless aided the investigation, the author not being limited to the narrow confines of the "scientific method").

Investigations have yielded the graph on page two, demonstrating the correlation between time of day and number of accidents within the New York Square.

Examine the graph. The careful observer will notice two peaks of activity in the malign influence which causes myriad accidents within the area of the New York Square. The shape of this graph immediately brings to mind the well known World Trade Center.

The World Trade Center has been notoriously unable to rent all of its offices. Is this because no one wants them, or because the World Trade Center does not want to have these offices rented because they are full of technological equipment to cause accidents and wipe out those who oppose the Scientific Establishment? Besides this, notice that the World Trade Center is nearly at the middle of the New York Square, any deviation being easily accounted for by the influence of Saggitarius.

How is this accident-causing done? The author's brother, a well-known expert on being jailed for holding a job has suggested that the author's original theory that vibrations are sent through the air is unlikely, and has suggested that the manhole covers which dot the area have been directionally magnetized. The author finds this a very rational means of causing accidents in the volume discovered within the New York Square.

This matter demands wider investigation. The author respectfully requests that the United Nations, as an impartial agency, investigate the answer. The author will be glad to accept a salary to sit on such a commission.

.....

TOKA THE TOWN.

1: The author wishes it to be known that his opinions on the new IDA Constitution do not imply that anyone else in New York accepts the new constitution. Nor is the author aware that anyone except those people busy denying that the author's opinions are not those of New York in general believe that the author's opinions are those of New York in general.

2: Speaking of denials, in *Paroxysm* #42, Robert Correll says "The fact that the proposed October 1st issue of *Diplomacy Review* ((containing debate on the new IDA constitution)) has not yet been published exemplifies how much work the "reformers" are really capable of."

This is interesting in view of the fact that the IDA Editor, Scott Rosenberg has come out publicly and emphatically against the new constitution. He has also resigned and handed the job over to Ben Grossman and Greg Costikyan who are also against the new constitution. How the lack of activity on the part of those who oppose the new constitution can demonstrate that those who support the new constitution do no work is an interesting piece of logic. Considering this gem of logic was published in "The Zine with the Canadian Point of view," Canada is in trouble.

((This would have gone into a letter to *Paroxysm*, but when someone else supported the new constitution the editor continuously interpolated comments into the text, whereas a letter in the same issue opposing the new constitution had the editor's comments all at the end. I refuse to let my words be so treated. But perhaps Harry Drews will put this in as an opposing viewpoint. If so, I'll let the readers know. I wish this damned stupid debate were over already.))

Oh, yes. The October DR has been published a few weeks late.

DEAR RB

((The following letter, from Harry Drews, Box 282, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 3X9. Besides myself, a copy was sent to Len Lakofka, Bruce Schlickbernd, John Boyer, Robert Correll, Doug Ronson, John Leeder and Randolph Smyth; dated 14 November 1976.))

The Canadian question within the discussion on IDA-NA has generated an awful lot of verbiage,, some of which is accurate and some of which is otherwise. I shall attempt to state certain things from my own particular perspective as a liberal but nationalistic Canadian citizen.

Canada is a loosely-knit federation of strong, nearly independent states. The provinces have far more autonomy than do the American states. Dissolution of the country is an ever-present nemesis; the election in Quebec tomorrow will likely see the rise to power of a political party which has as its primary plank the separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada. Our western provinces literally hate the "easterners", namely Ontario, and are intent on using their oil and gas resources to the west from the present power base of Ontario and Quebec. British Columbia is our own California and is oriented to the U.S.A. more than to the Canada east of the Rockies.

To the south of us lies a benevolent giant who is imposing on us unintentionally an alien culture through the media of television and magazines/books. There is no reason for us not to be a part of the U.S.A. other than intangible factors such as pride in a separate national and cultural identity. On economic, military, business and all other practical grounds we should remove that three-thousand-mile border. And precisely because of this we must constantly assert our separate identities, however foolish it may seem to the Americans who observe us. You Americans have a very useful political and military weapon in your extreme forms of expressing patriotism. I think I can speak for most Canadians when I say I laugh at how similar your patriotism is to the propaganda displayed in Peking or Moscow. But then, you are all super-powers and that is what helps you remain powerful. It is a convenient opiate that a small country such as Canada lacks, and we make do by fighting among ourselves and the only identity we can agree on is our definition as not Americans, which is sometimes reduced to anti-American. The animosity we express to you Americans is much more for ourselves than at you. So be patient, understanding and forgive us our words of anger. After all, if we kicked you out of the country, we would be bankrupt tomorrow.

Now, to translate this to Diplomacy: I have played the game to make friends. I see no need to have a separate Canadian regional representative on the IDA-NA Council. I do not wish to deny the existence of IDA-NA in any form, but the rise of this new organization came at about the same time that I was fed up with my membership in a stupifying organization. As stated in *Paroxysm* a while back, I see no need for the presence of IDA or IDA-NA since it is energetic individuals who will do the work if it is perceived as vital. Why impose a bureaucratic structure on the efforts of these volunteers?

To Lenard Lakofka and his comments published in *Diplomacy Review* #5/5: I agree with you fully that the feuding must stop, and that everyone concerned should try to make the organization work. To my own way of thinking I was never carrying on a feud with you personally and I hope there is no animosity. I shall let lapse my membership in the IDA because I see no need for the organization in any form. Again, let me emphasize that I have not stated a preference for CDO or CDGO over IDA or IDA-NA. Each association should be able to co-exist with the others and there can be overlapping memberships. What I espouse, though, is the notion that one should support only the degree of organization needed. A convenient analogy is transportation, and why get a Caddillac when a Dodge will do. As far as I am concerned I don't need all the options on an IDA-NA model and I'll make do with CDO. Nationalism doesn't even play a big part; I like CDO because some of

my best hobby friends are in, and it is incidental, not causal, that they're Canadian.

To that liberal New Yorker, Robert Bryan Lipton, I got a kick out of your remark in TMG #57 that "amazing how Canadians know everything." If you are interested in understanding me as a Canadian Diplomacy player, then disregard the occasional stated hyperbolae. I want to make peace with all the Diplomacy factions, but endure my ramblings on Canadian nationalism because to me it is an important topic. *Paroxysm* serves as a convenient platform to describe some deep worries I have to get out somehow. And when you read *Paroxysm*, attribute to me only those passages with my name at the bottom.

To Bruce Schlickbernd: on the basis of what you put in *Poictesme* #28, come on, friend, have a little mercy on us Canadians. We're so overshadowed in the real world that Diplomacy is one of our few chances to be the tail that wags the dog. Dippy zines are a rare a rare chance to be contrary, grouchy and independent -- be tolerant. What gives you the right to be *the* Americans? Maybe my lessons on geography were wrong, but I always assumed there was North America, South America, Central America and so on. Can't Canadians and Americans call themselves Americans? Don't we still share the continent with you? You have no right to the exclusive use of the term "American" which you have monopolized. Always with you people it is the first, the best and the only. We didn't presume to use the The Canada of America or The Mexico of America. Do the Russians call themselves the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Europe and Asia? Nope, I'm afraid there's more to America than just the United States. Maybe I'm being too picky about words, and rest assured that I do-'t want to change your country's name but I should be able to call myself an American too.

Guess that's it, folks, and may this letter help you rest easier at nights knowing that we Canadians do not stand ready to take over good old IDA-NA or IDA-USA or whatever,

((My dispute has never been with you, Harry; your attitude is an easily understandable one, and as things stand I shall let my membership in IDA lapse also. My dispute has been with people like John Leeder and Bob Correl (though only in this, because New Yorkers know that if one lets disputes get outside the area they are about, one winds up speaking to no one) who insist that Canada has special problems without saying what they are, who attack those who try to solve those problems because the solution-seekers do not ask their opinions, even when such consultation is not possible and... well, read the "interview" last issue.

((I have gone through enough cries of "Conspiracy!" directed against me from Rod Walker and Gordon Anderson and the amazing situation that prevailed when Diplomacy World started to put up with it anymore. I am glad to hear one reasonable voice in this whole mess. Be assured that I was not writing of any real attempt of yours to take over IDA when I fused your remarks on the Canadian Armed Forces with the IDA-NA mess.

((I fear, however, that there is not enough talent in the US alone to make an organization work. Nor in Canada. The US and Canada should stand together in a Diplomacy organization.

((Finally, in terms of usage, I'm afraid that the US people are Americans. You Canadians are simply North Americans. English is confusing enough without more multiple, confusing meanings.))

((Letters were also received from John Brennick and Greg Costikyan. ((As of now, a moratorium on discussion of the various IDA constitutions is declared for these pages.

TOKA THE TOWN

3: An error was made in issue #57 in not acknowledging, as should have been done, that the author of "Dungeons & Dragons and why it can only be played with Miniatures" was actually John Carroll. Apologies to John; the error was due to the haste in which I typed it.

4: Sometime in January or February (if, in that latter month I can take the time, since I will be publishing *The Terrean* for the Terrestrial Amateur Press Society and *The Slobinpolit Zhurnal* as well as two issues of this zine... well, March, maybe) I will publish *The Smoky Dragon* #20, which will contain all the valuable material from previous SDs, the D&D symposium from TIG #57 (if none of the authors object), and at least one new article I am working on now, discussing what to do with that 12th level magic-user you've finally gotten after playing him for one hundred hours; also that decimal saving throw matrix I promised back in TSD #12. I hope to print everything on one side of each sheet, which should make taking out the charts and using them a little easier. I have no idea at the moment what the price will be, and I don't want to have to keep records, so don't send money now.

GAMES

Remember, folks, just because you're getting a six-week deadline, don't think you can delay sending in moves until the last moment. Mail them quickly because I won't be calling for missed moves.

1975 AY: GERMANS CONTINUE TO LOSE GROUND Spring 1910

FRANCE (Tom Kissner)
 F Nwy-Swe
 F Nth-Mol
 A Par S ITALIAN A Mar-Bur
 A Bre H

GERMANY (John Rubins)
 A Fin-StP
 F Eng-Mid
 F Wal-Iri
 A Lon-Yor
 F Bal S A Kie
 A Kie S A Pur-Ruh
 A Bur-Ruh

TURKEY (David Hertz)
 A Ser, A Gal S F Gre all F
 A Bu-Lvn
 A S A Ber
 A TP-Nwy
 A N-Lul
 A S & F Aeg-Ion
 A W-StP
 A K-Arm

ITALY (John Brennick)
 A Mar-Bur
 A Pie-Mar
 A Mun S TURKISH A Ser-Kie
 F Edi-Cly
 F Mid-Nat
 F Spa(nc)-Mid
 F Tyr-Ves
 F Nap-Tyr
 A Rom H
 A Tyr & A Boh S A Mun
 A Ven-Pie

PARIS: I voted for the draw.

Maybe Tom did, but the vote failed of unanimity. Another proposal has been made, for a two-way draw, but I am going to block this vote. Fall 1910 moves are due by noon, Tuesday, 11 January 1977.

AUSTRIA (John Weswig) A Bud-Ser, F Tri-Alb, A Vie-Bud.
 ENGLAND (Douglas Hollingsworth) F Edi-Nth, A Liv-Wal, F Lon-EC.
 FRANCE (David Hertz) NMR, Neutral orders: F Bre-MAO, A Mar-Spa, A Par-Bur.
 GERMANY (David Hansen) A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Den, A Mun-Ruh.
 ITALY (John Rubins) F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Ven, A Ven-Tri.
 RUSSIA (Mark Edwards) A Mos-Ukr, F StPsc-GoB, F Sev-Blk, A War h.
 TURKEY (Dennis Klein) NMR, Neutral orders: F Ank-Blk, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con.

Would Paul Girsdansky/Apt 5-J/Terrace Close Apts/77 Carpenter Ave/Mt Kisco NY 10549/ standby for France? Would Paul Thomas/556 Green Place/Woodmere NY 11598/ standby for Turkey?

FALL 1901 MOVES DUE: NOON, Tuesday, 11 January 1976

Propaganda- The Spendthrift- I hope that Robert Sacks is a better gamesmaster than Robert Lipton is.

NOTES & ASIDES

1. I consider myself to be a good gamesmaster. I do not know of a better gamesmaster. I will not engage in comparisons of gamesmagisterial ability. I will answer questions or complaints about any adjudication, and should (may The Powers forbid!) I make a mistake I intend to correct it;
2. Someone asked whether Army A S Army B-C implies the order Army B-C. The answer is no - you must order both the move and the support.
3. We have a BN, one of the last free ones assigned. As I am slated to GM another MG diplomacy game, I should state what the policy will be on paying for the next BN. I am not going to pay for the BN. Lipton is not going to pay for the BN. On receipt of a bid by a player to pay for the BN, I will ask Bob Lipton to forward the necessary information and \$1 to Beyerlein, the \$1 to be taken equally from the accounts of all players who so bid by the Fall 1901 moves. The identity of the players who so bid, or even the fact that anyone has bid, will not be revealed until the Fall 1901 moves, i.e., after the deadline proclaimed by Douglas Beyerlein. Some of you may recognize that this is the policy Richard Kovalcik, Jr., has suggested.
4. There has been a lot of ranting and raving against me in the hobby Establishment. Due to some actions I have recently taken, and others that I plan to take in the future, I predict that the ranting and raving will increase. At least one of the ranters and ravers is suspected of having embezzled monies from one group and of precipitating a current hobby crisis so as to embezzle from another; a group of them have conspired in what appears to be a violation of the Anti-Trust statutes to drive a hobby service out of business; several have committed obvious frauds through the mails. Clearly, I do not give credence to all the uproar, and I do not wish to waste any more space in MG in saying any more, either to defend myself from these obvious political attacks, or to belabor the obvious and go into details on the ethical and criminal offenses that the Establishment that has been ruining the hobby has committed.
5. MIT Strategic Games Society is once again sponsoring a WinterCon - this time #5, January 14-16, 1977 (hours Fri 7pm-2am, Sat 9am-2am, Sun 9am-5pm) at the MIT Student Center, Cambridge Ma. Information is available from Rod Burr, 71 Beacon St, Arlington Ma 02174. Events include Miniatures, SPI Gaming, DNO, Tactics π i, Diplomacy, Kingmaker, Russian Civil War, D&D & EPT, and Open gaming. You may preregister, sending cash, to Mark Swanson, at the same address. Fees seem to be \$2 for Saturday or Sunday, \$3.50 for both, no charge for events, 50¢ at-the-door surcharge all three days, 50¢ discount/day if a member of AWA or MIT-SGS; therefore to preregister send \$3.50 (\$2.50 if AWA). To join AWA include a \$5 check made out to Mark Swanson, AWA Treasurer (and tell them Robert Sacks sent you) - members of the AWA receive other miscellaneous benefits, mainly a monthly magazine of value. I give lukewarm endorsement to both the convention and the AWA, but I cannot guarantee any satisfaction since I am not running either.

AUSTRIA (Zane Parks)
 F Ion retreats-Eas
 F Eas C ITALIAN A Tun-Smy
 F Gre & A Rum S A Ser-Bul
 A Ser-Bul
 A Bud & A Gal S A Rum

GERMANY (Bert van den Boogaard) COA
 F Nth retreats- Eng
 F Hol-Nth
 F Eng-Pre
 F Swe-Ska (retreats-Fin, Bal, Bot, ann)
 A Den-Swe
 A Mun-Bur
 A Bel S A Mun-Bur
 A Ruh S A Bel

ENGLAND (Laurence Lurio)
 F Nrg-Edi
 F Nth S F Nrg-Edi
 F Ska S A Nwy-Swe
 F StP(nc) H
 A Nwy-Swe

ITALY (James Starr)
 A Tun-Smy
 F Ion C A Tun-Smy
 A Boh S AUSTRIAN A Gal
 F Tyr H

FRANCE (Eric von der Luft)
 F Mid-Iri
 A Pic-Bel
 A Bur S A Pic-Bel
 A Gas S A Bur
 F Lyo E

RUSSIA (John Hulland)
 A War & A Mos S A Ukr
 A Ukr H

TURKEY (John Rubins)
 F Aeg-Ion
 A Bul S AUSTRIAN A Bud-Rum (retreats-
 F Bla S A Sev -Con, ann)
 A Sev S AUSTRIAN A Rum-Ukr

Bert van den Boogaard has moved
 once again, this time to 8833 161
 Street, Edmonton, Alta., CANADA.
 No postal code was given. Winter
 1903 builds and Spring 1904 moves are
 requested by noon, *Tuesday*, // January 1977.

SUPPLY CENTERS

COUNTRY	GAINS	LOSES	RETAINS	OWNS	BUILDS/ REMOVES
AUSTRIA	Bul		Bud, Gre, Rum, Ser, Tri, Vie	7	+1
ENGLAND	Swe		StP, Edi, Lvp, Lon, Nwy	6	+1
FRANCE		Bre	Mar, Par, Por, Spa	4	-1
GERMANY	Bre	Swe	Den, Bel, Ber, Hol, Kie, Mun	7	0
ITALY	Smy		Tun, Nap, Rom, Ven	5	+1
RUSSIA		Sev	Mos, War	2	-1
TURKEY	Sev	Bul, Smy	Ank, Con	3	-1

1975 IN COSSACK REVOLTS RENDER RUSSIANS IMMOBILE Winter 1905

ENGLAND (Richard Kovalcik, Jr.)
 Remove F Yor
 Has F Edi

ITALY (Zane Parks)
 Has A Nap, A Mar, F Lyo & A Oie.

FRANCE (Joel Klein)
 Remove F Wal
 Has A Bur, A Bel, A Ruh, A Lvp,
 F Nat & F Nth.

RUSSIA (Dennis Klein) NMR!
 Has F Ska, F Nrg, F Den, F Nwy, A Ber,
 A Sil, A Mun & A Boh.

GERMANY (David Hansen)
 Has A Hol, A Kie & F Lon.

TURKEY (Paul Novak)
 Build F Smy
 Has F Smy, A Tyr, A Ven, F Adr, A Tri,
 A Apu, F Ion, F Eas & F Gre

Will David Schwartz, 569 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081
 please standby for Russia? Spring 1906 moves are due by *Tuesday*, // Jan. 1977.

ITALY (Douglas Hollingsworth)
 A Ukr-Gal
 A Ser-Rum
 A Tyr-Ven ((annihilated))
 A Vie E
 F Lyo-Tyr
 F Tyr-Nap
 F Ion-Eas
 F Aeg-Dul (sc)

RUSSIA (Eric Verheiden) COA
 A Bud S
 A Tri, S ITALIAN A Vie

TURKEY (Howard Markowitz)
 A Sev-Rum
 F Smy-Aeg
 A Rom II
 F Con S F Smy-Aeg

From 16 December to 3 January, Eric Verheiden will be at 3245 SW 185th Avenue, Aloha, Ore. 97005. Could we have Spring 1907 moves with the Winter 1906 adjustments by noon, Tuesday, 4 January 1976?

SUPPLY CENTERS

COUNTRY	GAINS	LOSES	RETAINS	OWNS	BUILDS/ REMOVES
England	Spa		Var, Dre, Tun, StP, Edi, Lvp, Lon, Nwy	9	+1
France	Den, Mar	Par	-	1	-1
Germany	Par, Mar	Spa	Por, Mos, Bel, Swe, Fer, Kie, Mun, Hol	10	+1
Italy		Rom	Ser, Rum, Gre, Dul, Vie, Nap, Ven	7	0
Russia			Bud, Tri	2	0
Turkey	Rom		Sev, Anky, Con, Smy	5	+1

Players should note that Bob Sacks is running only game MG XII at the moment. The next game, MG XIII should be filled and announced by the next issue. Signed up so far are Paul Thomas, Paul Novak, Eric Goldberg, David Schwartz and Dick Trtek. If you wish to play, please let me know. Enclose a country preference list.

THERE'S NO REST BETWEEN FEUDS

"As of the first of December, 1976, I declare the entire Diplomacy Hobby to be under my control & order only. All Hobby organizations must swear immediate allegiance or be cancelled by executive order.

/signed/ His Most Imperial Excellency, Highness, Ullan Ibn Abdul-Aziz Shaikh Al-Saar Jang, by the grace of God
 DICTATOR, Protector and Beloved Leader of the Diplomacy Hobby.

(Note: Avalon-Hill, it's my trademark now. Think up some other game, and better luck next time.)"

The above letter was mailed from Boston and has been shown around New York eliciting a number of chuckles. How humorous, people have said. As if someone could just usurp power in the Diplomacy Hobby by simply announcing the fact. What a deft satire of the IDA-NA supporters!

There is, however, one problem to this interpretation to the letter. In a phone call to John Boyer I was informed that Conrad von Metzke has announced that he is now Hiller Number Custodian. This announcement is backed by the calm, irreproachable supports of Rod Walker, Fred Davis and "all of Eur-

ope" (thus Boyer).

While this may seem a reasonable enough announcement, it so happens there is a Miller Number Custodian, Robert Sacks, who is gamesmastering in this magazine. No matter. Von Metzke has simply declared Sacks is no longer Miller Number Custodian. This apparently opens up a method to deal with the \$1 fee that Beyerlein has attached to new Boardman Numbers. We in New York can simply declare someone (say Ray Feuer, who wouldn't mind the egohoo. If this group's method of replacement is to be considered proper, there is no rational reason why its employment cannot be opened to everyone. Be the first Boardman Number Custodian on your block! Depose Doug Beyerlein yourself.

But, you may say, perhaps the group who support von Metzke is correct. Perhaps Bob Sacks shouldn't be Miller Number Custodian. How do they justify this sudden action.

Well, ah, to be exact, it seems that this group doesn't like Bob Sacks.

Now, this is a very understandable reaction to Sacks. Bob is not the easiest person to get along with, and has been tossed out of several homes on the grounds that he is offensive and boring. This is indisputable.

It seems to me in my ignorance that someone's personality is a small matter is decisions of working. The first question is: does he do the job. The second is: can he be counted on to continue doing the job. After that there is really no third question.

Does Bob Sacks perform the function of Miller Number CUstodian? Well, he has sent out Miller Numbers and designators to whomever asked. He has also been busy setting up bureaucracies and organizations to foster variants, although these seem to be fouled for the moment by paperwork. Still, if Bob wants to form organizations, and if others wish to join, there is really no reason to not let him.

Can Bob be counted on to continue issuing Miller Numbers? I really can't say, but I consider him one of the most reliable people in the hobby. If I did not, I would not have asked him to run games for me.

Now, let us consider how von Metzke would do as Miller Number Custodian. He has held the post in the past. However, his activity in the Hobby can be charted on the image of a sine curve. Do any of the readers remember the mess when he dropped out in 1974? He left half a hundred games as player, orphaned thirty games, and so fouled up the Boardman Numbers that their actuality was in doubt for half a year.

The most telling argument against von Metzke's usurpation is that of chaos. If von Metzke can declare himself to hold a hobby position, then anyone can do so. People may claim that those who support von Metzke are intelligent well-known people who would not do this if it is not absolutely necessary. But it is not necessary, and it opens the way to that Miller Number Custodian on every block.

I think I'll ask Ullan Iban Abdul-Aziz what to do. He's running things now.

THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE #59
c/o Robert Bryan Lipton
556 Green Place
Woodmere, N.Y. 11598 USA

TONY WATSON TRADE
201 MINNESOTA STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEV. 89107

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