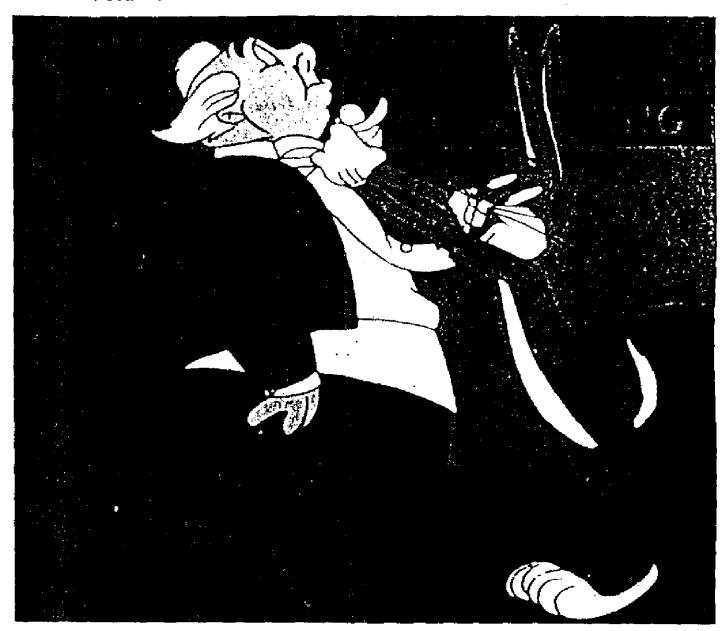
NORTHERN FLAME

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GALA 100th ISSUE!

DEADLINE: Friday August 5th, 2005 (Birthdate of Joseph Merrick - the Elephant Man and the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong)

You're Probably Wondering Why I'm Here

"Never ever wake up before 10; never go to bed before 3. Normal hours are for normal people. You never want to be normal." - Paris Hilton

As rare as it is for me to admit to watching television, I am doing so in order to make a plea. "Arrested Development" was only barely renewed for a third season. It is far too good for television but let's try to fluff up those viewing figures, shall we? I should caution new-comers that it takes at least two or three episodes to get into it but it is well worth the effort. As per usual, Jeffrey Tambour excels, Justin Bateman proves there is life (outside the justice system) after being a child star and Ron Howard's unbilled narration is worth the price of admission. Better still, no laugh track - just sharp, edgy humour.

There's a rather amusing irony out there that I have not seen a whole lot of comment on. Perhaps you believe that the U.S.A. spent billions of dollars and risked countless lives for the privilege of being able to buy oil at an artificially, cartel-inflated, price from one more country than before (when month-over-month Canada is the U.S.A.'s number one source of imported oil). However, as the oil-for-food scandal continues to unravel and as we learn just which nations and exactly which individuals were profiting from this swindle of unprecedented proportions it quickly becomes apparent that oil was in fact the motivation behind the anti war in Iraq movement.

A while back Andy Lischett shared some fun by guessing what cars his subscribers drove based on their personalities. It would also be fun, if impractical, to speculate what people use for their passwords. If anything, overzealous security measures make workplace computers less secure. For example, I can think of thirteen passwords that I might need to use in a single day at work. People have taken to writing them out and taping them to the side of their monitors. At least one has written, "Knock yourself out" across the top of his list.

Now it is apparent why the curse of the Babe was lifted from the Boston Red Sox: the Yankees are conspiring to vacate the House That Ruth Built (also known as the house built for Ruth in light of that generous right field fence). Let's see how long it is until the Yankees' next World Series victory.

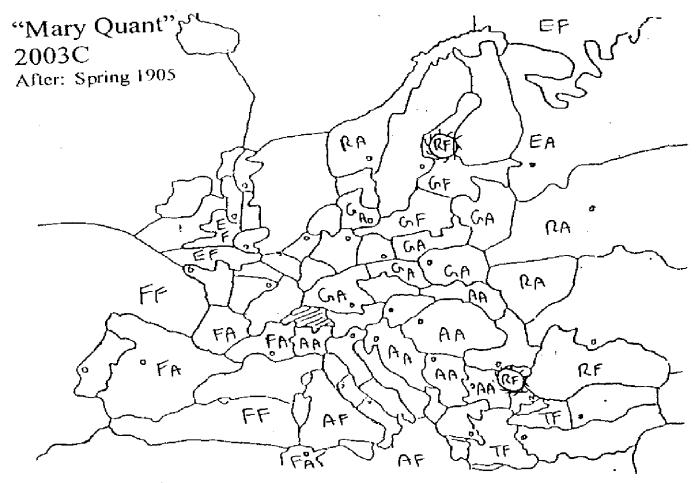
I won't go on for a full page this time but I've another half marathon on my resume, this time in Mississauga. No one died on this run but someone did collapse on the shuttle bus back to the start line. I eclipsed my personal best by nearly seven minutes. I might have done even better but there weren't enough loos at the start line and I slipped into a McDonalds a couple of kilometres into the run on account of all my pre-race coffee. The most fun was when the run took us past a retirement residence. They had a row of chairs set up and when I saw the hands extended I swerved off to the side and got a millennium or two worth of high fives.

I expect this intrigues me mainly because I am more or less unilingual but I've noticed how frequently the liner notes on my CDs are obviously different for each language, not simply translations. Deutsche Grammophon leads the league in this category.

I don't know if I'm being overly-Sengitive or not but even after almost six months it still doesn't seem right to see Tsunami scented body spray or the Tsunami Platter at my local sushi place.

A quick review of how to get free issues out of me: send me a shopping bag from a Mary Quant boutique OR send me some cold Samuel Adams Boston (Stock) Ale. Neither ever happens.

In case you've ever wondered, AIR cites an article by J.H. Bond and M.D. Levitt from Gastroenterology, vol 77 no. 6, December 1979, pp.1349-50, "Colonic Gas Explosion -Is a Fire Extinguisher Necessary?"



Autumn 1904: Austria retreats A Bul to SER; Russia retreats a Lvn to MOS;

Winter 1904: Germany builds A KIE;

AUSTRIA(David Partridge): A Gre-BUL; A SER S A Gre-Bul; F Lyo-TYN; F ION S F Lyo-Tyn; A Boh-GAL; A Vie-BUD; A Ven-TRI; A Tus-PIE;

ENGLAND(Robert Paquin): A Nwy-STP; F BAR S A Nwy-StP;
 F ENG-Mao; F Lon-WAL;

FRANCE(Frank Easton-see below): A Bre-SPA; F MAO C A Bre-Spa; A MAR S A Bre-Spa; A Bur-GAS; F WES-Tyn; A TUN H;

GERMANY(Harold Reynolds): A Kie-DEN; F Swe-BOT; F BAL S F Swe-BOT; A LVN S A War-Mos; A WAR-Mos; A PRU-War; A SIL S A Pru-War; A MUN S A Sil;

RUSSIA(Brandon Pahl): A Fin-NWY; F Bot-StP(disl/ret Fin, otb);

A MOS S F Bot-StP; A UKR S A Mos; F BLA S F Bul(ec);

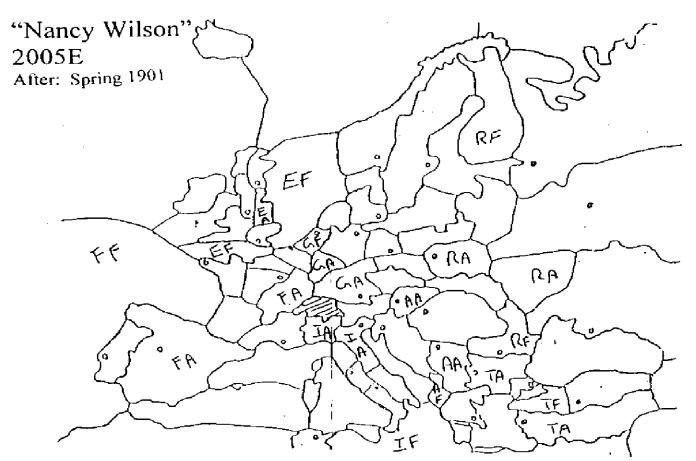
F Bul(ec) S F Bal(disl/ret Rum, otb);

TURKEY(Tim Snyder): F AEG S F Con; F CON S AUS A Gre-Bul;

With this turn Frank Easton is resigning. Glenn McMaster will be stepping in for him as France.

PRESS:

TUR-RUS: Con-Bul? Are you trying to set the record for most enemies?



AUSTRIA(Fred Wiedemeyer): F Tri-ALB; A VIE-Gal; A Bud-SER;

ENGLAND(Kevin Wilson): F Lon-ENG; F Edi-NTS; A Lpl-YOR;

FRANCE(Vance Copeland): A Par-BUR; F Bre-MAO; A Mar-SPA;

GERMANY(Paul Milewski): A Mun-RUH; A Ber-MUN; F Kie-HOL;

ITALY (Brandon Pahl): F Nap-ION; A Rom-VEN; A Ven-PIE;

RUSSIA(Art Scheinkofer): F StP(sc)=FIN; F Sev-RUM; A Mos-UKR;
A WAR-Gal;

TURKEY (Dale Horsley): A Con-BUL; A SMY H; F Ank-CON;

PRESS:

FRA-ITA: Hello?

FRA-RUS: Thanks. We'll talk later, again.

FRA-GER: Nice. Lots of smiles.

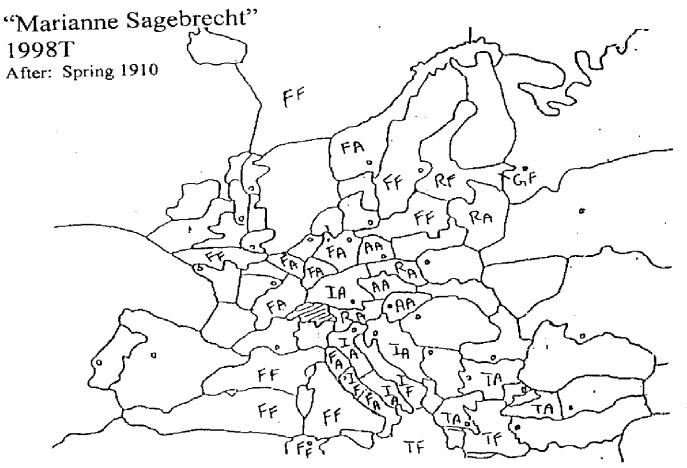
FRA-ENG: I am pleased with your offer.

ENG-ALL: I don't have e-mail. Please write me or phone me.

AUS-ITA: I hope things are OK between us. Peace?

St. Petersburg to the heads of Europe: The Czar sends greetings to the leaders of all the nations of Europe and to the great Turkish Empire. Diplomatic messages have been received from all the great nations except the Great Austro-Hungarian Empire. Since we have no idea whether that empire is a threat to us or not we have ordered troops into Galicia strictly as a defensive measure. We hate to cross into lands that are not ours and upset the local population, but we must make sure Bussia is safe.

The Nancy Wilson game continues opposite, at the bottom of the page



AUSTRIA (Tim Snyder): A Vie-BOH; A Bud-VIE; A BER S ITA A Mun;

FRANCE(Dale Horsley): Par-BUR; A KIE H; A NWY-Fin; A Bur-BEL;
A RUH S A Kie; A Pie-TUS; A NAP-Rom; F Bre-ENG; F Mar-LYO;
F Nts-NWG; F Den-BAL; F NAF-TUN; F WES S F Tyn;
F TYN S A Nap-Rom; F SWE S F Den-Bal;

GERMANY(Glenn McMaster): F STP(sc) H;

ITALY(David Partridge): A Tri-APU; F ADR C A Tri-Apu; A Ser-TRI;
A Tus-VEN: F ROM-Nap; A MUN uno (H);

RUSSIA(Frank Easton-see below): <u>F BOT-Fin</u>; A LVN-StP; <u>A SIL S ITA A Mun</u>; <u>A TYO S ITA A Tri-Ven(nso</u>);

TURKEY (Gerry Paulson): F ION S ITA F Rom-Nap; F AEG S F Ion; A GRE H; A BUL H; A CON H;

Frank Easton has resigned his position. Jim Grose will be taking over as Russia.

PRESS:

ROME: Still no news from our couriers? Were they intercepted en route by French agents? Have there been coups in our allies' capitals? The generals offer prayers that the dispatches made it through and issue their orders accordingly.

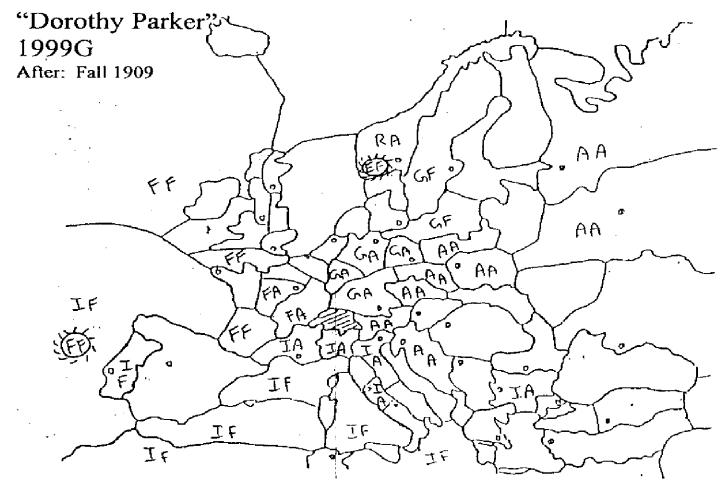
The Nancy Wilson Game (continued):

ENG-FRA: When I didn't hear from you I felt compelled to make sure, that ENG was either empty or English.

ENG-GER: Maybe F was too busy corresponding with you to drop me a note. I guess I'll know soon enough.

ENG-everyone else: To those of you who did write, thanks. For those . who didn't, why not?

ENG-everyone: Obviously, I'm not the exceptionally creative type when it comes to writing press. Someone, please, take over and make us all laugh a bit from time to time.



AUSTRIA (Robert Paquin): A TYO-Mun; A TRI-Mun(imp); A PRU-Ber;
A Lvn-STP; A BOH S A Tyo-Mun; A WAR-Pru; A SIL S A Pru-Ber;
A MOS S A Lvn-StP;

FRANCE(Peter Boyum): F Mao S F Gas(otm/disl/ret Bre, Iri, otb);
F NAO S F Mao; F ENG S F Mao; F GAS-Spa(nc); A BUR-Mar;
A Pic-PAR;

GERMANY(Fred Wiedemeyer): F SWE S RUS A Fin-Nwy; A RUH S A Mun;
A MUN holds a convention for all his bodyguards(H);
F BAL S A Ber; A BER salutes the naval vessel guarding her(H);
A KIE S A Mun;

ITALY(Peter Duxon): F POR S F Spa(sc)-Mao; F Spa(sc)-MaO;
F NAF S F Spa(sc)-Mao; F WES S F Spa(sc)-Mao; F LYO-Spa(sc);
F TYN-Lyo; A PIE-Mar; A MAR-Gas; A ROM S A Ven; A VEN H;
A BUL H; F ION H;

RUSSIA(Tim Snyder): A Fin-NWY;

SUPPLY CENTRES AFTER 1909:

Home, Ser, Rum, Sev, War, Mos, STP A: (9) Build one E : (0) Thanks, Mario Par, Bre, Lpl, Bel, Edi, Lon F: (6) Even G:Home, Hol, Swe, Den (6) Even Home, Tun, Gre, Con, Bul, Smy, Spa, Ank (12) Even Por, Mar R: StP, NWY (1) Even

<u>Draw Proposals</u>: From last time the A/I did not pass. This time out please vote on a four-way $\Lambda/I/F/G$ and a five-way $\Lambda/F/G/I/R$.

The Dorothy Parker Game continues, opposite:

The Dorothy Parker Game (continued):

PRESS:

Pete-Peter: How was Alconbury?

GER-FRA: Hang tough.

GER-AUS/ITA: If you don't want a 5 way draw - look each other in the mirror.

GER-GM: After this season, can I just submit my moves and ask you to use them until further notice?

FRA-GER: Keep up the good work Kaiser. We're in a tough situation at the moment, but we'll get past these difficulties and celebrate the downfall of a tyrant one day in Rome. That perfidious pesky petulant polluter of the Mediterranean Sea will be thrown back on his backside in such a manner that the world will find him rummaging through trash cans looking for a strand of spaghetti with which to nourish his creaking bones. His jack boots have trodden on a million backs.

One time not too long ago we met in a casino—I believe it was in Monaco—I remember clearly. An elderly lady with a walker was moving too slowly for our Italian friend. He kicked her over and threw her walker over a balcony into the pool. The poor lady lay there gasping for air. He bent over, removed her dentures, scratched his backside with these dentures then replaced the dentures in the old lady's mouth. His evil laugh could be heard throughout the casino. He kicked poor woman a few times then went on his way. I was in a glass elevator only a few feet away but a malfunction had trapped me between floors—a witness to his vile behaviour. I pounded on the glass but to no avail. As soon as power was restored, I raced over but was too late. He had vanished by the time I arrived. I vowed then and there to avenge the poor lady lying crumpled at my feet.

Now Italy wants to destroy me to keep me quiet. I can't stand idly by while this miserable malodorous mongrel monkey rapes and pillages. He must be stopped. Even though the poor elderly woman he defiled in the casino survived, she was forced to enter the witness protection program so he couldn't find her. Yet he searches still.

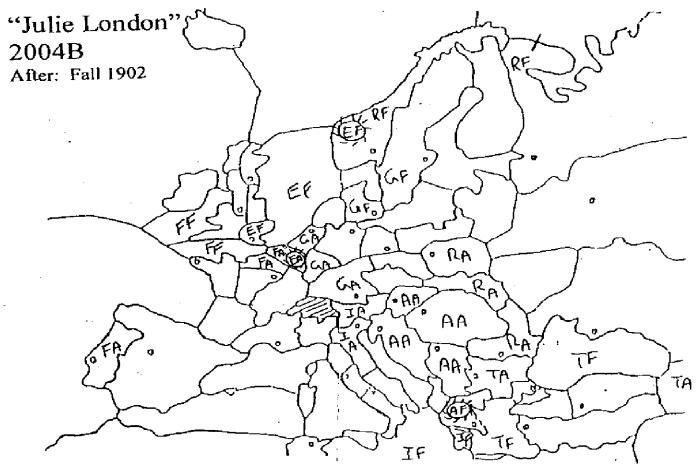
FRA-AUS: Turn on Italy. There is one important detail of the crime he committed against that dear wonderful elderly lady in Monaco that I didn't share with the Kaiser. I saved that detail for you. She was wearing a shawl over her stooped shoulders with the Austrian flag on it. Italy became enraged at the site of your flag. When he kicked her over and after he tossed her walker into the swimming pool, he threw that shawl onto the floor and stomped on it. He yelled, "Viennese pastry? I think not! It's more like Viennese patsy!" The crowd stepped back just a bit. Then he urinated on the shawl with its proud Austrian flag disappearing under a torrent of yellow abuse. That shameless shouting charlatan will stop at nothing. You must turn on him now. Germany and I stand behind you. Avenge the shawl!

FRA-ENG: Hang in there.

FRA-RUS: You too, Tsar. Do what you can. Germany and France stand united against the ignoble irresponsible icky Italian.

FRA-ITA: Bring it on! I'm going to kick your miserable backside so hard I'll have to rest my weary foot. The talk here on the Champs D'Allysee (or however the hell you spell it) is that you have a tattoo of Michael Jackson on your left butt cheek. And Wham! on your right butt cheek. I'm going to parade you around Paris wearing only cuff-links for all to see.

"As a piece of good taste [his essay on George Sterlin] ranks with that statuette of the Milo Venus with the clock in her stomach" - Dorothy Parker reviewing a piece in the New Yorker from 1927 by Upton Sinclair



Summer 1902: France retreats A Bel to PIC:

AUSTRIA(Peter Boyum): F Gre S TUR F Aeg-Ion(nso/disl/ret Alb, otb);
A VIE-Tyo: A TRI S A Vie-Tyo: A SER S F Gre; A BUD S A Tri;

ENGLAND(Brandon Pahl): F Wal-LON; A Bel H(disl/annih);
 F NTS S A Bel; F Nwy B(disl/ret Bar, Nwg, Ska, otb);

FRANCE(David Partridge): A Spa-POR; A PIC S A Bur-Bel; A Bur-BEL;
F ENG-Nts; F Mao-IRI;

GERMANY(Fred Wiedemeyer): A HOL S FRE A Bur-Bel; A RUB S A Sil-Mun;
A Sil-MUN; F Bal-SWE; F DEN S F Bal-Swe;

ITALY(Robert Paquin): F Ion-GRE; F Nap-ION; A VEN S A Tyo;
A TYO S A Ven;

RUSSIA(Dale Horsley): A Ukr-WAR; A Sev-RUM; A Rum-GAL;
 F Swe-NWY; F STP(nc) S F Swe-Nwy;

TURKEY(Dan Gavrilovic): A ARM H; FiBLA S A Bul;
A BUL S ITA F Ion-Gre; F AEG S ITA F Ion-Gre;

SUPPLY CENTRES AFTER 1902:

Home, Ser, Gre (4) Remove one/Even A: Home, Nwy, la (3) Even/Build one F: Home, Spa, Bel, POR (6) Build one Home, Hol, Den, SWE G: (6) Build one I: Home, Tun, GRE (5) Build one (6) Build one R: Home, Swe, Rum, la, NWY Home, Bul T: (4) Even The Austrian and English adjustments depend on their retreats.

The Julie London Game continues, opposite:

The Julie London Game (continued):

PRESS:

GER-ENG: Didn't hear from you anymore. Where did you go.?

AUS-ITA: My ravioli rascal! What are you doing in Tyrolia? I must ask that you remove your dung-munching troops from peaceful Tyrolia. While you're at it, vacate Venice as well. There is no further point in your oppressive occupation of that fine city. I'll take over and shown those fine folks what a true friend is. You sly dog! You've been talking a fine game while reaching into my back pocket to steal my wallet. I know what you want. I have the list of women and children you have abused and thrown into carnal servitude. If the other fine players in this game saw that list, you'd be up fecal creek.

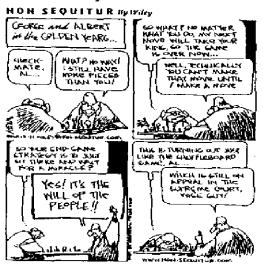
AUS-TUR: If there is anything I can do to help, let me know. I'm especially anxious to help you against that swineherd Italy. I have proof on film that he desecrated the monument to Mother Teresa then blamed it on you. On to Rome! You should under no circumstances have to tolerate his badmouthing of the Sultan. By the way, I think the Sultan is a wonderful, kind, and generous military thinker. Italy's favourable comparison of the Sultan and a dog's shaved backside is completely out of place and absurd. Avenge Italy's trash talking! To hear him discussing the Sultan's wife's personal habits is beyond the pale. She does not drink Iron City beer from a bedpan in her underwear. Everyone knows she drinks Corona with a twist of lime.

AUS-RUS: I hope you're not thinking of invading the Lipizzaner Empire. If your intentions are peaceful, let's talk. Don't listen to anything the Italiano says. Can you trust the judgment of anyone who believes Brittany Spears has real talent? I mean, let's face facts. He has all of Brittany's albums/CDs. He goes to all her concerts (dressed as Russian peasant in drag). He has posters of her all over his house (it's not really his house—he stole it from Russian immigrants). Do I need say more? Just say NO to Italian intrigue.

AUS-FRA: If you have any sort of alliance with Italy, break it , immediately. Nothing good can come of it. He has his cranium up his exit portal so far he can no longer think clearly. To hear him say it, the Champs Elysees is the Chump's Alleyway. And don't forget Italy's ad campaign: French wine is for French swine. Don't allow yourself to be abused this way. Monsieur le president, you must take action now.

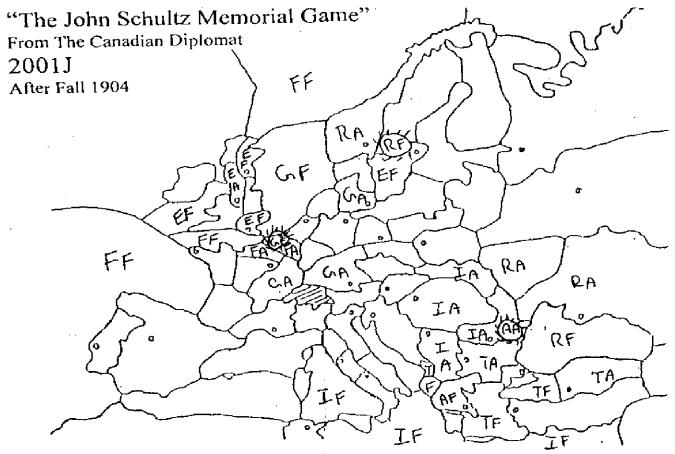
AUS-ENG: Greetings!

AUS-GER: I hope you haven't defiled yourself by agreeing to any action proposed by the ignoble Italian. He told me just the other day that you had the worst wurst on the planet. He further told me that the only Kaiser roll he wanted to see was you going downhill into a pile of horse feathers. When he mentions a Kraut Dog he's not at Wienerschnitzel. He is referring derisively to you! Don't let him say these things. Act now!





"I don't know much about this guy as a hitter. Let's see what it says an his bubblegum card."



AUSTRIA(Jim Grose): F GRE-Bul; A Rum-Ser; (disl/annih);

ENGLAND(Jim Lewis): F EDI-Nwg; A LPL-Edi; F IRI-Eng;
F LON S F Iri-Eng; F Bal-SWE;

FRANCE(Grant Current): F MAO S F Eng; F ENG S A Bur-Bel; F NWG-Nts; A PIC S A Bur-Bel; A Bur-BEL;

GERMANY(Barry Hickey): F NTS S ENG F Iri-Eng; A Ruh-BUR;
F Bel-Pic(disl/ret Ruh, Hol, otb); MUN S A Ruh-Bur;
A DEN S ENG F Bal-Swe;

ITALY(Hugh Polley): F Ion-EAS; F ALB-Gre; F TYN S F Nap-Ion;
F Nap-ION; A Ser-Rum; A BUD S A Ser-Rum; A GAL-War;
A Tri-SER;

RUSSIA(Frank Easton-see below): A UKR-War; A SEV-Ukr;

F Swe S A Fin-Nwy(disl/ret Ska, Bot, Fin, otb); A Fin-NWY;

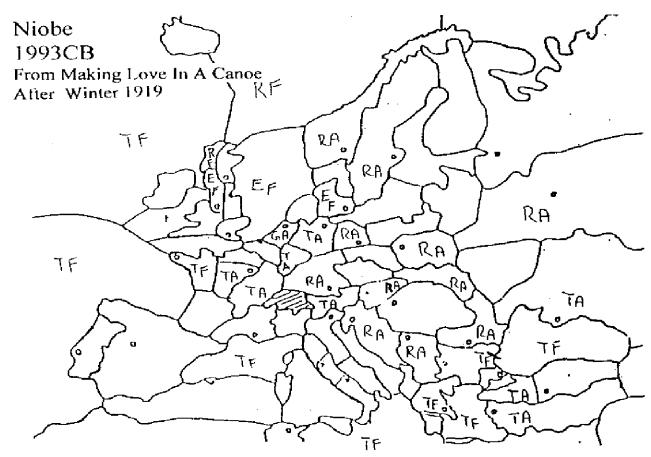
F BLA S AUS A Rum(otm);

TURKEY(Gerry Paulson): A ANK-Con; F Ion-Eas(nsu); F CON-Ion(imp);
A BUL S AUS A Rum-Ser; F AEG uno(H);

Frank Easton has resigned form this game. Thank you for submitting final orders. Joseph Stark will be taking over the role of Russia.

SUPPLY CENTRES AFTER 1904:

A: Gre, la (1) Even E: Home, Den, Ber, SWE (5) Even F: Home, Por, Spa, BEL (6) Build one (4) Even/Remove one Mun, Kie, Swe, Bel, DEN Home, Tun, Tri, Vie, Bud, Ser, RUM (9) Build one R: StP, Mos, Sev, Nwy, War, (5) Even/Build one Home, Bul Т: (4) Even Germany and Russia's build situations depend on their retreats.



Separate seasons by request.

ENGLAND(Vance Copeland): No adjustments: has f NTS, F DEN, F LPL;

GERMANY (Tim Snyder): Removes A Pic: has A HOL;

RUSSIA(Fred Wiedemeyer): Retreats A Bul to SER: Builds A MOS, A WAR; Has A MOS, A WAR, A GAL, F CLY, A BER, A SER, A SWE, A VIE, A TRI, A MUN, A NWY, A RUM, F NWG;

TURKEY(Chris Gesell): Retreats A Vie to TYO; Builds A SMY, A CON; Has A SMY, A CON, A SEV, F BLA, F BUL(ec), F AEG, F GRE, F ION, A TYO, F LYO, F MAO, F BRE, F NAO, A PAR, A KIE, A BUR, A RUH;

Draw_Proposal: From last time, the two-way R/T did not pass.

The John Schultz Memorial Game (continued): PRESS:

A-H-ITA, RUS, TUR: Two strategically positioned units of mine at your disposal and no one sends me a single message.

ENG-A/H: You are surrounded be a turkey!?

ENG-ITA: My war minister is Rome

ENG-TUR: Will you be my friend?

ENG-FRA: Thank you for the warning: is that an offer of peace?

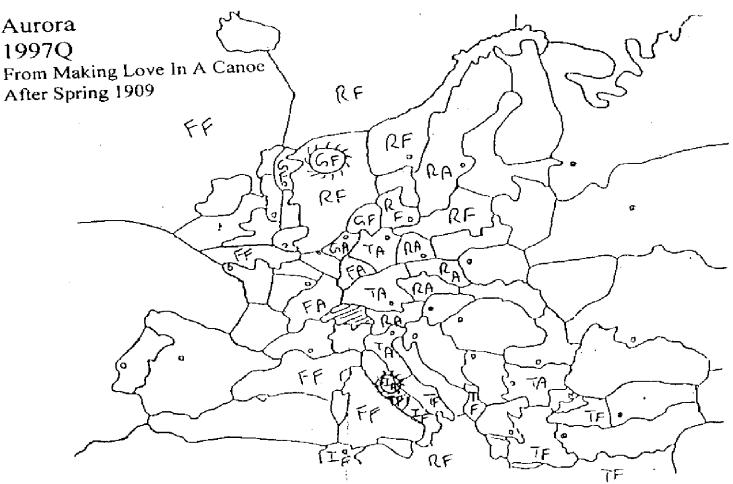
ENG-RUS: Get out of SWE now!

ENG-GER: "We are the world"

Italian General to Prime Minister: When up against equal fire power attack what the enemy is not occupying.

Italy to T/R toadying Austrian army in Exile: Just think if you had followed my directions you would now be in Vie.

Italy to Russia: Looking to feast on Turkey without doing any of the heavy lifting? Why am I not surprised!



Autumn 1908: France retreats F Nwg otb; Italy retreats A Ven to APU;

Winter 1908: France builds F BRE, F MAR;

Italy removes A Apu; Turkey builds F CON;

FRANCE(Fred Wiedemeyer): F Bre-ENG; F Mar-LYO; F Wes-TYN; F NAO-Nwg: A BUR S A Ruh; A RUH S GER A Hol-Kic(nso);

GERMANY(Andy Lischett): F EDI-Nts; F HEL S F Edi-Nts;
F Nts-Nwy(disl/ret Bel, Lon, Yor, otb); A HOL S FRE A Ruh;

ITALY(Tim Snyder): A Rom S F Nap(disl/ret Tus, otb);
F NAP S FRE F Wes-Tyn; F TUN S FRE F Wes-Tyn;

RUSSIA(Peter Duxon): F NWG-Edi; F NWY S F Ska-NLs; F Ska-NTS;
A SWE S F Den; F DEN S F Ska-Nts; F BAL S TUR A Ber(nsu);
A BER S TUR A Ber(nsu); A SIL S TUR A Mun; A BOH S TUR A Mun;
A TYO S TUR A Ven; F ION C TUR A Bul-Nap;

TURKEY(Robert Paquin): A BUL-Nap; F Adr-APU; F EAS S RUS F Ion: F Tyn-ROM; A MUN S A Kie; F AEG C A Bul-Nap; F Gre-ALB; F CON-Bul(sc); A VEN S F Tyn-Rom; A KIE S A Mun;

<u>Draw Proposals:</u> From last time the R/T two-way did not pass. This time out please vote on a four-way F/G/R/T.

PRESS:

STP-BER: Many thanks for the letter, ever so sorry for not getting back to you not much time at the mo. Poor excuse but.... Understand what you mean about the draw and I wouldn't vote for it in your place and never would but then I never proposed it. Hope the new one is more preferable.

ITA-FRA: We're not licked yet!

"Edina Monsoon" 1995CA – Endgame Statement:

TIM SNYDER writes: "Congratulations again to Bob on the win. I came in late and didn't realize he'd been down to .. SC earlier. Quite an achievement.

"When I began as a standby, Germany & England had a larger Turkey bottled up in the corner. Mike Gonsalves (England) had written me that Bob (Turkey) took pride in the fact that he always told the truth. So, when Bob offered me a two-way draw, I accepted, thinking he would stick with it. That turned out not to be the case - oh well, live and learn.

"Before long, Mike had NMRed out (another factor in my accepting Bob's offer). I discussed with Art (the new England) that I was pretty confident I could get a 2-way, but would include him in a 3-way draw if the 2-way somehow didn't come about. It was clear that Art could pretty much give the game to Bob at any time if he so chose; I could only hope that he would prefer the chance to be in a 3-way draw instead.

"It became clear in 1917 that someone was against the 2-way; I'll be interested to hear who vetoed it as both Art and Bob had agreed not to vote against it. In Fall 1918 it became equally clear that Bob had abandoned our deal, as he attacked Spain for what would have been his 18th centre. In 1919 he got the needed support from Art to win and made up a justification for taking the centre.

"I look forward to hearing why Art chose to end the game when he did. Once Turkey and I stopped cooperating, it seems like he could easily have insisted on a 3-way draw. I also look forward to reading Bob's take on things. Perhaps Mike wasn't correct in thinking Bob wouldn't stab, or maybe Bob allows deception based on the letter of an agreement vs. the spirit of an agreement (which would certainly lead me to be very specific with him in our future games). Anyhow, the dynamics of the endgame were much more interesting than I might have expected, and everyone was good to deal with. Congratulations, Bob, and thanks, Robert!" ((Thanks for your comments, Tim. Like Arthur used to say on the Larry Sanders Show, "Excellent as always, sirs!"))

HOBBYSTUFF

CAL WHITE writes: "Doug e-mailed me today and said that there will not be a CanCon this year. He has a business related activity that day that he cannot afford to miss. Business has been bad in his industry and there have even been a few new gaming stores open up in Barrie.

"I have asked him what the costs involved are, but haven't heard from him. If they aren't too outrageous, there's a (small) chance that I may opt to finance the Con this year, but that will only happen if Doug can still do the liaison work with the Uni.

"I'll let you know. It doesn't look hopeful."

Be sure to visit <www.vancouverdiplomacy.ca> for a look at the details of Vancouver's bid for World Dip Con 2007. It would be fun to have WDC in Canada again. The first and last time was Toronto 1991 put on by CanCon which is to say Cal White and Doug Acheson.

The World Boardgaming Championships are being held in Lancaster, PA from August 2nd through to the 7th. Perhaps my Pennsylvanian connection will be able to visit and file a report. Details can be found at <www.boardgamers.org>.

In The Sack with Robert

TIM'SNYDER writes: "Neat column last time. We now have a Pacific Coast League team in Austin; the Round Rock Express moved up to AAA this year. Sarah and I went to our first weeknight game in April. It's definitely a different crowd - fewer children, more applause for quality play (such as moving up a runner), and a lot more drinking per capita. We also noticed how many Cubs fans there were and how much better our seats were (2nd row down the third base line - I had to agree to take any foul balls headed for Sarah)." ((Thanks for the report. I was wondering if the PCI, had survived and in what form.))

PETER DUXON writes: "off next week birding so better get these in promptly.

"As I said earlier, my sympathies to all who new him regarding Phil Reynolds.

"I'm about to book my first trip across the pond for next year. No need for everyone to fear as I'll be in Trinidad & Tobago!

"Well the nation has spoken and we get Mr. Blair with a reduced majority. My constituency had 3 redounts before the incumbent Labour MP got back with a majority of 97 votes! That said Blair is standing down before the next election. ((It is worth noting that, chattering classes aside, both President Bush and Prime Minister Blair were quite handily re-elected while M. Chirac has recently suffered a humiliating defeat in an EU-referendum and Herr Schroeder is expected to suffer a similar electoral misfortune in fairly short order.))

"I don't know if you are aware but during the US election a UK newspaper urged its reader to write! to the residents of Clark County (no idea where it is myself) to vote Kerry. Well BBC Radio 4 went there to ask the residents of CC what they thought of the British elections. Most of them hadn't heard of Blair - got to feel sorry for him since if he hadn't backed the US he'd have done much better in the polls over here. The local democrat wanted anyone but Blair and the republican said that we Brits it didn't matter as we don't have a proper democracy. He was a bit taken back when the BBC interviewer said well will this mean a request to the UN for sanctions and if that doesn't work send in the troops? He quickly backtracked. ((One can easily speculate what the response would have been if American readers had urged anyone, anywhere, to vote a particular way. I can hear the chants now. My sense is that some Americans have a tough time accepting that a Constitutional Monarchy is a "proper democracy" -1776 and all that.)}

"Any chance of any Hockey next season?" ((The newspapers seem to think so. Clearly, time is on their side but the NHL just lost a lucrative television contract so now everyone's pie is that much smaller. I imagine the pubs are hurting, some more than others, but I enjoy being able to reach the bar this time of year without having to squeeze through a crush of knuckle-draggers. While I'm at it, we are learning to distinguish between the NHL and hockey. You can have one without the other.))

Song Lyric of the Issue: Looking back, I fear that I am giving the impression that I most appreciate rude lyrics so I am either going to have to go for cute or clever this time out. Let's do clever: "We touched like watercolour fawns, in landscapes painted by Cezanne." Michael Franks also penned, "I hear from my ex, on the back of my cheques." We'll do cute next time.

ON TURNING 100 AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

One thing that continues is the pace of things at NFV2. Casey Stengel, who managed the New York Yankees at their very best and the New York Mets at their very worst, once said, "It ain't what you do that matters so much, it's staying up all night doing it.", so there's no point in making excuses for tardiness.

Meinel's Encyclopedia of Postal Diplomacy Zines, published in 1992, lists 41 'zines that made it to 100 issues. I know of several that have passed the century mark in the past 13 years but I still think the total is less than 50.

It needs to be pointed out that Cal White published the first 51 issues. Ever one to enjoy prolonging the festivities, this means that next issue will be my 50th and the one after that marks the point where I have put out as many issues as Cal. After then I hope I can trim things down to one ounce and start economizing on postage.

I never did get around to explaining my two year swoon. I started writing an explanatory article and it turned into a two-pager. Maybe some day...

Regarding the John Schultz Memorial Game, I received the comment, "this is a game for the ages - more than a year per game year?!" which reminded me that Tom Howell was pondering the possibility that this game and one of Bob's other games, 2002E (the one I did not take on) may have had their Boardman Numbers switched. More on this as events merit.

Returning to Casey Stengel, when the Yankees clinched the pennant in 1958 he said, "I couldn't have done it without the players." It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you. I feel as though you compliment me with every set of orders and you flatter me with every game start. By my rough estimation I have shaken hands with about a third of you and I have a reasonable expectation of doubling that figure but to pinch a phrase from Ronald Newmaster (perhaps butchering it in the process) I consider you all "friends not yet seen".

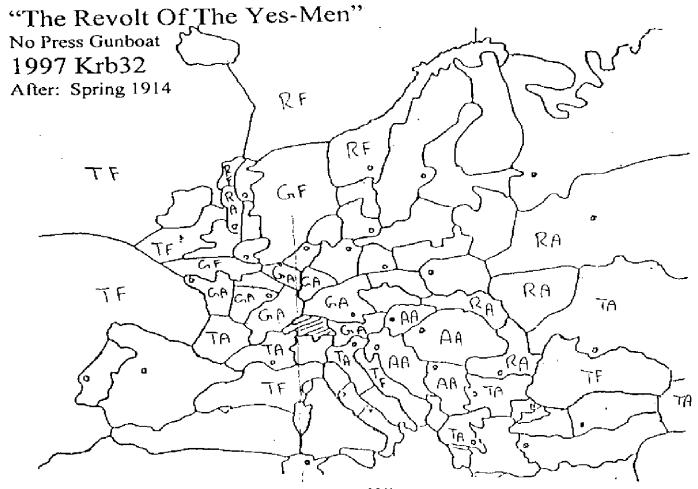
Dances With Wolfgang

Robert S. Chopin-Liszt

'If we cannot be free, at least we can be cheap.' - Frank Zappa

Uwe Schmidt is a German national residing, last I heard, in Chile. He has recorded under a variety of monikers - Atom Heart, to name but one. Under the name Senior Coconut (Y Su Conjunto) he has released a disc of Kraftwerk interpretations entitled 'El Baile Aleman'. The hook is that these covers are done in various Latin styles. His opening to 'Autobahn' is more in line with my automotive experience than the sounds of Kraftwerk's finely crafted vehicle turning over. In fact, Kraftwerk's 'Tour de France' sounds a lot more like my car than anything else they have recorded. The fun stems from the contrast between the sterile, robotic perfection of the originals and the caution to the wind emotion of Latin music. And just when you think you have heard it all, along comes, yes, the 'Tour De France' meringue. This disc is great fun and the fact is, it really does work. I found myself wishing they had covered 'The Model' but that's just a quibble. If you get the chance, give it a spin.

In the spirit of covers done in an unusual manner comes 'The Beatles Gregorian Songbook: The Liverpool Manuscripts' by Schola Musica. As the title suggests, this is a dozen Beatles tracks performed as Gregorian Chant. Some pieces work better than others but over all it is much less of a novelty item than I was expecting. Mercifully, the liner notes are on just the right side of the demarcation between cute and clever. As the conductor notes, there is a spiritual element to many of the Beatles' works, largely, but not entirely, George's influence, so this isn't quite the stretch, say, the disc above is.



Russia retreats F Nao to CLY; Autumn 1913:

Germany builds A KIE; Winter 1913: Russia builds F STP(nc), A WAR;

A BUB-Ser; A TRI S A Bud-Ser; A VIE S A Tri; A SER-Bul; AUSTRIA:

A Kie-RUH; A PAR-Gas; A BRE S A Par-Gas; **GERMANY:**

A BUR S A Par-Gas; A MUN S A Bur; A TYO-Pie; A BEL-Wal; F ENG C A Bel-Wal; F NTS S F Eng;

A LPL H; F CLY S A Lpl; A UKR S A Rum-Sev; RUSSIA: A RUM-Sev: A MOS S A Rum-Sev; F StP(nc)-NWY; A War-GAL; F NWG-Nao;

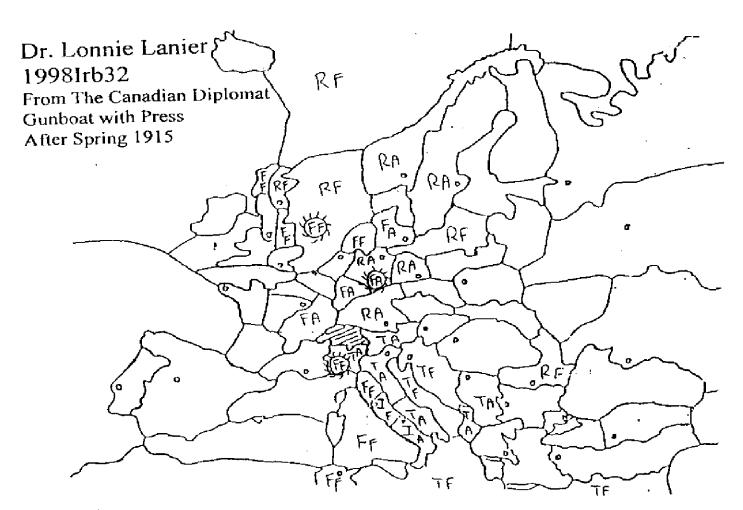
A ARM S A Sev; F MAO S A Gas; F IRI-Wal; F NAO-Iri; A VEN-Pie; F ADR-Ven; A GRE S A Bul; F Pie-LYO; TURKEY:

A BUL S AUS A Bud-Rum(nso); F BLA S A Sev; A MAR S A Gas; A SEV S AUS A Bud-Rum(nso); A GAS A AUS A Vie-Gal(nso);

With your next set of orders please vote on a three-DRAW PROPOSAL: way G/R/T draw.

DILBERTAN PROPERTY AND STATE OF THE PROPERTY O





Autumn 1914: Russia retreats F Dem to BAL:

Winter 1914: France builds A PAR; Italy builds F ROM;

FRANCE: F TUN-Ion; F TYN S F Tun-Ion; F TUS S ITA F Rom(otm);
F Pie S F Tus(disl/ret Lyo, Mar, otb); A DEN S A Kie;
A Kie S A Den(disl/ret Hol, otb); F HEL S A Den;

A Kie S A Den(disl/ret Hol, otb); F HEL S A Den; A Bur-RUH; A Par-BUR; F Nao-CLY; F YOR-Edi; F Nts-Nwy(disl/ret Lon, Eng, Bel, Hol, Ska, otb);

ITALY: F ROM-Tyn; F NAP S F Rom-Tyn(nsu); A NAP uno (H);

RUSSIA: F RUM H; F Nwy-NTS; F EDI S F Nwy-Nts; F NWG S F Nwy-Nts;

A Fin-NWY: A SWE S A Fin-Nwy: A Mun-KIE: A Sil-MUN;

A BER S Λ Mun-Kie; F BAL S A Mun-Kie;

TURKEY: A SER H; A VEN S A Tyo-Pie; A ALB H; A Tyo-PIE;

A Vie-TYO; A APU H; F TRI H; F ADR S A Apu; F ION H;

F EAS S F lon;

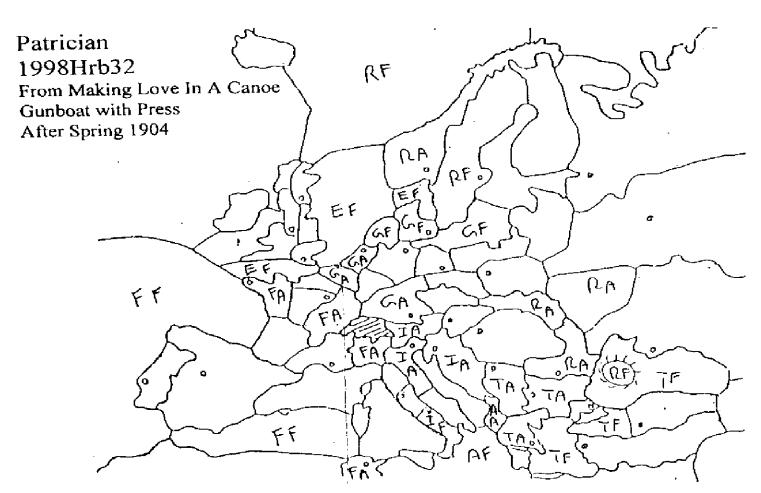
<u>DRAW PROPOSAL</u>: The R/T draw received no 'NO' votes but it was not unanimous so it is automatically re-proposed and this time out, a NVR will count as a 'YES' vote.

PRESS:

FRA-RUS/TUR: CONGRATULATIONS! You two have a strong alliance. It seems inevitable...it's all over but the cheering so I vote YES on the draw.

Dr. Lonnie's Survey Tells Us The Top 5 Things It's OK To Hate:

- 5. The French
- 4. Stornach Flu
- 3. Other People's Kids
- 2. Accidental Gay Sex
- 1. Kathie Lee Gifford



AUSTRIA: A ALB-Apu; F ION C A Alb-Apu;

ENGLAND: F ENG S F Nts-Bel; F SKA-Nts; F NTS-Bel;

FRANCE: F Bre-MAO; F WES S F Bre-Mao; A Par-BRE; A Ruh-BUR;

A PIE H; A TUN H;

GERMANY: A MUN B; A BEL S A Hol; A HOL S A Bel; F Kie-HEL;

F Ber-BAL; F DEN-Nus;

ITALY: A TRI H; A VEN-Apu; A TYO-Ven; F Tyn-NAP;

RUSSIA: A Fin-NWY; F NWG S A Fin-Nwy; F SWE S A Fin-Nwy;

A War-UKR: A GAL S A Rum; A RUM H; F Bla S A Rum(disl/ret Arm, Sev, otb);

TURKEY: F Ank-BLA; A SER-Rum; F AEG S A Gre; F CON S F Ank-Bla;

A BUL S A Ser-Rum; A GRE H;

PRESS:

AUS-World: Will do anything that involves attacking Italy.

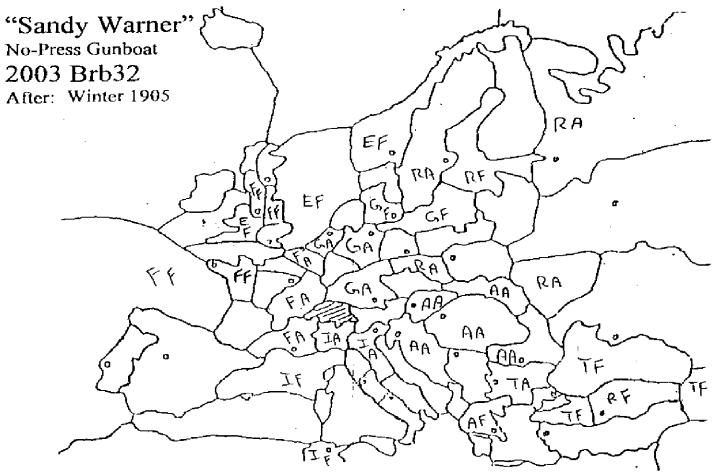
AUS-FRA: Hope you were extra creative!

AUS-RUS/TUR: Please keep Italy out of my home centres.

FRA-Board: Armies in Piedmont? Ruhr? TUNIS???? What kind of schizoid moves are these????? Jeez....

New Russia to Germany: If you mean northwest then count me in.

New Russia to Turkey: How quickly can you move west? Let's renew the JAG and get it moving in the right direction.



Winter only by request

AUSTRIA: Builds A VIE; also has A TRI, A GAL, A BUD, A RUM, F GRE;

ENGLAND: Removes A Lon; has remaining F NWY, F NTS, F WAL;

FRANCE: Builds F BRE; also has F YOR, F LPL, F MAO, A BEL, A BUR,

A MAR:

GERMANY: No adjustments; has F DEN, F BAL, A MUN, A KIE, A HOL;

ITALY: No adjustments; has A VEN, A PIE, F TUN, F LYO;

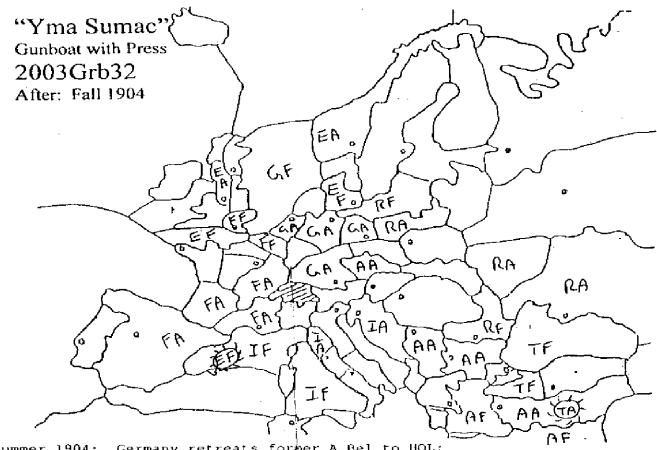
RUSSIA: Builds A STP; also has F ANK, A UKR, F BOT, A SWE, A SIL;

TURKEY: Removes A Bul; has remaining F ARM, F BLA, F CON;

New England to Nearly-New Germany: "Nothing personal" accepted entirely; this is a wargame regardless of the negotiational part. For balance, there's nothing personal later if I get allies and keep my group fighting you until Germany controls zero supply centers.

New England to France: Given Germany's winter press, and the board position, I am eager to offer you an alliance against Germany, and against any other enemies that our alliance may encounter. (Contrast that against Germany's "... I think I have to offer you an alliance against England.") In fact I don't know whether you have hope (and allies) for a southern campaign. Maybe you can use some units on land where Germany built only fleets, rather than allowing him to encircle your north and east.

New England to Russia: I hope you found Turkey's winter "declaration of war" a higher priority than northern adventurism. I would rather help you into Denmark or a German home center than see my attacker keep them.



Summer 1904: Germany retreats former A Bel to HOL;

F EAS S A Gre-Smy; A SER-Bul; A Vie-BOH; A BUL-Con; A Gre-SMY; F AEG C A Gre-Smy;

F Iri-ENG; A LPL H; F DEN-Nts; A Swe-NWY; ENGLAND:

F Lyo S ITA F Wes-Spa(sc)(nso/disl/ret Pie, otb);

FRANCE: F Wal-LON; F BEL H; A BUR S F Bel; A GAS S A Mar;

A MAR S A Spa; A SPA S A Mar;

GERMANY: F NTS-Den; A BER S A Kie; A MUN S A Ber; A HOL S A Kie;

A KIE S A Ber;

ITALY: F Wes-LYO; F TYN S F Wes-Lyo; A Pie-TUS; A Ven-TRI;

f BAL-Ber; A PRU S F Bal-Ber; A Mos-UKR; A SEV S F Rum; RUSSIA:

F RUM H;

TURKEY: F BLA-Bul(sc)(imp); F CON S F Bla-Bul(sc)(imp);

A SMY S F Con(disl/ret Ank, Arm, Syr, otb);

PRESS:

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN:

Guido let fly another of his winged messengers. He had not many left but he felt the news too good to withhold from Nonno Baldini. His message read:

"Nonno, Grande felicita. I saw more of your grandsons today! Sebastian has passage on Captain Baldini's flagship. I spoke with him but for a passing moment. He sends his love and said the oracle at Corinth prophesized for him a good news/bad news revelation. 'You will have success, but you shall never pass this way again!' I've got some great sea shells for your collection. Love, Guido"

GER-FRA: Leave Mun and Hol alone and I will assist your fleet to Lon. I concede Bel to you.

The Yma Sumac Game (continued):
Bohemia: Zephaniah 3:16...Luke 1:13...Luke 2:10...

ITA-ENG: I caught the wind in your last orders that could only have been an unspoken request for your fleet back.

ITA-AUS: I caught the twinkle in your press that could only have been an unspoken request for a bounce like last time. Or is that what "iacta" means?

ITA-FRA: Rest assured I am not after your centres, no matter what anyone claiming to be us might have said. As for our move to Spain, why, that was only a drill.

AEGEAN SEA:

The course laid in, the orders given, Captain Baldini stared into the gathering gloom as though he could see through to tomorrow's light and beyond. "What doth it profit a man to gain the world if in doing so he loses his soul?"

Always nearby, Chen commented, "A Christian saying I believe. Are you speaking of Sebastian or the Russian Admiral?"

"Guido and I are ordered to deliver Sebastian and his men to their destiny. The Iliad was much read in our family. I was intrigued by the myriad logistical problems of managing a thousand ships at anchor or on the beach. Sebastian always played the role of Achilles...the invincible warrior. I know everything that Sebastian will do. We've played the siege of Troy a hundred times. Sergei, on the other hand keeps his own counsel. Whether he harries helps or ignores the Turkish fleet, I have no clue. There is neither military intelligence, childhood kinship, nor the reading of entrails to guide us in this matter. Even Sebastian's oracle is silent about the quiet Russian. Sebastian will control the killing fields where once the Gods of Olympus played sport with Paris and Hector. That much we know for certain. But at what cost? Bulgaria remains under Austrian control if Sergei harries the Black Sea fleet. Will he do so or does his interest now lay solely in the West?"

"The morning light reveals all. To dwell on the unknowable only feeds the terrors of the night," advised the Oriental.

This just in: RONALD NEWMASTER writes: "Your comment about something special for your centenary issue reminded me of the month I wasted trying to spoof NF #72. The games were all at a perfect pause or easy guessing point. The winter Olympics provided the perfect chatterbox topics. And Cal as in old reliable Mr. White agreed to apply Canadian postage and send the issue out from Toronto. But a snafu in keeping track of Cal's current address bungled the operation. The issue was in many multiple pieces and I fit it together by doing multiple passes on my sturdy HP color printer. The maps were traced from the NF template, hand lettered, then copied at the local 7-11. The maps comprised the centerfold so the expense was minimal.

With the press of time...I had to get the mailing to Cal before you were your punctual self...I sent off ALL my finished copies to Cal's most recent address of record. So here I sit with no intact copy of the Spoof of #72. After my computer died, it was a couple years before I revived the drive on which the 'pieces' were stored. They've also passed through some software version changes that may have shifted margins somewhat. I presume that I corrected the typos on the last go round as well.

Next issue will feature a Gunboat with Press gamestart. With luck Tom Howell will check in with a Miller Number and I will have a nickname for the game. I began naming games after women to get a reaction from "Sara Reichert" in the hope of a slip-up, or at the very least a reaction from Melinda Holley or one of the other women lurking among the readership but no luck. I am looking forward to some input as to whether I should carry on naming games as before, or if you would like me to go back to naming them after songs. One idea I had was that since Gunboat is a variant I could name these games after fictitious characters or just plain characters. We'll see what we come up with next time out.

Bourse (Tied in with 1998T)

In this game you buy and sell the currencies of the Diplomacy game's countries. Every company starts with a portfolio of 1000 units of each currency and \$1000 in cash. Every Diplomacy turn players will buy and/or sell units of currencies. The only restriction is that no player may sell more than 500 units of any one currency per turn. After the buying and selling is done, the market price of the currency is adjusted. For every 100 units of a currency bought or sold the market price will rise or fall 1 cent respectively. After the Fall/Winter turn the market price is adjusted according to supply centre ownership. If a country gains or loses one centre its currency will rise or fall by 1 cent. If a country gains or loses two centres its currency will rise or fall by 8 cents. If a country gains or loses 3 or more centres its currency will rise or fall by 15 cents. Once a country is out, off the board, its currency is worthless and trading will stop on this currency. To calculate victory points multiply the number of supply dentres that a country owns by the number of 100 unit blocks of that currency you own. Players' totals from each currency are added together to determine a victory point total for each player. Take special note of that last sentence. The player with the most money is not necessarily the winner (though I will probably declare two winners if this is not the case.) Anyone is welcome to join at any time. Latecomers will begin with \$1000 and 1000 units of every currency stall trading.

TRADING COMPANIES:

Brinsley Schwarz Trading House (
Barno's Universal Currency Kindling \$ociety
Bytor Enterprises(France in 1998T)
European Currency Traders(Turkey in 1998T)
EUTC; President: dohG
Hapsburg & Son(Austria in 1998T)
Pence, Avos, Rupees, Tolars, Rubles, Ingots, Dinars, Guilders & Euros
(Italy in 1998T)
Spartan Tartan(Russia in 1998T)
Vatican Stock Exchange; President: Pope Pius XII
Watt Tyler
Zen Trading Company

INSIDER TRADING REPORT:

Austria's agent, H & S, SELLS 500 Francs, 446 Lira, 473 Plastres and BUYS 2572 Rubles.

France's agent, BE, SELLS 500 Francs, 500 Rubles, 500 Piastres and BUYS 3450 Kroners.

Italy's agent, PARTRIDGE, SELLS 500 Rubles and BUYS 500 Kroners, 41 Francs.

Russia's agent, ST, holds.

Turkey's agent, ECT, holds.

	CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS					
	OPENING	UNITS	UNITS	sc	CLOSING	
CURRENCY	VALUE	BOUGHT	SOLD	ADJUSTMENT	VALUE	CHANGE
Kroner	1.07	3950	0	0.00	1.46	+0.39
Pound	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Franc	4.26	897	1000	0.00	4.24	-0.02
Mark	0.42	0	O	0.00	0.42	0.00
Lira	1.61	367	1445	0.00	1.50	-0.11
Ruble	1.42	2572	2250	0.00	1.45	+0.03
Piastres	1.70	0	1456	0.00	1.56	-0.14

	I	AUS	ENG	FRA	GER	ITA	RUS	TUR	T .
		1.46	0.00	4 24	0.42	1.50	1,45	1.56	
			PORTFO	LIO HOLD	NGS				
	CASH								ASSETS
BSTH	0.28	0	0	2382	0	2439	0	0	13758.46
BUCK\$	0.02	0	1	4496	0	1507	432	0	21949.96
BÉ	0.56	10167	0	1402	0	0	448	6190	31094.86
ECT	5.78	1500	0	873	0	2706	2200	2314	16756.14
EUTC	0.99	200	0	4271	1100	600	843	0	20986.38
H&S	0.99	0	1170	3059	0	4400	3494	4100	31033.45
PARTRIDGE	2.91	500	0	5724	0	0	2445	. 0	28547.92
ST	28.15	0	0	0	2500	1100	3000	2100	10354.15
VSE	1290.20	Ō	0	2267	200	1567	900	1133	16409.26
WT	2.62	0	0	5938	0	0	_ 0	0	25179,74
ZTC	3.76	0	0	7662	0	102	56	0	32724.84

"In order to appear busy, one should pace around the office clutching files. ... The best part of this ancient ritual is that it tends to make one's colleagues look away - just in case you and your papers are going to interrupt their own lassitude." - Is Slacking the Only Way to Survive the Office?; The Scotsman (Edinburgh, Scotland); Aug 16, 2004.



		Company I	Name: President:			•
	DOL	LARS IN TRE	ASURY AT S	TART OF TU	RN	
CTY	CURRENCY	VALUE	SELL	BUY	\$	OWNED UNITS
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You have sub credit to issue !

1