

NOVARIA

29/12/73

This is the first issue of Novaria, a (for the moment at least) flyer to The Mixumaxu Gazette. #9.

Checking over my growing files of other Diplomacy Publications, I notice that the seven-man seven-game tournament seems to be becoming more and more popular.

Therefore, I am going to open one. The game fee will be \$15, with a \$5 discount for publishers who trade for Novaria. If you wish to join, please do not send money immediately. Check with me first. First of all, we need house rules:

1. The 1971 rulebook of Diplomacy will be used.
2. The entry fee will be \$15 within the U.S., Mexico and Canada. People outside these areas who wish to play, should consult me about rates.
3. Deadlines for each set of moves will be announced at the time of the previous moves. If less than 60% of the moves for any reason...
4. No more than one person from each telephone area code will be permitted in the tournament. The gamesmaster may, if he chooses, call a player for the moves the evening before the deadline. All such calls will be collect.
5. Standby positions will cost \$5 each. If a player misses a set of moves in any game the standby will be asked to send in moves for all the games. If the second set of moves is not forthcoming from the player, the standby will take over all of the player's positions. Standbys will receive all issues of Novaria until the end of the series.
- 6 each set of moves must contain the name of the game and the player's signature or they will not be accepted.
7. Try and fool me and you'll be tossed out of all my publications.
8. If a situation arises which cannot be adjudicated, all units involved will hold.
9. A draw will be declared if all active players agree to it. A concession will take place if all active players agree to it. If all countries have the same number of supply centers for three years, a draw will be declared.
10. A winning player will be given one point, second place two points, et cetera. If there is a draw, all players in the draw will receive an equal number of points. If there are N players in the draw, each will receive $1+2+\dots+N/N$ points.

When the tournament is finished, the player with the lowest number of points (or his replacement) will receive \$15. If more than one person has the lowest number of points, they will split the prize equally.

11. All mistakes made by the gamesmaster, if not corrected by the following deadline will thereafter remain unchallenged.

Subscriptions to Novaria will be 6/\$1. Anyone who trades with me for the Mixumaxu Gazette may receive Novaria also. However, if you publish more than one 'zine, I would appreciate it if you would open trade with a second of yours. (Note this, please, Conrad.)

This price, if figured as per game, is absurdly low. For standbys it is ridiculous. But please note that if you wish to play, you had better move quickly, as I don't believe it will take too long to fill the seven positions. Remember, please, to write me before you send the money.

Vas is this Novaria, you ask? Well, Lyon Sprague DeCamp, the funniest more erudite writer of science fiction and fantasy, has written three stories in a series: The Goblin Tower, The Clocks of Iraz and The Fallible Fiend, all about life on a 'plane' different from ours. Frankly, at the moment I cannot remember many details. This first two books are about an ex-king of a country where it is the custom to decapitate the king after five years and toss his head to the crowd. The hero is named Jorian, and he does not like his condition. He tells the characters over and over that he would rather have joined his father in his clock-shop at home, but he was too clumsy. For reviews of these books, see John Boardman's Graustark#254.

The third book is about Zdim, a demon who is called to Novaria to become a familiar. He manages to screw things up supremely. This was reviewed in Graustark#296.

But take my word for it; these books are funny.

For the moment my plans for Novaria have not firmed. I will try to make it different from the Mixumaxu Gazette, probably by running more serious articles, variants, et c. I don't know; we'll have to see what develops.

During the Philcon this year, a poll was taken to determine who is the worst currently active sf writer. Lin Carter easily took the prize until the sheet was torn down (Lin was at the Philcon.) Following was Barry Malzberg and a few others. I voted for Eando Binder myself.

Wanted: A copy of L. Sprague DeCamp's Cosmic Manhunt (it may be as The Queen of Zamba. I already own the magazine form; I want to get the paperback. Robert Lipton Box 360, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa

18042
Do you have anything you want to sell or buy in the way of games or sf? If you are a subscriber you can advertize free; space availability limited by the space I have available.

Goodbye for now. Au revoir. Shalom. Chimo. Sayonara. Auf Weidersein. Adios. Arrivaderci. So long. Abyssinia.

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