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Bourse on game 1969BH:

Piastre Weakens

	Open (26/10/71)		Close (30/10/71)		Units Bought	Units Sold
	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Asked</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Asked</u>		
Pound	1.77	1.78	1.77	1.78	38	-
Mark	1.21	1.22	1.21	1.22	-	-
Lira	.09	.10	.09	.10	-	-
Rouble	.88	.89	.88	.89	-	-
Piastre	1.35	1.36	1.35	1.36	-	50

Zurich, Nov. 30, 1909. The Board of Governors of the Foreign Exchange met today to discuss the situation resulting from the surrender of Marshal Alexiev to the Turks at Belgrade last week. Readers will recall that last September the Russian northern army, under General Rennenkampf, attempted to hold the great arc of the Voh River in northern Hungary. It was decisively beaten by a Turkish enveloping attack. Following this debacle all remaining organized Russian forces in the Danube region - and they were the only organized Russian forces anywhere - came under the command of Marshal Alexiev. There were no further big battles but for the last two months the Russian forces, the remnants of three armies, stretched along the Danube, have been under constant pressure from the Germans in the north-west, and from the Turks in the south and east. Almost daily there were reports of minor reverses here or there along the line; most military experts agree that General Alexiev's capitulation was inevitable.

These events have resulted in a considerable loss to the financial community. The rouble stood at 2.22 in 1904. When, in that year, the Russian steam-roller began to show signs of running out of steam there was some drift away from the rouble. But it was not until two years ago with the abdication of Czar Charles, known as 'The Irate', that this drift became a flood. Even this year, with the end clearly in sight, some traders showed a strange reluctance to cut their losses, and invest in former currencies. This morning the rouble stood at .88 on the Bourse. This afternoon the Board of Governors announced their decision. With the surrender of the Marshal they regard the Russian state as ceasing to exist. All trading in roubles is prohibited on the floor of the exchange. What was worth eighty eight cents this morning is now worth nothing save what it may fetch from numismatists. Sic Transit.

1969BH Bourse continues overleaf.

Just as there is a stock market in most of the larger cities of the world, so there is a money market, an exchange, where the currencies of the various countries are traded for one another. An exchange, the currencies traded limited to those of our great powers, with the ultimate pay-off depending on the outcome of a Diplomacy game, therefore appeared a reasonable substitute for his original stock market game. Allen Calhaver tried this out at his home, inviting a number of Diplomacy players of his acquaintance, seven of whom formed a game of Diplomacy and the remainder formed an Exchange, or Bourse, based on the Diplomacy game. The headings that had to be put on the Automatic Specialist were now pounds, francs, and so on, instead of Amalgamated Trash, or Consolidated Sewage, or whatever, but otherwise it was played just as the stock market game was. A trial of two convinced Allan that there were difficulties, some of which are listed below:

1. Finding players. A Diplomacy Bourse plays best with about 10 players. In most areas it is difficult enough to find seven players for a game of Diplomacy without wanting another 10, who must also understand Diplomacy, to form a Bourse to accompany it. Besides, it is an intolerable strain on the hostess to have 20 people in the living room all milling around a little 2000 square centimetre Diplomacy board.
2. Diplomacy, by its nature, has comparatively long stretches that are dull for spectators. The players themselves may be happy enough, negotiating like mad trying to break the deadlock that has appeared somewhere; but, until that break occurs, there is little for the spectator to cheer for the Bourse player to do.
3. Diplomacy is a long game; that is its weakness as a casual evening's entertainment. A game begun at 7 in the evening may well last, if played out, until 2 or 3 in the morning. Games are frequently broken off early, say in 1907; as far as the players themselves are concerned this is often a perfectly satisfactory solution. It would be unsatisfactory to the players in a Bourse based on the game, however, as it leaves the standing of the players in the Bourse completely unresolved.

Allan thought that a Bourse attached to a postal game might be preferable. He wrote a circular letter to three gamesmasters in the summer of 1969, outlining his ideas on Bourse. I published this letter in SerenDip #10. Don Miller, in Diplomania, and Don Turnbull, in Albion, copied the letter from SerenDip together with some commentary that I had added to the letter, and the Bourse idea was spread around. A number of Bourses were offered: notably by Don Miller who had a Bourse for each of the next half-dozen games he offered, but other Bourses were offered by Ed Halle, the Holcombe brothers, myself, and others. There were probably about a dozen altogether, all of them beginning within a half year or so of the publication of Allan's first letter on the subject. Some of these games have been completed, in particular several of Don Miller's. Some have been abandoned by tacit consent. And some continue, see the first page of this issue for an example. But after that first half year or so, there were no new Bourses offered. The one that Conrad von Metzke is now organizing is

the first to appear in about two years. So, anyone interested in playing in a Bourse should write to Conrad, at the address given in the first paragraph of this article, and ask for a copy of the issue that contains the Bourse rules.

Credit Transactions in Bourse

It will not have escaped the discerning reader of the previous article that, if there have been no Bourses offered during the past two years, postal Bourse can not have solved all the problems that beset the game as played over the board. The first problem with the over-the-board game - finding players - is, of course, potentially solved with play in a postal zine. The average postal Dippy journal has something like 70 readers, ample to provide a good Bourse, if there is interest. The other difficulties continue in the postal version, however, and I thought it might be well to mention them and to see what is being done in this Bourse of von Metzke's to minimize them.

First, it should be noted that Bourse has not yet reached definitive form. No two so far played have had precisely the same rules. All of Miller's Bourses differed from each other as well as from Bourses run by others. It is therefore open to the Boursemaster to try to find a form which will add to the interest of the game. His freedom in this respect is limited, however. A Bourse, like any free market, is more an indicator of what is happening in the world than a force of its own. The "world" is here represented by the game of Diplomacy on which the Bourse is based. If the game of Diplomacy turns out to be a dull one, with the eventual winner apparent from the Spring of 1902, say, then nothing can enliven the Bourse very much. However, even with an interesting basic game, the Bourse may be dull; some alterations have been made in the rules of this Bourse, compared with earlier ones, to try to improve things.

I have been associated with 4 previous Bourses, with three as player, and with the 1969BH one, in this magazine as Boursemaster. In all of them there was a tremendous amount of activity in the first few "years" of play as the market tried to assess the alliance patterns and guess the eventual winner. In all of them activity dropped steadily as the basic game went into the middle game phase, and many players dropped out. I think that this reflects a misunderstanding of the nature of Diplomacy. Only rarely will a country's chances alter drastically for better or for worse on a single move. Surprises do take place, of course, and a successful Bourse player must be alert to take full advantage of them when they do occur. But usually any marked change in a country's chances develops slowly over the "years". The result is that the Bourse based on the game resembles an investor dominated market, rather than a speculator dominated one. Players who enter, expecting to find a market that behaves like the market in penny mining stocks, with the prices of everything jumping up and down like so many yo-yos, are bound to be disappointed. No juggling with the rules will alter this fundamental fact of life. But two innovations in the rules of the Saguency Bourse were made in an attempt to increase interest, as compared with previous Bourses.

3. A number of games have been completed in the last 2 or 3 months.

Games now added to the listing for the first time, under heading of either 2. or 3., above, are the following:

- 1968AE. sTab. Won by Lew Pulsipher, France.
- 1968ED. Graustark phone game, Beshara GI. Draw.
- 1968BU. La Guerre. Won by Kurt Krey, Turkey.
- 1968CH. The Voice. Draw.
- 1968CV. Erehwon. 5-man game won by Jerry White, Turkey.
- 1968CW. Glory Road. Won by Tom Eller, Italy
- 1969E. Ragnarok. Won by Randy Bytwerk, Turkey.
- 1969K. The Diplomat. Won by Jack Flemming, Turkey.
- 1969Z. Erehwon. Won by Tom Eller, England.
- 1969AC. Diplodeur. Draw.
- 1969BQ. Beresovia/Numenor. Won by Jon Everson, Turkey
- 1969EY. Liaisons Dangereuses. Won by Ken Borecki, Germany.
- 1969BZ. Liaisons Dangereuses. Draw.
- 1969CE. Liaisons Dangereuses. Won by Russell Tulp, Italy.
- 1970E. Graustark. Won by John Beshara, Italy.
- 1970H. Rohan. Won by Sharon Beier, Russia.
- 1970N. Costaguana. Won by Lew Pulsipher, France.
- 1970AD. Diplophobia. Won by Rick Brooks, Austria.
- 1970AF. Lankmar. Won by Jeff Wolfe, England.
- 1970AG. Der Brandenburger. Won by Peggy Bowers, Russia.
- 1970BB. Graustark. Won by Sam Nierenberg, Austria.
- 1970BS. En Passant. Won by Eric Nielsen, Russia.

Following these corrections and additions the ODD Rating List becomes:

Top Board

- 1324 Charles Turner
- 1278 Thomas Eller
- 1210 Peter Rosamalia
- 1209 Douglas Beyerlein
- 1205 John Beshara
- 1201 Rod Walker
- 1173 Brenton Ver Ploeg

Others Currently Over 1000

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1172 Lewis Pulsipher | 1082 Randy Bytwerk | 1031 Mehran Thomson |
| 1109 John Smythe | 1081 Andrew Phillips | 1022 Jeff Key |
| 1101 Eugene Prosnitz | 1041 John Koning | 1012 Richard Miller |

ABC

- Ray Amling 600. Perry Andrus 550. James Bacon 550. Bill Baer 550. Sharon Beier 906. Steve Barrett 550. Donald Berman 672. John Beshara 1205. Edi Birsan 881. Steven Bobker 861. Ken Borecki 867. James Boskey 537. Dale Bosowski 550. Peggy Bowers 900. Ray Bowers 550. Jim Bradley 550. Rick Brooks 891. John Buckelew 550. Brian Burley 600. James Burt 550. Randy Bytwerk 1082. Steve Caplan 458. Dieter Cardos 575.

Chuck Carey 514. Frank Clark 839. Peter Comber 564. L. Counselman 567.

DEFG

Ken Davidson 511. Betsy duBose (now Childers) 600. Thomas Eller 1278. David Endee 550. Mike Eripes 550. Jon Everson 820. Sam Ferris 483. Jack Fleming 871. Pat Fouquet 550. Dave Francis 414. Leonard Garland 487. Margaret Genignani 350. Richard Golden 550. Mike Goldstein 810. Bruce Gletty 625. Harry Gullett 550.

HIJK

Eduard Halle 969. Wayne Harris 575. Robert Hickson 550. Charles Hoch 505. Harry Hollern 593. Eric Just 597. Mike Karp 550. Michael Karter 550. Jeff Key 1022. John Koning 1041. Bob Konada 566. Phil Kosiba 550. Kurt Krey 919. Harry Krigsman 663. Nancy Kuster 550.

LMN

Len Lakofka 601. Conan LaLotte 505. Lane Karen 550. Arthur Lasky 505. David Lebling 864. Andy Leider 550. Paul Leitch 800. Lucien L'Hereux 505. Bill Linden 498. David Lindsay 874. Emile Lugosch 550. Don McGee 550. Norman McLeod 341. Nicholas Maffeo 567. George Mankiewicz 550. David May 774. Banks Nebane 915. Stephen Milne 598. Blaine Lischel 550. Tony Morale 520. Ray Moseley, 600. Mike Murray 550. Ray Myers 550. Hal Maus 888. Eric Nielsen 900. Sam Nierenberg 930. Robert Rudelman 550. Mark Myderek 550.

OPQR

Bill Oberschulte 550. Michael Parrish 550. George Patton 520. Bud Pendorgrass 854. Andrew Phillips 1081. Craig Pitts 550. Thomas Poplawski 600. Jerry Pournelle 996. Jeff Power 934. Jim Pratt 666. Joseph Proskauer 601. Gene Prosnitz 1101. Lewis Pulsipher 1172. Charles Reibel 565. Dick Reiter 371. Tom Rosenbaum 627. Rich Rubin 842.

ST

George Schelz 807. Joseph Shuldiner 505. John Skipper 550. John Smythe 1109. Larry St. Cyr 617. Ric Stephenson 550. Stewart Strait 598. Bob Strayer 902. David Summer 593. Anders Swenson 372. Stephen Tang 600. Russell Tulp 895. Buddy Tretick 560. Don Turnbull 575. Charles Turner 1324.

UVWXYZ

Kenneth Valentine 663. Jack VanShaik 550. Conrad von Metzke 528. Rod Walker 1201. Greg Warden 438. Ken Webber 554. Jerry White 548. Doug Wilson 550. O. Wischnoyor 550. Sidney Witt 554. Loring Windblatt 553. Karl Wittmann 318. Jeff Wolfe 925. Paul York 550. Monte Zelazny 849.

The only person for whom there was a request for playing history was Doug Beyerlein. It goes: 600-66AL-613-67P-582-67Z-551-67AM-843-67AL-1011-67AM1089-68T-1015-68V-947-68AM-1098-69T-1209

I would like to thank Eric Just, Brenton Ver Ploeg, Rod Walker, and the editors of Xanadu, for the very flattering things they have said

about this Rating List in their various magazines. Similarly to others whose comments I have not yet seen, and to those who wrote individually.

New Game

A new game of standard 7-man Diplomacy was announced in the last issue. Those wishing to enter it should send \$2 game fee, plus a list of all 7 countries in order of their playing preference.

New Blood

The following have indicated an interest in postal Diplomacy:

H. Richard Kindrachuk, 320 Lake Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7H 3A2, Canada

John Dunlop, 43 Somerset Ave., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Capt. J. G. Armstrong, 1324 rue Berthier, Chambly, Quebec, Canada

David De Luca, 1111 Kendall St., Port Albemni, B. C., Canada

P.A.S. Milliken, 2 Howat Ave., Apt. 1105, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell E. Bailey, 3944 Vantage Ave., Studio City, California, 91604

Mark Thomas, 470 Johnston Drive, Watchung, New Jersey, 07060

John Mahon, 8 Harvest Hill Lane, Huntington, New York, 11745.

Arteries. New Blood players should note that the following have openings for additional players in games forming, or as replacement players in games already under way. Write the person concerned asking for full details. Conrad von Metzke, P. O. Box 8342, San Diego, California, 92102. Edi Birsan, 48-20 39th St., Long Island City, New York, 11104. Rod. C. Walker, 4719 Melton St., San Diego, California, 92116. Brenton Ver Ploeg, 520 Parker Ave., Apt. 202, San Francisco, California, 94118. Mark Weidmark, 520 Park Crescent, Pickering, Ontario. John McCallum, P. O. Box 52, Ralston, Alberta. John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 17013. Stan Wrobel, 7 Poland Village Road, Poland, Ohio, 44514. Fred C. Davis, Jr., 5307 Carriage Court, Baltimore, Maryland, 21229. Paul Wood, 24613 Harmon St., St. Clair Shores, Michigan, 48080. Fred C. Einter, Jr., 2625 El Rancho Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin, 53005. Andy Phillips, 128 Oliver St., Daly City, California, 94014. Greg Warden, 4500 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19139. Len Lakofka, 1806 Richmond, Chicago, Illinois, 60647. Charles Welsh, Box 5197, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 02912. Tom Leahy, Box 1387, Brown University, " " " " " Steve Cooper, 30373 S Buchanan St., B-2, Arlington, Virginia, 22206. Christopher Schlischer, 5122 West Carmen Ave., Chicago, Illinois, 60630. Don Turnbull, Flat 13, Gilmerton Court, Trumpington Road, Cambridge, England. Paul Stone, Box 485, Parkerville, B. C., Canada.

Stop Press NEW BLOOD: J. P. Bruce Harwood, 13 Oberon St., Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 7X6