



Platypus

Pie

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3 DECEMBER 1971

My friends, we open with a history lesson. Turn with me if you will to BROBDINGNAG # 96, 3 May 1969, and the press for game 1969C, then in the Fall 1902 season:

MSCOW: Young Tsar Obsequious II (whose father suffered a fatal heart attack last year after being frightened by a slightly oversize white rabbit) today announced that last Spring's classified ads [asking for scientists capable of contributing a suitable horror weapon to the Russian arsenal] were eminently successful, though the mad scientist who was eventually hired had a specialty somewhat different than that which had been desired. More word on the secret weapon is momentarily expected, but rumor has it that the weapon is quite exotic.

ST. PETERSBURG: From its secret home in the Northern Ural Mountains, a 3000 ton Duck-Billed Platypus today charged forth with drooling jaws enroute to devour the English Army in Norway. Unfortunately, officials feared that the Russian troops situated locally might sate his appetite before he reaches the English, since 3000 ton Duck-Billed Platypuses are notorious for their almost total ~~inattention~~ inattention to culinary artistry. As "Glomphf" (his affectionate pseudonym) passed the capital here, raucous and gauche belching noises appeared to be issuing from his drooling mouth, thus apparently confirming the fears of the Russian scientists. However, better training methods are constantly being developed, and it is hoped that Glomphf will be contentedly munching on Oslo before the year is out.

That was over a year and a half ago, but here we are now, so welcome to PLATYPUS PIE, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy (Copyright Games Research, Boston Mass.) published by Brenton Ver Ploeg ~~520~~ (520 Parker Ave., # 202; San Francisco, CA 94118) on his brand new spirit duplicator, which may or may not work well. For some time now, I have been playing with the idea of publishing a magazine, and this missive is the result. I shall, of course, offer a couple of games. These games, at least the first two, will be "Winners Games." That is, they will be limited to players who have already won at least a single game of Postal Diplomacy, or who have a cumulative score of 1.0 or better on the Calhamer Point Count System.

1. The new rulebook (1971 version) will be used insofar as ~~it~~ ~~it~~ it applies to postal play.

2. The game fee for PLATYPUS PIE will be \$5.50, payable in advance. Subscriptions, which are discouraged, are 6 for a dollar. I shall trade, but would also like to discourage that, because I don't WANT all the magazines currently published, and don't have time to mail all those copies out. This issue will go to all editors whose magazines I currently subscribe to or play in. If they will trade, fine. If others are foolish enough to desire copies on trade, they should write me and tell me so. This rag, however, will probably not be worth the trouble.

3. Play in PLATYPUS PIE will be every three weeks, with deadlines set on Tuesdays. Calls will be allowed [(415) 668-9218] but only on Mondays, 6 to 10 pm, Pacific Time. I will call collect for moves once only, the night before the deadline. If I miss, thats it. I encourage the use of carbon copy moves. Since there are not any local players I can get ahold of easily, general orders cannot be allowed at this time.

4. No standbys will be allowed in the Winners games. It is possible that open sections will later be opened--one at the most. If and when this happens, standbys will be entered for the fee of \$1.00 for the first two. Later standbys are free. If open sections go as they seem to, the first two players are generally assured of game entry. When I say "no standbys" I mean that players in winners games are forbidden to withdraw. Hopefully, game winners have the permanence to stick around and not drop out entirely. If they do not, however, stand-by players will be allowed for the \$1 fee, and the standbys must also be winners.

5. ~~Each move must include the official Boardman number, the season of the game, the country being played, and the players signature.~~ Moves must be sent separately, and no two players may send in their moves in the same envelope.

To help in your decision as to whether or not to play in ~~PLATYPUS~~ PLATYPUS PIE, I call your attention to a quotation in COSTAGUANA Vol Five, # 12, by yours truly: "I couldn't GM a game of Diplomacy to save my soul--I don't even know what the rules are." That may still be very true. However, I now have a spiffy new copy of the 1971 rulebook, arrived in today's mail. Aside from that, all I can promise is regularity, bullshit, press harrassment, and loads of material on ratings lists. Just to appeal to my sake of perversity, I plan to reprint the top two boards of every rating list whose author will give me permission. Furthermore, I shall, once I have done the work, publish the rating list last seen in Hoosier Archives # 45--the Averaged Calhamer System.

All press releases will be printed. I encourage pornography, I discourage length. Just the same, I will allow it if I cannot talk you out of it.

Remaining is the issue of whether, with all the magazines on the market these days, I can fill two winner's games. The next issue will come out when one game has filled, though if it looks like the second is about to fill, I will wait a few days. If nothing happens by the time a couple of weeks are up, I will reluctantly run open sections, without entrance qualifications. Hopefully, however, I' can manage without this expansion. Later, perhaps, a novice game.

Finally, how do you erase a spirit duplicator? All the strike-overs on the first page will continue until someone fills me in. A letter column may develop, but to hell with you if you don't write me. I may even continue the history of Glomphf's development, since without Glomphf, there could be no giant Platypus Pies littering the landscape.

-coitus interruptus-